

JOHNSBURG CENTRAL SCHOOL
Monday, November 13, 2023
BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING
Minutes

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

Board Members Absent: N/A

- Call to Order:** Rachel DeGroat opened the meeting at 6:02 with the Pledge of Allegiance.
- Approval of Minutes:** Tara Sears made a **MOTION** to approve the minutes of the October 16, 2023, Board of Education Meeting, seconded by Sarah Williams and carried.
- Tara Sears made a **MOTION** to approve the minutes of the Special Public Hearing on October 16, 2023, seconded by Chris Jay and carried.
- CSE/CPSE/504** Sarh Williams made a **MOTION** to accept the CSE/CPSE/504 Reports seconded by Tara Sears and carried.
- Financial:** Liz Viele reported that our fuel costs for the tank at the bus garage was around \$600, and prices keep fluctuating.
- Presentation:** **CASDA:** Jerry Steele and Mike Piccirillo from CASDA presented new information on the possible merger. CASDA spoke on the Study Group meetings held in Minerva (our group meeting is scheduled for this Wednesday, November 15th). They also reviewed some questions that came up during the focus group meetings..
- Heather Olesheski**, School Spirit Coordinator, spoke on her new position. She provided a handout with bullet points: what has already been accomplished, what is planned for this school year, and ideas that

are still being considered. The Board thanked her for her hard work.

Russell Moro: The History Department Chair brought four students: Eli Morin, Kayla O'Hara, Tristen Secor, and Lilly San Antonio, who spoke about what they have learned in Social Studies. The Board thanked Mr. Moro for his hard work, and they also thanked the students for coming and presenting.

Discussion:

Sports Merger: Mike Markwica explained that North Warren Central school is asking to create a merger, similar to cross-country running, for tennis. Mike Markwica went on to explain that, unfortunately, we missed the deadline for this school year, but we should discuss merging for the 2024-2025 school year. Our tennis team has not had enough players to field a team, so merging with North Warren will help. After a discussion, the Board was in favor of approving this sports merger for the 2024-2025 school year.

Mike Markwica then went on to state that North Warren asked if Johnsbury-Minerva would contribute to purchasing new cross-country uniforms that represent all three schools. The cost would be split three ways. The Board agreed to move forward with purchasing new uniforms.

Motion:

Tara Sears made a **MOTION** to approve the revised school calendar, seconded by Chris Jay and carried.

Sarah Williams made a **MOTION** to approve the Resolution Authorizing participation in Cooperative Energy Purchasing Service (NYSMEC) for electricity, seconded by Erwin Morris and carried.

Committee Reports:

Policy and Plans: Discussed extracurriculars, clubs, and sports pay registration/attendance fees for students who participate. Parents pay the fee and will get reimbursed after the student participates.

Curriculum/Staff Development: Discussed the BOCES grant that will cover costs for college credit courses (SUNY Adirondack and North Country Community College). The committee also discussed AP classes and college level courses. Want to keep what AP courses we have: music theory, history but do not add more. Upgrading the Distant Learning Lab to offer new electives.

Update Reports:

Mike Markwica spoke of the new camera system installed in our gym, which will allow the user to purchase a subscription to stream our athletic events.

Heather Flanagan updated the Board of the Reunification Drill that was held on November 9th. She thanked the Board Members who helped oversee the event.

Other Business:

Sarah Williams asked if the proposition listed in the 11/2023 ballot for small city schools would affect us. Mike Markwica stated it would not - we are a central school, not a small city.

Erwin Morris stated that although he understands the reasons behind the decision, it is very frustrating not being able to ask questions during the Feasibility Study meetings. Rachel DeGroat informed the Board that if they have a question, they should let Mike Markwica know and he will present it to CASDA and then it can be discussed at the next meeting.

Tom Ordway thanked both of tonight's speakers and complimented the students who spoke.

Tara Sears will attend the next Feasibility meeting scheduled for November 29, 2023.

Visitor's Comments:

Joe San Antonio spoke. He said that he is enjoying the merger meetings. He then stated he was slightly concerned that there were public entering Tannery Pond during the drill and asked if that could happen during a real emergency. Mike Markwica stated that would not be allowed

Adjournment:

Tara Sears made a **MOTION** to adjourn at 7:31 pm, seconded by Erwin Morris and carried.