

JOHNSBURG CENTRAL SCHOOL
May 9, 2022
BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING
MINUTES

Board Members Present: Rachel DeGroat
Tom Ordway
Erwin Morris
Sarah Williams

Board Member Absent: Tara Sears
Jake Sauer-Jones
Mike Sharp

Call to Order: Rachel DeGroat opened the meeting at 7:00 with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Approval of Minutes: Sarah Williams made a MOTION to approve the minutes of the April 26, 2022 Board of Education Meeting, seconded by Tom Ordway and carried.

Agenda Changes: Add Letter C under Items for Discussion and/or Action: Motion to Appoint Gerry Brown as a Bus Driver with five years experience starting in June.

Financial: Larry Ringer reported that the big-ticket item listed on the General Fund report is the new math program. Mike Markwica stated that purchasing this program was three years in the making. Heather Flanagan worked with the math chairperson, the coordinators as well as BOCES.

Items for Discussion and/or Action:

Discussion: **The use of buses without charge for the Town of Johnsborg's Summer Youth Program.**
Mike Markwica started the discussion by stating that the school's summer school program starts at 8 am. If we were able to pick up the Youth Program children at the same time, the town would save money in busing costs. He then stated that the ideal partnership would be the school

having an a.m. academic program and the town offering the youth program in the afternoon.

Tom Ordway stated he liked the idea of the school and youth program running at the same time. There would be no additional cost to either party. He also stated that if they have different hours, they should have to pay. We have other groups that use our buses.

Rachel DeGroat asked what the District charges for the use of the buses.

Mike Markwica explained the cost is broken down for wear and tear on the bus and then the bus driver's salary.

Erwin Morris stated we should not let the Town use our buses. We shouldn't give the town something for free, it sets a bad precedent for others wanting to use our buses.

Mike Markwica asked Erwin Morris what his thoughts were of his (Markwica) solution and Erwin Morris said he still was not interested. He stated this was not the year for it. He said if the town was willing to split the cost of sharing the bus he'd consider Mike's idea.

Tom Ordway stated that if we are picking up students anyway we should also pick up the youth program students for free. There is no extra cost to the District.

Sarah Williams said the issue is the timing. If the town wants free transportation, then we should offer them that at our schedule.

Rachel DeGroat stated she likes both options, but she would like to see an a.m. academic program and a p.m. youth program.

Visitor Amy Sabatis asked if busing to Minerva was also a cost. Mike Markwica said the older students would be going to Minerva and Minerva was paying for the bus.

Erwin Morris stated that offering free busing to the town could hurt our kids with a failed budget.

Rachel DeGroat said there is not any additional cost to the District and it is 3 to 1 to offer the town our solutions.

Mike Markwica will send a letter to the town offering both options.

Extension of the PILOT Program:

Mike Markwica explained that the town creates the PILOT,

the school does not. At this time, the town is considering extending the PILOT program, again we do not have a say. He stated that we do have the authority to say if we want our portion of the taxes that would be due to us.

Tom Ordway said that anytime the town create a PILOT we do not a have say so we need to ask for our share each time a PILOT is created.

Sarah Williams agreed.

Erwin Morris said the town assessment is used to levy the taxes on the property in question.

Erwin Morris asked when did it become okay for the town to take all the money from the PILOT. He stated that affordable housing is a big moneymaker. Only 1% is sold to not-for-profit, the other 99% private. He also asked why the town is asking the school before it was legally passed.

He stated that the issue was brought to the town's board twice and it was defeated both times.

Mike Markwica explained that he brought the issue to the Board as a DISCUSSION because he was made aware of it. Sarah Williams stated to solve the issue: If the town wants another PILOT, the District wants it's share.

Mike Markwica repeated that the District does not have a say if the town approves a PILOT. We are not offering support for or against the idea. We are just saying that if the town gives a PILOT we want our tax base.

Motion:

Tom Ordway made a MOTION to appoint Gerry Brown as a Bus Driver with five years experience starting in June, seconded by Sarah Williams.

Mike Markwica stated that Mr. Brown has eight years experience driving for Queensbury. Motion carried.

Rachel DeGroat asked if this made a full staff of drivers.

Mike Markwica said it did.

Updates:

Mike Markwica reported that next Thursday night, senior Mariya Dunkley will be honored for her volunteer commitments to the community at a dinner in Lake George.

Rachel DeGroat mentioned that our bus garage received a 100% inspection rate with 0% failures.

Heather Flanagan reported we have had four staff members and fifteen students test positive for COVID 19 since Spring break.

She reported that prom was a success.

Heather Flanagan also provided an updated handout with the number of students on honor roll, failing one subject, and failing two subjects.

Other Business:

Sarah Williams reported that the Jr. High Travel Club trip was a success. The students were well behaved and the group stayed in Plymouth Massachusetts. Sarah Williams also asked if we were having a problem filling the math position. Heather Flanagan said they interviewed four teachers and two are moving on for the second stage of interviews.

Sarah Williams then asked about the search for a science teacher. Heather Flanagan stated they have not started the search process yet.

Erwin Morris stated that he also heard the Jr. High Travel Club was great. He said there were a lot of students attending prom this year and Sarah's cookies were delicious.

Tom Ordway asked if we found the outside lights.

Mike Markwica said we did and Frank Morehouse will work on them this summer.

Tom Ordway also thanked everyone for working above and beyond during this COVID time. He said it meant a lot to him knowing our students were getting the best education.

Visitor Comments:

Amy Sabattis:

Amy asked if the pick-up route for summer school was limited. Mike Markwica stated the District has around fifteen locations for pick-up.

Amy Sabattis then asked if the town was to save the \$6,000 for busing where would that money go. Mike Markwica stated that Kelly Nessel reported it would

stay with the youth committee.

Adjournment:

Sarah Williams made a **MOTION** to adjourn at 7:44 seconded by Tom Ordway and carried.

District Clerk: Cindy Homer

_____ Date: _____