

JOHNSBURG CENTRAL SCHOOL
Monday, March 8, 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 7:01 with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Approval of Minutes: Tara Sears made a **MOTION** to approve the minutes of the February 22, 2021, Board of Education Meeting, seconded by Erwin Morris and carried.

Tara Sears made a **MOTION** to approve the CSE/CPSE/504 report, seconded by Jake Sauer-Jones and carried.

Agenda Changes: V. Items for Discussion and/or Action/Presentation, Letter D.
MOTION: The Johnsburg Central School District Board of Education, with the knowledge, consent, and approval of the School Superintendent, Michael J. Markwica, authorizes the Superintendent of Buildings and Grounds, Neil Dunkley, to arrange for the TruGreen Pest Control Company to make the application of necessary pesticides/herbicides to the fields to combat the destructive influences currently present.
V. Items for Discussion and/or Action/Presentation, Letter E.
MOTION: Accept the Resignation of Alex Garrido, effective immediately.

Motions/ Discussion Presentation: **Presentation:** Ryan Carpenter presented slides for a presentation for Physical Education. He highlighted his K-6 program as well as his 7-12 students' activities. He spoke of the

packets he provides for remote students

Jake Sauer-Jones stated that Ryan Carpenter was doing a great job, the students seem excited about P.E.

Presentation: Jill Toney presented a handout prior to the board meeting to explain her k-12 Physical Education program. She stated that every class has a five-minute “warm-up” that includes the remote students before her classes go outside, along with a detailed description of classes in-person and remote.

Tom Ordway stated her lessons were very creative and thanked both teachers for working together to keep our students active.

Jake Sauer-Jones also stated that Jill Toney was doing a great job and expressed his belief that outside P.E. continues after covid regulations are gone. Jill Toney stated that safety is a concern for both teachers because some students do not come prepared for outside P.E. classes and the weather is a concern.

MOTION: Jake Sauer-Jones made a **MOTION** to appoint Mark Warnecke as Co-Coach for the 2021-2022 Trap Club at .25 of the stipend of \$2,080, seconded by Sarah Williams with discussion. Tom Ordway asked if this was a club or a sport due to the wording of the motion and asked why the split was not even. Mike Markwica stated it was a club and Erika did the first half by herself so the second half will be divided in half - making Erika Patton’s portion .75 to Mark Warnecki’s .25. Jake Sauer-Jones retracted his motion.

MOTION: Jake Sauer-Jones made a **MOTION** to change Erika Patton’s stipend for Trap for the 2020-2021 school year to .75 of the \$2,080 annual stipend, and approve Mark Waneceke as a Trap advisor for the spring session of the 2020-2021 school year at the rate of .25 of \$2,080 annual stipend, seconded by Sarah William and carried.

DISCUSSION: To increase the eligibility for Archery Club from 9th grade to 12th grade.

Erwin Morris voiced concern with creating a conflict with the 9-12 sports program.

Sarah Williams stated the club will be flexible for student-athletes.

Rachel DeGroat asked if we can offer this opportunity to more students if the space for practice increased.

Mike Markwica stated his hesitation. From past experience, people always say they will be flexible but parents call him upset when children have to choose between an activity and sports. he gave examples of the musical, stage band, and jazz band. Jake Sauer-Jones reminded everyone that this is a club, not a sport and there aren't any productions to interfere this year. He does not believe we should stop this club from growing. It is low risk and part of life skills is learning how to balance priorities. Tom Ordway reminded the Board that we did offer duel-sports to students in the past with conditions.

Rachel DeGroat stated that it could interfere if there aren't enough students to field a team in the future. She also asked when they would like to start.

Erwin Morris stated he was all for the Archery Club when it was for grades 4-8 but for it to grow, we need more of a commitment from the advisors with schedules of practice times.

Mike Markwica agreed that we should have a schedule of meetings and if the club grows in numbers there may not be as flexible as before. He said the club needs to start now, so waiting until the next meeting will be too late.

Tara Sears stated since the club is now meeting at Tannery Pond, the advisors should have a more definite schedule they can share with administration.

Mike Markwica said he said he will speak to the advisors regarding this request, but it makes sense to get the club up and running now for grades 4-9 and we will discuss the increase of grade levels for the 2021-2022 school year.

Jake Sauer-Jones asked if this is something the advisor asked for and Mike Markwica stated no, this request for a discussion came from Board Member, Tara Sears.

Sarah Williams asked Mike to speak to the advisors to find out if this is something they are even interested in pursuing.

Mike Markwica stated he will speak to the advisors.

MOTION: Jake Sauer-Jones made a **MOTION** for the Johnsbury Central School District Board of Education, with the knowledge, consent, and approval of the School Superintendent, Michael J. Markwica, authorizes the Superintendent of Buildings and Grounds, Neil Dunkley, to arrange for the TruGreen Pest Control Company to make the application if necessary

pesticides/herbicides to the fields to combat the destructive influences currently present, seconded by Tom Ordway and carried.

MOTION: Tara Sears made a **MOTION** to accept the Resignation of Alex Garrido, effective immediately, with discussion.

Erwin Morris asked when Alex Garrido started at Johnsbury and Mike Markwica replied November.

Rachel DeGroat asked how we were on replacing him and Mike Markwica stated we will have his replacement by the next Board Meeting.

MOTION was seconded by Sarah Williams and carried.

Committee Reports:

Finance Committee: Rachel DeGroat reported the Finance Committee met to go over two contracts and the budget of the 2021-2022 school year will be presented at the next Board Meeting Erwin Morris asked how does the third wave of COVID relief affects our budget.

Mike Markwica replied that it has not affected us since it has not reached the state level yet.

Updates:

Legislature: Mike Markwica met with members of our State Legislature to help present our needs. We are asking our Legislature to turn the decision power over to the counties since there are many differences between areas in New York State. Jake Sauer-Jones asked if we have any further information on vaccinations for students and travel. Mike Markwica said at this time, children of fully vaccinated parents still will have to quarantine if traveling out of state. His plan is to inform parents closer to Spring Break of the rules and to suggest bringing a Chromebook and work home with them to prepare for on-line learning for the quarantine period.

State Testing: Mike Markwica stated because we receive Federal Funds, we need to give Algebra, English, and first year science Regent exams this year.

Jake Sauer-Jones has asked if the State has given out guidelines to follow and Mike Markwica replied they have for the 3-8 State testing but as of this meeting, he has received nothing on any

Regent exams.

Heather Flanagan is putting a letter together to send home with information regarding the 3-8 State tests.

Jake Sauer-Jones asked if remote students take the test the same day and Heather Flanagan said they do, but will be in a separate room at school.

After School Extra Help Programs: Heather Flanagan reported that starting tomorrow we will offer a 7th and 8th grade guided study hall program after school on Tuesdays and Thursdays for students failing two or more core subjects.

Kindness Week: There was a kindness banner hung in the hall and staff and students have written notes of kindness for all to read. There will be a Fun Day scheduled for this Thursday with many activities for seven through twelfth-grade students to participate in. Later in March, a Pre K through sixth grade Fun Day is being planned.

Rachel DeGroat asked if this idea came from the mental health committee that was recently created and Heather Flanagan stated it was.

Heather Flanagan also spoke of the Staff Day scheduled for this Friday. There will be many activities planned with staff being able to choose. Mike Markwica said this will be the first Staff Day of its kind.

Rachel DeGroat stated that these activities will help with the mental health concerns we discussed in previous meetings.

Mike Markwica also pointed out that Community Members have also reached out to our staff offering donations to our staff: like Sarah's Cafe for a free coffee and danish.

BOCES Board: Our BOCES board is looking for interested school board members who may be interested in running for a seat on the BOCES Board. If interested, please let Mike Markwica know before the next meeting.

Other Business: Jake Sauer-Jones: Asked about prom. Mike Markwica stated that it is looking good. Meetings are being held to discuss options.

Erwin Morris: Asked how the Administration is keeping track of staff receiving the COVID -19 vaccine. Mike Markwica responded that Administration has the right to ask and our staff has been forthcoming with their information. At this time we have about ten employees who do not have the vaccine but everyone who wants to get it was given many options and opportunities to do so.

Jake Sauer-Jones reported that other agencies have had employees sign a letter stating they do not want it.

Erwin Morris then asked where we are with sports and Mike Markwica said that Ryan Carpenter has talked with the coaches and baseball and softball for varsity and modified as well as cross country running will be starting soon.

Adjournment:

Sarah Williams made a **MOTION** to adjourn at 8:24, seconded by Jake Sauer-Jones and carried.

District Clerk: Cindy Homer

_____ Date: _____