

JOHNSBURG CENTRAL SCHOOL  
Monday, March 18, 2024  
BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING  
Minutes

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

- Call to Order:** Rachel DeGroat opened the meeting at 6:00 with the Pledge of Allegiance.
- Approval of Minutes:** Tara Sears made a **MOTION** to approve the minutes of the February 12, 2024, Board of Education Meeting, seconded by Chris Jay and carried.
- CSE/CPSE/504** Tara Sears made a **MOTION** to accept the CSE/CPSE/504 Reports seconded by Sarah Williams and carried.
- Presentations:**
- CASDA: Jerry Steele and Mike Piccarelle presented their last Merger Meeting information. They will create a report and send it to Dr. Parker, the District Superintendent, and the New York State Education Department. NYSED will have to approve the report before they can present it to the two Boards of Education. They hope to present it to the Boards in May.
- Chad Pooler presented as the Advisor for the Marine Biology trip. Chad Pooler brought the following students: Eric Mason, Eli Morin, Vasanti Clooins, Kaylie O’Hara, and Lainey Freebern. The group showed a PowerPoint presentation of their trip, and Mr. Pooler thanked the Board for the financial support the District gave each student.
- Steve Tomb presented as the English Department Chair. He spoke of the strengths of the English department for the 2023-2024 school year. He stated that moving the NYS English Regents to

January has been a huge positive. Steve Tomb also talked about some challenges the department faces: insufficient electives, lower independent reading than in the past, and the New York State literacy standards. Rachel DeGroat asked him about AI in the classroom, and Steve Tomb mentioned that it has been a challenge to balance the information that AI gives and students using their own words in writing assignments.

Shannon Stone spoke of adding college courses instead of offering AP classes. She feels that the college courses are more beneficial to the students.

Shannon Stone presented as the advisor to Student Council. She brought with her the following members: Vasanti Collins, Caroline Williams, Angelo Galle, Cole Sears, Eli Morin, Elijah Bananno, Lillian San Antonio, Haley Mosher, Logan Bennett, and Tristan Secor. Each member of the Student Council spoke of the mission of the group as well as what the group meant to them as individuals.

Shannon Stone informed the Board that there are four representatives per grade 7-12.

Scott Preusser presented the 2022-2023 external audit findings.

**Motions:**

Tara Sears made a **MOTION** to accept the letter of intent to retire with gratitude by Rhonda Richards, effective June 30, 2024, seconded by Sarah Williams and carried.

Sarah Williams stated Mrs. Richards wore many hats during her time at JCS.

Chris Jay made a **MOTION** to approve the authorization by TruGreen Pest 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.

Tara Sears made a **MOTION** to approve the 2022-2023 audit seconded by Melissa Freebern and carried.

Tara Sears made a **MOTION** to approve the 2022-2023 Corrective Action Plan, seconded by Sarah Williams and carried.

Tara Sears made a **MOTION** to approve the 2022-2023 Extra-Curricular Audit report, seconded by Sarah Williams and carried.

Tara Sears made a **MOTION** to approve the 2022-2023 Extra-Curricular Action Plan, seconded by Chris Jay and carried

**Committee Reports:**

**Finance:** Mike Markwica reported the committee discussed next year's budget and the Foundation Aid. Mike Markwica stated that he believes some aid will come through, but not all will be restored. The committee is working on a budget with the information that has been suggested so far.

**Building and Grounds:** Mike Markwica reported that the Univent Project will be worked on over Spring Break. He did state that asbestos does have to be removed in certain areas. He also spoke of the 3.2 million dollar science building project.

**Update Reports:**

Heather Flanagan passed out an information sheet with directions on how to take the Violence Prevention Training that is mandated by the State for all employees and Board of Education members.

Heather Flanagan also presented a handout with information on the number of students passing, failing one subject, and failing two or more subjects.

Heather Flanagan spoke of this year's Battle of the Books with our fifth grade class finishing in third place.

Heather Flanagan reported on the successful State Archery Tournament that was held in Syracuse, NY. Johnsbury's team received five medals, with Austin Lupo winning the Middle School State Championship title. Congratulations to all.

Mike Markwica reported on this year's Lobby Days. He said the main focus was on State Aid.

**Other Business:**

Sarah Williams asked about the progress of Parent Square. She explained what Parent Square was and how easy it was to use. Mike Markwica stated that we are working on it, and it should be up and running at the start of next year.

The April 20th Softball/Baseball Tournament was discussed. Mike Markwica stated there will be both modified and varsity games scheduled for both sports.

Erwin Morris thanked, with gratitude, Mike Ordway for his work in the District.

**Adjournment:**

Tara Sears made a **MOTION** to adjourn at 8:04 pm, seconded by Sarah Williams and carried.