

JOHNSBURG CENTRAL SCHOOL  
Monday, February 12, 2024  
BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING  
Minutes

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

**Call to Order:** Tara Sears opened the meeting at 6:02 with the Pledge of Allegiance.

**Approval of Minutes:** Sarah Williams made a **MOTION** to approve the minutes of the January 8, 2024, 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 Chris Jay and carried.

**Presentations:** Shannon Ordway, Math Department Chair, spoke along with Rachael Bulera and William Adamczak on the success of the Math department.

Jodie Seymour and Joe San Antonio, co-advisors of Natural Helpers brought three members: Caroline Williams, Angelo Galle and Tristan Secor to speak on the goals and future plans of the Natural Helpers Club

Dee and Mike Sharp, co-advisors for the Archery Club, spoke about the increasing numbers of students and the need to provide additional practice times. The advisors were asked the Board of Education to increase the allotted stipend. The advisors also spoke of the upcoming state tournament set in Syracuse.

**Executive Session:**

Sarah Williams made a **MOTION** to adjourn to an executive session for personnel/contractual reasons at 6:44, seconded by Chris Jay and carried.

Chris Jay made a **MOTION** to return to the Regular Session at 7:20, seconded by Sarah Williams and carried.

**Motions:**

Sarah Williams made a **MOTION** to approve Policy #7412 Extra-Curricular Fees, seconded by Chris Jay and carried.

Mike Markwica recapped that Policy #7412 was the Board of Education giving up to \$400 to every student who attends a conference, sporting event, or music event that is above the normal activities of the group. (EX: Youth and Government national event, JR. Olympics, Marine biology trip) to cover the registration fees.

Chris Jay made a **MOTION** to accept Tracy Watson's letter of intent to retire on October 31, 2024, with gratitude for service, seconded by Sarah Williams and carried.

Mike Markwica stated that Tracy Watson has over 30 years with the district.

Chris Jay made a **MOTION** to approve an additional stipend of \$2,080 for the Archery Club for the 2023-2024 school year, seconded by Melissa Freebern and carried.

Sarah Williams made a **MOTION** to appoint Jake Sauer-Jones and Peter Olesheski as co-coaches for varsity baseball for the 2023-2024 school year per the JCSTA contract, seconded by Erwin Morris and carried.

Chris Jay made a **MOTION** to appoint Allison Gonyo as a volunteer assistant coach for the varsity softball team for the 2023-2024 school year, seconded by Sarah Williams and carried. Mike Markwica explained that Allison Gonyo asked the administration if she could coach two elementary sports and be an assistant for a varsity sport instead of coaching a varsity sport. Mike Markwica reminded the Board members that the Physical education teachers must contractually coach one sport. Mike Markwica approved Allison Gonyo's request.

Erwin Morris made a **MOTION** to appoint Joe San Antonio and Tom Zauner as co-coaches for modified baseball, as per the JCSTA contract for the 2023-2024 school year, seconded by Sarah Williams and carried.

Sarah Williams made a **MOTION** to appoint Charlize Bernard as the modified softball coach, as per the JCSTA contract for the 2023-2024 school year, seconded by Chris Jay and carried.

Mike Markwica reminded the Board that Charlize Bernard co-coached modified softball last year and will do it alone this year. Melissa Freeburn asked for the administration to keep track of the modified numbers and make sure if they got too large that the coach received some help.

Mike Markwica reported and recognized Minerva Central Schools appointments for Harry Coldwell for the tennis coach and Carly Marano, as the varsity softball coach for the 2023-2024 school year.

Sarah Williams made a **MOTION** to approve the Marine Lab trip to Key Largo, February 15-19, 2024, seconded by Melissa Freeburn, and carried.

Chris Jay made a **MOTION** to approve the 2024-2025 District Calendar, seconded by Erwin Morris and carried.

Sarah Williams made a **MOTION** to accept Carrie VanDeMark's letter of Resignation effective February 9, 2024, with gratitude, seconded by Erwin Morris and carried.

Mike Markwica led a **DISCUSSION** regarding "Leap into Literacy" night is being planned for February 29th. He asked for Board member volunteers to serve ice cream at the event.

**Committee Reports:**

**School Community Relations/ Climate:** Working on a Spring Festival for baseball/softball.

**Finance:** Discussed next year's budget. Mike Markwica

explained that the District will have to create a budget without the actual State numbers due to mandated timelines. He reminded the Board that the Governor's budget proposal that was given out has Johnsbury with a \$550,000 deficit from last year's Foundation aid.

**Curriculum/Staff Development:** The History department is looking into offering “Intro to Analysis of Public Policy” through Syracuse University. It is a three-credit course that would meet the requirements of our senior government course.

**Update Reports:**

Mike Markwica reported that tomorrow (February 13th ) is the day that the Town of Johnsbury and Enderwood collect information on the tax certiorari.

**Other Business:**

Tara Sears asked if bus drivers and custodians could disinfect the buses and school more often due to the rise of COVID-19 and the flu. Mike Markwica informed the Board that they do use the disinfectant spray gun.

**Visitor's Comments:**

David Pede asked the Board why Johnsbury uses the Regents exams as the final exam in certain classes. He said the State's recommendation is not to use the regent tests as finals.

Mike Markwica responded that the District lets the individual teachers, with discussion with him, to decide what to use as a final exam.

David Pede also asked why we have a hat policy if we allow organizations to have “hat days” as fundraisers. He said we are sending out mixed messages.

David Pede also asked why parents can not be notified when the late bus run will be later than usual.

Martin Taylor spoke on the increase in school taxes.

Mike Markwica explained that the Town creates the individual assessment for each property, not the school.

Evan Bonanno spoke and said that he did not find it fair that Regent exams were being used as final exams.

**Adjournment:**

Sarah Williams made a **MOTION** to adjourn at 8:06 pm, seconded by Melissa Freebern and carried.