

JOHNSBURG CENTRAL SCHOOL
Monday, September 28, 2002
BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING
MINUTES

Board Members Present:

Tara Sears
Tom Ordway
Sarah Williams
Jake Sauer-Jones
Mike Sharp
*Rachel DeGroat
* = Remote

Board Members Absent:

Erwin Morris

- Call to Order:** Tara Sears opened the meeting at 7:00 with the Pledge of Allegiance.
- Approval of Minutes:** Sara Williams made a **MOTION** to approve the minutes of the September 14, 2020 Board of Education Meeting, seconded by Mike Sharp, and carried.
- Tom Ordway made a **MOTION** to accept the CSE/CPSE/504 reports, seconded by Jake Sauer-Jones. Mike Sharp asked why the date was 5/26/20, and Mike Markwica replied that sometimes it takes a while to close out a meeting. **MOTION** was carried.
- Agenda Changes:** Mike Markwica removed item C, under Items for Discussion and/or Action,; **MOTION** to approve the MOA for bus drivers due to pending paperwork.
- Financial** Tom Ordway asked if the senior class will have enough money for graduation. Mike Markwica stated that classes generally only

fundraise for two things, the prom and Senior outing/graduation, and they should have enough. He also said that some groups are doing fundraisers that do not involve door to door sales.

Motions & Discussion:

MOTION: Tom Ordway made a **MOTION** to approve Ryan Carpenter's Horizontal Promotion MA+12, seconded by Sarah Williams and carried.

MOTION: Tom Ordway made a **MOTION** to accept the Retention and Disposition of Records Resolution, seconded by Jake Sauer-Jones. A discussion was held on what the new protocols were and Mike Markwica said he was unsure at this time but BOCES will present the information included in this was new COVID requirements that will be in place.

Discussion: Sports. Mike Markwica wanted to offer the Board time for any additional sport-related questions. Tom Ordway stated he stands by the Board decision to hold off on sports. Mike Markwica wanted to point out that due to our climate March soccer will most likely not happen here. Mike Sharp suggested we start looking into places now to play so we are ahead of the game. Mike Markwica said he would ask other superintendents. Jake Sauer-Jones suggested polling the children to see if they are even interested in playing soccer in the spring. Mike Markwica noted that students might not have the choice; it may be up to the league. He also said that the Adirondack league asked Board members to start talking about basketball, but he wanted to remind the Board that the State will dominate the decision. Mike Sharp stated he does not believe there will be basketball this year. Mike Markwica said that we need to think about Nordic - whether we play or not. Mike Sharp replied that the winter sports start on November 1, and if we meet all the guidelines, he would like us to have Nordic. Jake Sauer-Jones reported that Whiteface and Gore Mountain are going to open and our students will be going to go skiing whether we have a season or not.

Discussion: State Aid Cuts. Larry Ringer updated the Board explaining that the state will not be reducing the amount of state aid we were to receive in September, October and November. The actual cash paid directly to the school in September and October is very minimal. The reason the state withholds from our state aid is that it is applying it against the amount owed by the district for our share of the 2019-20 Teachers Retirement. We are scheduled to receive a check in November that we will have to wait and see if we get all that was originally allotted to us. We did receive two aid payments in August that were owed to the district from the 19-20 school year state aid. The two payments were reduced by twenty percent. This time of year we are receiving our school tax revenue so cash flow won't be impacted until at least the spring if the state fails to pay us what was originally allocated to the District. At this point there still is no word as to the federal government paying the state.

Discussion: Five Week Remote Learners. Heather Flanagan reported that the five-week period ends Columbus Day Weekend with 85 remote learners. She called each family and asked a series of questions. On October 13, 2020, we have 18 remote students returning. She explained that the 67 remote learners will then have ten weeks before deciding on the type of schooling. Heather Flanagan also reported that four in-person students left and went to remote learning. Issues around technology that can be dealt with are but some, like Google, we have no control. Sarah Williams asked if there is enough space in the classroom for the students returning, and Heather said, we are good. Tom Ordway asked if the remote learners are logging on and working. Heather said, students not participating are being addressed by her, and everyone was told that students could fail. Mike Markwica stated that five-week reports will show parents true grades and effort. Jake Sauer-Jones asked if we know how remote learners are doing grade-wise and Mike Markwica stated we do not at this time nor does he know how in-person learners are doing. Mike Markwica did report that if a student was not handing in work, the teacher would tell Heather Flanagan, and she would call.

He also stated that some students were reported doing better with remote - more attentive, etc. Rachel DeGroat asked if students can become remote if they are in-house but are home sick or quarantined and Heather Flanagan said absolutely.

Sarah Williams asked about snow days. Mike Markwica explained that we have to hold 180 days of school to receive state aid, so we build our calendar on 185 days because of snow days. Our district will stay status quo unless we have more than five snow days, then we will go remote. Mike Sharp said the idea of removing snow days is ludicrous; logistically it will not work because kids will not have the equipment ready at home.

Mike Sharp asked if children are sick does the district expect teachers to teach those students remotely, and Heather Flanagan stated we have that practice in place already. Mike Sharp said that it was a lot to ask of teachers. Heather Flanagan noted that it is working for us and teachers are on board with the plan. Mike Sharp then stated that children would then stay home for the sake of staying home, and the extra burden will be put on the teacher. Mike Markwica noted that parents would not allow that because of the steps required to let a student return to school are time-consuming.

MOTION: Jake Sauer-Jones made a **MOTION** to approve Charles Beaudet as a Custodian at Step 15/\$15.70 per hour, seconded by Tom Ordway. Mike Sharp stated that he was not a fan of the inconsistency of starting people at different rates. Mike Markwica replied that any employee could have applied for the position. Mike Sharp said this practice gives off a perception of importance, and it hurts morale. Tom Ordway said she agreed with Mike Sharp regarding morale, but if no one wants a job, we need to do what we can to get the position filled. He also said we have probably spent more on O.T. covering the position. Sarah Williams stated that it is a case of supply and demand. Jake Sauer-Jones stated that he agreed with Sarah Williams and the only way to fix the problem is to jump up everyone in the contract, but that leads to other issues. Tom Ordway said it is all contractual, but it is hard since these are all local people. **MOTION** was carried

MOTION: Tom Ordway made a **MOTION** to approve Madison Vaus as a tuition student, grade 11, for the 2020-2021 school year at \$3,100. Tom Ordway asked how many schools charge tuition in the North Country, and Mike Markwica responded all districts do, but the fees are different. **MOTION** was seconded by Sarah Williams and carried.

MOTION: Mike Sharp made a **MOTION** to approve Bently LaBounty as a tuition student, kindergarten, for the 2020-2021 school year at \$3,000, seconded by Tom Ordway. Mike Sharp asked what the reason for the discrepancy in price and Mike Markwica stated that the price was set years prior. The **MOTION** was carried.

Update:

Mike Markwica:

COVID protocol - The Warren County

Superintendents meet to create a letter of protocol to send to parents regarding children's illness and absence. Before the letter was sent the county changed the criteria. As of right now Warren County has a set protocol which we are following. If we have a positive case we will call the County and adhere to their decision. At this time the decision was made not to send home anything in writing because procedures change.

Jake Sauer-Jones stated he trusted Warren County to be diligent.

Mike Sharp asked how the county can not follow the state guidelines, and Mike Markwica stated he was unsure.

Heather Flanagan stated that the students and staff were doing an excellent job at following the rules.

Heather Flanagan:

Assessments - Administration is trying to create a plan for remote learner's assessments and make sure they are graded the same as in-person learning. Teachers were asked for their ideas. An idea of having remote learners come in after in-person students go home was brought up with mixed emotions from some parents. The school lawyer was contacted and we were advised that we can request remote learners to attend for assessment testing but Administration along with the teachers have decided that remote learners will take all assessment testing the same time/ same

method. Mike Sharp reported that there are programs available that help with assessments - Innovation Assessment.

Mike Sharp:

Masks- Wanted it on record that he supports the wearing of masks at all times while in school by students and staff. He made a recommendation that Johnsbury Central School students and staff wear masks at all times. He asked the administration why we do not follow the recommendations of the state on the wearing of masks and cited sources to further his belief.

Jake Sauer-Jones and Rachel DeGroat also cited sources that showed the recommendation was to wear a mask or be 6 feet away from another person. They started wearing a mask all day was also a potential health risk. Mike Markwica stated that we followed the requirements of being in a cohort and wear masks when the 6-foot rule could not be met. Tom Ordway stated that if a parent wanted their child to wear a mask all day, we would allow them to do so. Jake Sauer-Jones stated that it is not schools that are spreading COVID; it is outside activities people are doing that causes the spread.

Mandates- He stated that our students are not meeting state mandates and he urges the administration to use study halls so there is time in the student's schedule to offer the mandated Courses like PE. Mike Markwica reported that the State has taken Some time mandates away for the time being. Mike Sharp then asked why the district has a "no homework" policy. Both administrators replied there is not a policy regarding homework. Primary teachers were asked not to give out homework or very little, elementary teachers were asked to go lenient, and high school was status quo but be reasonable.

Heather Flanagan also stated that elementary has physical education two times a week and the high school are required to do personal logs. Jake Sauer-Jones and Mike Sharp both stated that more P.E. time should be offered now while outside is still an option if possible.

Soundproofing- asked how the curtain was working out as a sound barrier Mike Markwica said it is better, but we also purchased insulating moving blankets which will be added for additional

sound barrier.

Jake Sauer-Jones:

Drop off- asked how the new morning procedures were going.

Mike Markwica said that pick-up and drop-off are going much smoother. Some parents were dropping off/picking up students in the firehouse lot, so the south parking lot is faster.

Officer Gould contacted the county and requested a crosswalk and the county will be putting one in. He is also going to ask the county about school zone signs and a new speed limit. More updates to follow, Mike Markwica also stated that Officer Gould can not use his lights on his police car, but he did move his car so it is visible.

Pinpoint- Is pinpoint being required for each child in a family.

Mike Markwica stated that parents get one report and if a member has a positive response, the survey breaks down into individual members.

Adjournment:

Tom Ordway made a **MOTION** to adjourn at 8:29 seconded by Sarah Williams and carried.

District Clerk: Cindy Homer

Date: _____