

JOHNSBURG CENTRAL SCHOOL
Monday, March 17, 2025
BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING
Minutes

Board Members Present: Rachel DeGroat
Melissa Freebern
Chris Jay
Erwin Morris
Tom Ordway
Tara Sears
Sarah Williams

Board Members Absent: N/A

Call to Order: Rachel DeGroat opened the meeting at 6:00 with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Approval of Minutes: Tom Ordway made a **MOTION** to approve the minutes of the February 10, 2025, Board of Education Meeting, seconded by Tara Sears and carried.

Melissa Freebern made a **MOTION** to approve the minutes of the March 7, 2025, Special Board of Education, seconded by Erwin Morris and carried.

Tom Ordway made a **MOTION** to accept the minutes of the CSE/CPSE/504 report, seconded by Tara Sears and carried.

Agenda Changes: Rachel DeGroat added a **MOTION (K)** under VII Motions and Discussions to appoint Ashleigh Lawrence and Mary Olesheski as bookkeepers for the Varsity Baseball Team for the 2024-2025 school year.

Presentations: **WSWHE BOCES.** Dr. Parker, with Dave Ashdown, spoke about the programs that students have available this year. Charity Lupe, Jordan Fusco, Alissa Bennett, Mason Wing, and Eloise Noel spoke on their programs. Dr. Parker did a PowerPoint on the new facility and the new courses that our students will be able to access with the 2027 finish.

Audit- Scott Preussr: Scott Preussr presented the 2024 audit with two handouts. Erwin Morris -inactive clubs, can they be removed? Scott P recommendation to remove them and distribute the money.

Archery Club - Amanda and Brian May presented on the success of the Archery Club.

Budget: Michael Markwica and Kathy Spring presented the 2025-2026 school district budget. They presented a PowerPoint with year-to-year comparison as well as the finalized 2025-2026 Johnsbury Central School budget. The budget is to be voted on by the Board at the next meeting.

Visitor Comments:

Brian May: Modified baseball moving to Minerva. Practice time cut short due to travel time. 50/50.

Rachel DeGroat explained that our fields are in better shape - It's a sport-by-sport decision.

Roxy Lewis: Sent emails, feel modified players do not have the same consideration as varsity. Most Board members have varsity players, so it looks that the board picked what's best for their children. She feels that having a porta-potty and the long distance to travel is too much for the athletes. She asked the Board to rethink their decision.

Joe San Antonio: Looking forward to hearing about the soccer program with North Warren.

Pete Olesheski: Read a statement asking to be allowed to be a part of the baseball program.

Motions:

Tara Sears made a **MOTION** to to appoint Thomas Zauner and Joe San Antonio as co-coaches for the modified baseball team for the 2024-2025 school year, seconded by Chris Jay and carried. Tara Sears asked if Tom Zauner will be the bus driver for the away games, and Mike Markwica replied, sometimes.

Chris Jay made a **MOTION** to appoint Charlize Bernard as coach for the modified softball team for the 2024-2025 school year. seconded by Sarah Williams and carried.

Tara Sears made a **MOTION** to appoint Aaron Chambers as coach for the tennis team for the 2024-2025 school year seconded by Erwin Morris and carried.

Mike Markwica explained what is going on with North Warren Tennis. Two Coaches- practice mostly separate (left up to coaches). Wear both schools' color uniforms. Our courts are in good condition, but there are not enough of them and the Town courts are not usable. There are no Minerva players at this time so our home games will be played in North Warren.

Tom Ordway made a **MOTION** to appoint Jake Sauer-Jones as the Elementary Boys Basketball Coach for the 2024-2025 school year, seconded by Sarah Williams and carried.

Mike Markwica explained that they already coached the girls but since no one came in for boys, Jake offered to coach them as well.

Tara Sears made a **MOTION** to approve the 2025-2026 Sports Mergers for the ADK League with Johnsbury Central School, Minerva Central School, and North Warren Central School for Nordic, Bowling, and Tennis. seconded by Sarah Williams and carried.

Tara Sears made a **MOTION** to appoint Claire Ames as a Long-Term Substitute for Vocal Music at Step 1 BA, effective March 17, 2025, seconded by Chris Jay and carried.

Mike Markwica stated that this is a substitute position until our music teacher returns.

Tom Ordway made a **MOTION** to accept the Cooperative Purchasing Program coordinated by WSWHE BOCES for bids for The 2025-2026 school year, seconded by Tara Sears and carried.

Tara Sears made a **MOTION** to allow TruGreen to apply Herbicide/Pesticide: The Johnsbury Central School District, BOE, with the knowledge, consent, and approval of the School Superintendent, Michael J. Markwica, requests: and authorizing

the Head of Buildings and Grounds, Frank Morehouse, Jr., to arrange for the TruGreen Control Company to make the application of necessary pesticides/herbicides to the fields to combat the destructive influences currently present, seconded by Sarah Williams and carried.

Erwin Morris made a **MOTION** to adjourn to Executive Session for personnel at 7:25, seconded by Sarah Williams and carried.

Sarah Williams made a **MOTION** to return to Regular Session, at 7:59, seconded by Tara Sears and carried.

Mike Markwica recognized Minerva Central School's appointment of Jake Sauer-Jones as coach for the varsity baseball team, Carly Morano and Molly Rasco as co-coaches for the varsity softball team for the 2024-2025 school year.

Discussion:

Athletics Girls' Soccer: Mike Markwica stated that the consideration for joining the North Warren girls' soccer program was due to transportation, which was the most significant hurdle to get over. North Warren has assigned a substitute bus driver to be the girls' soccer bus driver with the three schools, so this takes transportation out of the equation.

Tom Ordway ask if this decision will hurt our bus driversand Mike Markwica said that it was our drivers who stated they did not want to drive this route. Mike went on to say this is for varsity only, and we do have to approve the merger.

Erwin Morris stated that he voted against this merger because of the transportation issue.

Motion:

Erwin Morris made a **MOTION** to combine the North Warren, Johnsburg/Minerva Varsity soccer team, seconded by Tara Sears. Tom Ordway opposed.**Motion** carried.

Tom Ordway made a **MOTION** to appoint Ashleigh Lawrence, Pete Olesheski, and Mary Olesheski as bookkeepers for the Varsity Baseball Team for the 2024-2025 school year., seconded by Chris Jay and carried.

Tara Sears made **MOTION** to accept the 2024 Johnsbury Central School audit, seconded by Erwin Morris, and carried.

Committee Reports:

Financial: Mr. Markwica reported that they worked on the budget.

Building and Grounds: Mike Markwica reported that Tetra Tech came regarding Univents. We should have gotten a clerk of the works - Frank Morehouse has gone above and beyond, but he still has his job to do with all the issues that are still coming up.

Policy: The Policy Manual is being worked on, policy by policy. Sarah Williams asked if this was why it wasn't listed on the website, and Mike Markwica said yes. We are working with Erie One BOCES and once completed digitally, it will be on the website.

Updated Reports:

Mike Markwica talked about AI procedure (creating). Reached out to Queensbury. They do not have a direct policy. AI is listed in their code of conduct. Our procedure will never say we won't use AI but how to use it successfully

Heather Flanagan said the Musical is three weeks away. We are short on student cast members, so we have some adults to fill the slots.

Battle of the Books - Our 3rd-grade readers brought home first place. All students did a great job representing JCS.

Archery Tournament: Six students placed in the top ten in their divisions: Isabella Bennett, Ryan Fink, Jameson May, Colin Morris, Hunter Verfurth, and Orin Richards. Orin also medaled fourth place overall and will compete in the national championship in Kentucky..

Laurie Gyon came from BOCES and met with our 5-8 and ELA High school teachers. Went over the options for AI, what to use and trust - what not to use. More of this at professional

development days. Mike Markwica added that our goal is to help the students to use AI successfully with parameters.

Adjournment: Tara Sears made a **MOTION** to adjourn, seconded by Melissa Freebern and carried.

District Clerk: Cindy A. Homer
_____ Date: _____

