

JOHNSBURG CENTRAL SCHOOL
Monday, June 12, 2023
BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING
Minutes

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

Board Members Absent: Tara Sears

Call to Order: Rachel DeGroat opened the meeting at 7:01 with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Approval of Minutes: Sarah Williams made a **MOTION** to approve the minutes of the May 8, 2023, Board of Education Meeting, seconded by Melissa Freebern and carried.

Sarah Williams made a **MOTION** to approve the minutes of the May 16, 2023, Board of Education Meeting, seconded by Melissa Freebern and carried.

CSE/CPSE/504 Tom Ordway made a **MOTION** to accept the CSE/CPSE/504 Reports seconded by Sarah Williams and carried.

Financial: **General Fund:** Kathy Spring explained that the General Fund listed tuition to Minerva Central School. That bill covers our two tuition-in students that attended there.

Kathy Spring also reported that five (5) checks did not go to the attended addresses. Because of that error, Sysco Foods did not deliver and Tops Market would not let us charge. Kathy Spring cancelled the missing checks and issued new ones. All accounts are up to date.

Tom Ordway asked if our oil tanks were filled, and Kathy Spring said they were.

Extra-Curricular: Erwin Morris stated that the Senior Class had a lot of funds in their account and asked where the extra money

goes after the students graduate. Kathy Spring explained that any left over funds automatically go to the new senior class.

Mike Markwica also stated that the seniors did not go on their trip yet, and the class can donate leftover funds for a specific purpose.

Motion:

Sarah Williams made a **MOTION** to adjourn to Executive Session for personnel at 7:07 PM, seconded by Chris Jay and carried.

Sarah Wiliams made a **MOTION** to return to Regular Session, at 8:35, seconded by Melissa Freebern and carried.

Chris Jay made a **MOTION** to appoint Dr. William Adamczak as a Math Teacher, Step 7, MA+30, as listed in the JCSTA contract, effective September 1, 2023, seconded by Erwin Morris and carried.

Sarah Williams made a **MOTION** to remove item C from tonight's agenda: **MOTION** to accept the letter of resignation from Shannon Wood, custodian, effective May 19, 2023, seconded by Tom Ordway and carried.

Rachael DeGroat made a **MOTION** to terminate the provisional appointment of Shannon Wood effective May 19, 2023, seconded by Erwin Morris and carried.

Tom Ordway made a **MOTION** to accept the following resolution: BE IT RESOLVED that, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, The Johnsburg Central School District Board of Education hereby terminates the probationary employment of Shannon Ryan, as Business Office Assistant, effective June 30, 2023, seconded by Chris Jay and carried.

Tom Ordway made a **MOTION** to extend the current contract conditions of Kathleen Spring, Interim Business Official, until June 30, 2024, seconded by Erwin Morris and carried.

Mike Markwica spoke on the incredible job that Kathy Spring is doing and would like to formally thank her for returning.

Tom Ordway made a **MOTION** to appoint Ilena Corr, Susanne Hayden, Jennifer Newell, Janelle Turcotte, Kristen Varney, and Tracy Watson as summer school teachers at the hourly rate of 1/200 of Step One (1) in their placement column in the current JCSTA contract for the summer of 2023, then he amended his **MOTION** to include the additional wording “as needed”, seconded by Sarah Williams and carried.

Rachael DeGroat asked what the Summer Program looked like this year.

Michael Markwica stated that it will run from 8 am until 12:30.

Tom Ordway made a **MOTION** to appoint Mary Lupo as a Teaching Assistant for the 2023 Summer School Program at \$16.45 per hour as per her CSEA employment contract, seconded by Sarah Williams and carried.

Tom Ordway made a **MOTION** to appoint Mary Cooper as an aide for the 2023 Summer School Program at \$19.75 per her CSEA employment contract, seconded by Sarah Williams and carried.

Sarah Williams made a **MOTION** to approve the Town of Johnsbury Youth Committee's use of a District school bus Monday through Friday beginning Wednesday, July 5th, and ending Friday, August 11, 2023, to transport students to the Minerva Summer Youth Program and any additional field trips as needed, with the understanding they will be responsible for securing a Johnsbury bus driver as well as pay a fuel and mileage fee, seconded by Chris Jay and carried.

Tom Ordway, made a **MOTION** to appoint Deidre Convery-Bernard MS, CCC-SLP independent Speech/language services per contract for the summer of 2023, seconded by Melissa Freebern and carried.

Michael Markwica explained that Deidre Convery-Bernard has worked for the last seven (7) years, and her contract has stayed the same.

DISCUSSION:

2023-2024 Board of Education Meeting Calendar:

Erwin Morris stated that there were not any hiccups having the Board of Education meetings once a month

Rachel DeGroat asked Mike Markwica how difficult was it to plan a monthly meeting.

Mike Markwica stated that it was not difficult. Meeting with the Board President, Rachael, made it easier, as well, as the understanding that an emergency meeting can take place if need be.

Rachael DeGroat stated she was worried about the length of an once-a-month- meeting schedule, but this is the first meeting with extended time.

Rachael DeGroat made a **MOTION** to accept the 2023-2024 Board of Education meeting Calendar with a 6 pm start time, seconded by Tom Ordway and carried.

Firefighter/EMS exemption request:

Melissa Freebern asked if the Board received any additional information since the last discussion.

Michael Markwica replied that we did not. The Board asked Mr. Dunkley, if there was a set number of individuals who qualify for this exemption, and his response was four (4) people have applied to the Town's exemption.

Rachael DeGroat stated that the Board needs to figure out if they were going to accept this exemption. She stated that it will be hard to offer it to one group and not to other volunteer groups that make our town work effectively.

Erwin Morris stated that it was true others would ask after this but we have said no in the past.

Tom Ordway said he disagreed with this request. He stated that if we were going to give out any exemptions, then it should be to our seniors.

Sarah Williams stated that we talked it all through previously, and we did vote on how we felt.

Melissa Freebern agreed with this comment.

Chris Jay abstained from the discussion because it does affect him.

Rachael DeGroat went on to say that the Board does value our firefighters and EMS workers but we also value all of our taxpayers. Rachel DeGroat asked for an unofficial vote on whether or not to look into this further. Three (3) members stated to keep the vote as is, one (1) abstained, and one (1) member said to keep looking into it. The Board decided the decision not to allow the

tax exemption will stay as earlier voted.

Update Report:

Merger: Mike Markwica reported he has a meeting with BOCES on Wednesday. More information to follow.

Other Business:

Tom Ordway thanked all the staff at JCS for a great year and everything they have done for our students. He also thanked the two retired employees, Kathy Spring and Mary Alexander for coming back to work, as well as all the voters who came out to pass our budget. He stated that the primary goal of the Board of Education is to look out for our kids. He then thanked the students for coming to school.

Adjournment:

Tom Ordway made a **MOTION** to adjourn at 9:04, seconded by Sarah Williams and carried.