

JOHNSBURG CENTRAL SCHOOL
Friday, March 7, 2025
SPECIAL BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING
Minutes

Board Members Present: Rachel DeGroat
Melissa Freebern
Erwin Morris
Tom Ordway

Board Members Absent: Chris Jay
Tara Sears
Sarah Williams

Call to Order: Rachel DeGroat opened the meeting at 8:34 with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Agenda Changes: Rachel Degroat added an Executive Session for personnel with no action at the end of the special Board of Education meeting.

Discussion: Rachel DeGroat started the discussion of the possibility of a girl's soccer merger with North Warren Central School. Michael Markwica explained the reasons for this merger. He also stated that North Warren Central School approached us two years ago, but because we were in the process of a merger with Minerva Central School we did not pursue the request. He stated that we had already merged with North Warren Central School for cross-country running and Nordic skiing. He went on to say we have discussed this at a few meetings, but due to time restraints, a decision must be made on whether to move forward or not.

Mr. Markwica stated that we would stay in our league and both North Warren and Minerva Central School voted for this merger at their school board meeting.

Mike Markwica stated that there was a conversation with all three school administration, athletic directors, and heads of transportation. He said that transportation is a concern but feels that a workable solution is possible. He did state that our athletic directors and soccer coaches were in favor of this merger.

Rachel DeGroat stated that Mike Markwica provided data regarding the possible teams with different scenarios for modified. Both athletic directors spoke (Allison Gonyo and Aaron Chambers) giving the board a look at the make-up of the modified teams, and numbers for all.

Varsity coach Joe San Antonio spoke of his difficulty fielding a team with injuries and ineligibility. He said we are not competitive due to the size of the varsity team.

Melissa Freebern thanked the athletic directors and coach and said she appreciated and valued what they had to say.

Erwin Morris asked about transportation concerns.

Brandon Dunbar (Head of Transportation) said he had no idea about this merger, and he was concerned with scheduling conflicts due to his already after-school concerns.

Allison Gonyo explained that the transportation departments from Minerva and North Warren did a mock schedule based on last year's schedule, and it was possible.

Mike Markwica stated that we are working on having 10th period as an activity period for all seventh, eighth, and ninth graders next year, which will help with earlier dismissals.

Rick Ross (bus driver) spoke on his concerns regarding transportation and lack of drivers.

Rachel DeGroat said that she agreed with what was said and the Board will have to come up with a solution to the problems. She also stated that if we don't start merging our sports programs, we may lose sports due to the number of student-athletes.

Melissa Freebern voiced concern that the bus garage did not know about this merger.

Rachel DeGroat asked Mike Markwica what would happen if we do not vote for this merger, and Mike Markwica stated that the

merger would be done

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Erwin Morris stated he was not against the merger, but we need to work on transportation.

Motions:

Tom Ordway made a **MOTION** to approve the Merger with North Warren Central School for Girl's Modified and Girl's Varsity Soccer for the 2025 - 2026 school year. There was not a second. **MOTION** denied.

Adjournment:

Tom Ordway made a **MOTION** to adjourn at 9:06 for an executive session, personnel with no action were seconded by Melissa Freebern and carried.

Tom Ordway made a **MOTION** to adjourn at 10:53, seconded by Melissa Freebern and carried.

District Clerk: Cindy A. Homer

Date: _____