

JOHNSBURG CENTRAL SCHOOL
Monday, March 22, 2021
BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING
MINUTES

Board Members Present: Rachel DeGroat
Erwin Morris
Tom Ordway
Tara Sears
Jake Sauer-Jones
Sarah Williams

Board Member Absent: Mike Sharp

Call to Order: Rachel DeGroat opened the meeting at 7:02 with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Approval of Minutes: Tara Sears made a **MOTION** to approve the minutes of the March 8, 2021, Board of Education Meeting, seconded by Jake Sauer-Jones and carried.

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

Motions/ Discussion Presentation: **MOTION:** Tara Sears made a **MOTION** to accept the resignation of Christine Hinckley as Bus Driver with gratitude effective April 2, 2021, seconded by Sarah Williams with discussion. Jake Sauer-Jones stated that this position needs to be filled and we have to keep working on hiring more drivers. Mike Markwica stated advertisements were already being placed in our two newspapers as well as a Facebook posting and listed on the website. Motion was carried.

MOTION: Tom Ordway made a **MOTION** to appoint Brandon Dunbar as Mechanic Helper/Bus Driver at level 18 at \$16.05 per hour beginning March 23, 2021, seconded by Erwin Morris with discussion. Mike Markwica informed the Board that Brandon came from Minerva and he was a substitute bus driver for us. Motion was carried.

MOTION: Tom Ordway made a **MOTION** to accept Anna Goodman's letter of retirement as of April 1, 2021, with thanks for all the years safely driving our children, seconded by Jake Sauer-Jones and carried.

Presentation: Larry Ringer presented the Johnsbury Central School's 2021-2022 Budget with a slide show highlighting each area of the budget. This year's budget is \$11,858,000.

Committee Reports:

Finance Committee: Rachel DeGroat reported the Finance Committee met before the meeting to discuss contracts.

Updates:

CDC: Mike Markwica reported the Center for Disease Control has issued an updated statement recommending students can go from six feet to three feet in regular classrooms with masks on and in Physical Education classes from twelve feet to six feet. Mike Markwica stated that he was interviewed by Channel 13 (WNYT) as a chairperson of the committee created to speak with local legislatures on concerns local schools within our BOCES are having with COVID rules and regulations.

Extracurricular: Travel Club, Prom, Honors Night, Sports Banquet, National Honor Society, and Graduation meetings are taking place. More information to come.

Re-Opening: Mike Markwica stated the Pavilion and the playground are opening with guidelines.

Board of Education Meetings: Talk of having BOE meetings go back to in-person are being considered by the NYS. We have to look at a space or a different set-up.

Mike Markwica suggested staying in the Cafetorium but with a different set-up.

Jake Sauer-Jones asked if things are changing, will our school day return to a full day? Mike Markwica said the schedule will stay as is until the end of the year. It would be difficult to rearrange the high school schedule. Jake asked if all remote students came back the schedule could be altered but Mike Markwica stated we still have to offer remote learning. Jake Sauer-Jones questioned how we are planning on helping the

students who are failing if we continue with remote learning. Mike Markwica stated that we do and will continue to offer help. Jake Sauer-Jones stated he is very disappointed that we are not going to go back to regular school days and the drop-off time is not parent-friendly. Heather Flanagan stated she has not gotten any complaints and parents are understanding of the reasons. Jake Sauer-Jones stated he was in favor of creating a Resolution that will give students any additional opportunities (music class). Erwin Morris asked if State Testing will be different and Mike Markwica stated it is limited to only one session per subject with limited questions and there is only three Regents offered this year. Students are allowed to exempt their Regent scores if they choose. Tom Ordway agreed with creating a Resolution to offer students more choices but asked if that was given would that take away from other subjects and Mike Markwica said it would.

Student Numbers: Heather Flanagan reported that 31 remote students returned to In-person learning and 57 students are staying remote until the end of the year.

Fun Day: Heather Flanagan reported that March 11th was a Fun Day for high school students and March 12th was a Fun Staff Day for all faculty and staff. Both days were well received. April 1st will be an Elementary Fun Day.

Movement: Ninth Graders were moved into the band room to create a more conducive learning environment.

Battle of the Books: BOTB is taking place this week with all challenges being held virtually.

Visitor's Comments:

Fred Morse spoke of the lack of bus drivers and how it is effecting the day to day operations for transportation and he reported feeling "burned out". He stated his issues are all COVID related with the requirements of spacing causing much of the issues. He requested the Board needs to get involved with fixing the lack of drivers.

Jake Sauer-Jones stated he understood Fred's frustration and agreed that the Board needed to do something. He wanted to know

why this was happening.

Sarah Williams asked if Mike Markwica could take the issue of spacing on busses to the Legislature and Mike Markwica responded that it was already brought to the State's attention but it was not addressed further in the new guidance.

Adjournment:

Sarah Williams made a **MOTION** to adjourn at 8:32, seconded by Tara Sears and carried.

District Clerk: Cindy Homer

_____ Date: _____