

JOHNSBURG CENTRAL SCHOOL
Tuesday, October 13, 2020
BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING
MINUTES

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

Board Members Absent: N/A

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

Approval of Minutes: Tom Ordway made a **MOTION** to approve the minutes of the September 28, 2020 Board of Education Meeting, seconded by Tara Sears, and carried.

Erwin Morris made a **MOTION** to accept the CSE/CPSE/504 reports, seconded by Tom Ordeay and carried.

Agenda Changes: Mike Markwica added two agenda changes under V. Items for Discussion and/or Action: Letter H. **MOTION** to accept a Medical Leave of Absence for Russel Moro, and Letter I. **DISCUSSION** to have Mike Sharp as a Volunteer Coach for the Trap Club.

Financial Larry Ringer informed the Board that the bus is on the road. Erwin Morris asked how many Promethean Boards were purchased for the dollar amount listed. Larry Ringer stated that the price was for eleven boards, two carts, and 31 Chromeboxes.

Motions & Discussion:

Before this portion of the meeting began, President, Rachel DeGroat reminded the Board of the Rules for Discussion that they created and asked them to follow them.

MOTION: Tom Ordway made a **Motion** at 7:07 to adjourn to Executive Session for a discussion on the Safety Plan, seconded by Jake Sauer-Jones and carried.

MOTION: Tom Ordway made a **Motion** to return to Regular Session at 7:17, seconded by Tara Sears and carried.

MOTION: Tom Ordway made a **Motion** to accept the 2020-2021 Johnsburg Central School Safety Plan, seconded by Sarah Williams and carried.

MOTION: Tom Ordway made a **Motion** to accept the 2020-2021 Board Goals, seconded by Mike Sharp and carried.

MOTION: Jake Sauer-Jones made a **Motion** to accept the 2020-2021 Budget Calendar, seconded by Erwin Morris and carried.

Discussion: MOA for Bus Drivers. Mike Markwica reported to the Board at this time, the CSEA Union does not want to create a MOA for Bus Drivers. He did state the union would like this added to their future contract.

Rachel DeGroat asked Mike Markwica if we had another plan in place and Mike Markwica stated that we do not. Rachel DeGroat then asked if we had any prospects and Mike Markwica stated we do.

Jake Sauer-Jones asked how many bus drivers we were short and Mike Markwica replied two.

Tom Ordway asked if we had any applications and Mike Markwica stated we do not at this time.

Discussion: Wearing face masks full time in school. Mike Sharp spoke on the positive reasoning behind wearing face masks all day during school hours. He sent all board members an article written by the CBC supporting full masks all school day. Mike Sharp read

from another article with points on wearing face coverings. He wants to know why not. He stated we (Board) should be doing everything possible for our students. If wearing masks help then why not take every step possible.

Jake Sauer-Jones spoke and challenged the article provided. He stated that the article was written for high populated areas and our classrooms at JCS are not highly populated. He stated that students are not spreading covid, adults are. He went on to state that it is dangerous for children to wear masks all day. Jake Sauer-Jones reported that N95 masks do not stop Covid-19 so wearing just any mask will not stop the virus. Masks help stop saliva.

Tom Ordway stated that his neurologist told him that kids are not primary carriers. More importantly, is hand washing/social distancing.

Sarah Williams stated she had arguments for both sides. She stated that she believes that masks are the best way to keep those around us safe. She ended by saying she was in support of wearing them all school day.

Erwin Morris stated that our distance from one another is greater in our school than in others. He listed some reasons why we shouldn't wear them all day. He also stated that every parent and teacher has the choice of having their child or themselves wear a mask all day long.

Mike Markwica stated that elementary teachers are moving around during the school day and when they do, everyone in the classroom has their masks on. He also reported that even if we wore masks all day we may still have to quarantine if a case was reported. He mentioned we take temperatures daily. Overall the staff is happy with what we set up.

Tom Ordway stated that we are doing all we can at this point with a good procedure in place. This change may add additional stress to an already stressful and frustrating school day. He then stated kids with breathing problems may have trouble.

Rachel DeGroat stated that we have a really good plan with staff and students adhering to the rules - doing well with what we are doing.

Mike Sharp stated that there is no proof that masks bother asthma suffers. He told the Board that he works in a district where staff and students wear masks all day long without any problems. He

stated again that he thinks we are not doing everything possible if we are not wearing masks all day.

Erwin Morris asked if there was any research. He then asked if kids could wear masks all day if they wanted to. Heather Flanagan stated that we do have students and staff who choose to wear masks all day.

Tom Ordway mentioned that wearing glasses is hard while wearing a mask due to the fogging.

Jake Sauer-Jones told the Board that he believes we should be cautious. No one knows what is best. He also said that saying we aren't doing our best is wrong. JCS is doing more than is required.

MOTION: Mike Sharp made a **Motion** to wear a mask full time in school. There was not a second and the **Motion** died.

MOTION: Tom Ordway made a **Motion** to accept the medical leave of absence from Russel Moro as of Monday, October 19, 2020, until December 25, 2020, seconded by Erwin Morris and carried.

Tom Ordway asked if we had anyone to fill his position as a long term sub and Mike Markwica responded that we did, Eilene Totzke.

MOTION: Jake Sauer-Jones made a **Motion** to appoint Mike Sharp as Volunteer Assistant Coach for Trap, seconded by Tom Ordway, Mike Sharp abstained; carried.

Tom Ordway stated that in the past he was told that Board members could not coach or volunteer to help with coaching.

Mike Markwica stated he spoke to the school's attorney and she said Board members can not be paid but can volunteer.

Tom Ordway said that parents and students speak very highly of Trap Club.

Heather Flanagan said she went up to watch a practice and was impressed with the safety measures (Covid and sport) put into place. There were nine students on Saturday and five on Sunday. Jake Sauer-Jones stated that Board members should be allowed to volunteer as long as no one else wants the position.

Committee Reports:

Mike Markwica reported that the Policy Committee met and three policies were created and he will send them out via email tonight for the Board's review so the Board can vote on them at the next meeting.

Heather Flanagan reported that the Wall of Fame Committee met for the first time.

Updates:

Mike Markwica reported that the Youth and Government Conference will be virtual this year so the club has decided not to participate in this year's event.

Mike Markwica reported to the Board that Section II sent a survey regarding the start date of school sports. The two options were November 30, 2020, or January 4, 2021. Rachel DeGroat asked Mike Markwica if he could send the survey to the Board members so they can review it. Mike Markwica said he would. Mike Markwica told the Board that Nordic is a part of Section II. Jake Sauer-Jones reminded the Board that if they say yes to Nordic he felt they will have to say yes to cross country.

Mike Markwica reported that the Yearbook Club is struggling financially and would like to ask the Board for \$1,500 to subsidize the money needed. Mike Markwica explained that they lost money due to the USDA's audit and the school store and vending machines we shut down. Mike Sharp stated that he believes the yearbook needs to continue but he would like the school to look at the possibilities of less expensive companies. He also stated that giving this club money is opening a door that could have a snowball effect.

Tom Ordway also reported that community businesses are not purchasing advertising this year which is also a fundraiser. Heather Flanagan stated she believed we already had a contract with Josten which we can not get out of this year.

Sarah Williams spoke about the importance of yearbooks and does not want it to go away. Mike Markwica agreed to say the yearbook is a service to the school. Heather Flanagan stated there is a digital form that other schools are using. Mike Sharp asked if there is a minimum number we have to order, Heather Flanagan said she will ask Maria Glode. Jake Sauer-Jones that local businesses are

having a tough time this year and giving the yearbook money this year is a good idea. We will have a discussion along with a presentation next meeting.

Heather Flanagan spoke on the numbers of remote learners (18) who have returned as well as the seventy-five remote learners committed to a ten-week commitment. We have 241 in-person students at this time.

Rachel DeGroat asked if we were able to accommodate the new in-person students. Heather Flanagan said that there were no issues in the classroom but there was some maneuvering for busing.

Other Business:

Mike Sharp: Asked how the soundproofing was working. Heather Flanagan stated it is better and they also changed the special schedule to eliminate extra noise. Mike Sharp asked if there was any way we can purchase headphones/headsets for the students and teachers. Mike Markwica said he would look into this idea.

Jake Sauer-Jones: Asked if the Promethean boards were showing the remote learners what the class sees and Mike Markwica explained.

Visitor Comments:

Rebecca Morris. 1) Winter Sports: Administration may be spending more time deciding on having winter sports and students may not be interested in playing. She suggested students are asked what they are considering. 2) She asked if the JCS Re-Opening Committee has reached out to students to get their opinions and concerns on how the school year is going. 3) Yearbooks: She informed the Board that last year yearbooks had to be pre-ordered with Josten sending an additional ten that were sold.

Adjournment:

Sarah Williams made a **MOTION** to adjourn at 8:33 seconded by Mike Sharp and carried.

District Clerk: Cindy Homer

Date: _____