

JOHNSBURG CENTRAL SCHOOL  
Monday, September 11, 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 6:00 with the Pledge of Allegiance.
- Approval of Minutes:** Tara Sears made a **MOTION** to approve the minutes of the August 21, 2023, Board of Education Meeting, seconded by Melissa Freebern and carried.
- CSE/CPSE/504** Melissa Freebern made a **MOTION** to accept the CSE/CPSE/504 Reports seconded by Sarah Williams and carried.
- Agenda Changes:** Add item G under Items for Discussion and/or Action: School Spirit Coordinator.
- Financial:** Tom Ordway questioned the price of fuel oil. Kathy Spring said she would get back to the Board at the next meeting with up-to-date information.
- Kathy Spring explained that the General Fund Report had more voided checks than usual. She explained that they are still finding multiple checks to the same accounts and are working on rectifying the duplicates.
- Presentation:** Cole Sears presented on behalf of his Hudson River Expedition adventure. He also shared a video of his trip

**Motion:**

Tara Sears made a **MOTION** to approve the hiring of CASDA to perform the Merger Feasibility Study with Minerva Central School at the rate of \$23,940 divided equally, totaling \$11,970 per District seconded by Sarah Williams and carried.

Sarah Williams asked if this was the last time the Board voted on this, and Mike Markwica stated that it is not. The Board will vote one more time after CASDA presents their study.

Tom Ordway made a **MOTION** to appoint Lucas Donohue and Peter Campbell as co-coaches for the fifth and sixth-grade soccer team at \$400 each for the 2023-2024 school year, seconded by Sarah Williams and carried.

Tom Ordway asked if elementary coaches needed to have first aide training. Mike Markwica stated they do not.

Tom Ordway made a **MOTION** to amend the stipend for Athletic Director from \$2,750 to \$3,238, which is stated in the JCSTA contract seconded by Sarah Williams and carried. Mike Markwica explained that the initial motion had the wrong salary, so we needed to correct it.

Tara Sears made a **MOTION** to appoint Jake Sauer-Jones as a volunteer assistant coach for the modified boy's soccer team for the 2023-2024 school year, seconded by Tom Ordway and carried.

Tom Ordway made a **MOTION** to appoint Danielle Bonanno as a volunteer assistant coach for the cross country team for the 2023-2024 school year, seconded by Sarah Williams and carried.

Mike Markwica explained that she is a parent of three boys who attend JCS and was running with the team. She is the science teacher at Schroon Lake.

Tara Sears made a **MOTION** to appoint Allison Gonyo and Samantha Fish as co-coaches for the third and fourth-grade soccer team at \$400 each for the 2023-2024 school year, seconded by Tom Ordway and carried.

**Discussion:**

**School Spirit Coordinator:**

Sarah Williams spoke on the idea of the School Community Committee discussed increasing school spirit by creating a stipend position for someone to be in charge of products and organizing events for clubs and sports teams throughout the year. Mike Markwica stated that he approached Heather Oleshski to be in charge, and she agreed. Heather Flanagan stated that this new position is evolving and Heather Oleshski is aware that she will need to be flexible in the early stages.

**Motion:**

Tom Ordway made a **MOTION** to appoint Heather Oleshski as School Spirit Coordinator at \$950 for the 2023-2024 school year, seconded by Tara Sears and carried.

**Committee Reports:**

**Finance Committee:**

Tara Sears reported that the committee reviewed the Board's goals that was created this year and organized future meetings.

**Update Report:**

Mike Markwica thanked Tara Sears for speaking to the staff on the first day back. He also stated that Board Committee meetings were set, and Cindy Homer will send out reminders to Board members when meetings are coming up. Mike Markwica also informed the Board of the oversight by the Town of Johnsbury's assessor of some of the community's tax bills. New bills are being sent out.

Heather Flanagan reported that the start of school went well. Three new monitor screens are being placed around the building to promote school spirit and give out information to students, parents, and staff. The locations are the hallway by the cafetorium wall outside of the Principal's office and at the south door entrance.

**Other Business:**

Tom Ordway thanked the teachers, bus drivers, and the custodial staff for getting the school ready for opening day. He also thanked the custodial staff for working through all the injuries that have

happened. He went on to welcome the new staff and student teachers, and to thank Karen Moore for the cookies served at the Meet and Greet.

**Adjournment:**

Tara Sears made a **MOTION** to adjourn at 6:58 pm, seconded by Sarah Williams and carried.