

JOHNSBURG CENTRAL SCHOOL  
Monday, October 17, 2022  
BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING:  
MINUTES

**Board Members Present:** Rachel DeGroat  
Tom Ordway  
Erwin Morris ( left 8:31)  
Tara Sears  
Sarah Williams  
Chris Jay  
Melissa Freebern

**Board Member Absent:** N/A

**Call to Order:** Rachel DeGroat opened the meeting at 7:02 with the Pledge of Allegiance.

**Approval of Minutes:** Tom Ordway made a **MOTION** to approve the minutes of the August 31, 2022, Special Board of Education meeting, seconded by Sarah William and carried.

Tom Ordway made a **MOTION** to approve the minutes of the September 19, 2022, Board of Education meeting, seconded by Tara Sears and carried.

Tom Ordway made a **MOTION** to approve the September 26, 2022, Special Board of Education meeting, seconded by Melissa Freebern and carried.

Tara Sears made a **MOTION** to accept the CSE/CSPS/504 reports, seconded by Chris Jay and carried.

**Executive Session:** Tara Sears made a **MOTION** to adjourn to Executive Session at 7:05 pm for contractual discussion, seconded by Tom Ordway and carried.  
Tara Sears made a **MOTION** to return to Regular Session at 8:07 pm, seconded by Tom Ordway and carried.

## **Items for Discussion and/or Action:**

### **Presentations:**

Anna Bowers presented for her Home & Career courses by reviewing her curriculum. Information was distributed to the BOE members for each of her classes. She mentioned that a “Grow Tree” in her classroom was given to us by a grant from the Glens Falls Hospital. Students have access to fresh herbs and vegetables. She spoke of a compost bin they use.

### **Motions:**

Chris Jay made a **MOTION** to approve the use of a school bus for the Calvary Bible Church event, REVERB which will be held November 11-12, 2022, with the understanding that the church will be responsible for the cost of fuel and mileage and secure a qualified driver from the pool of our bus drivers, seconded by Sarah Willaims. Mike Markwica stated we had done this for years. **MOTION** carried.

Tara Sears made a **MOTION** to accept Megan Mohowski, twelfth grade, as a tuition student at \$2,566.67 for the 2022-2023 school year, seconded by Tom Ordway. Tom Ordway asked if the student knew she would not be allowed by State rules to play sports. Mike Markwica responded by informing the Board that the family is aware, but the school is petitioning for an appeal of the regulations for Megan. **MOTION** carried.

### **Discussion:**

**VEHICLE:** SUV or all-wheel drive van.

Mike Markwica explained that the Head of Transportation, Fred Morse, approached him asking if we could switch the purchasing of a new SUV to an all-wheel drive van because SUVs are unavailable due to a low supply.

Rachel DeGroat stated that if Fred is comfortable with a van on the back roads, she does not see a problem with changing vehicles.

Mike Markwica said that Fred Morse explained that an all-wheel drive van would work fine.

Melissa Freebern asked about the pricing of the two

cars.

Mike Markwica stated that the all-wheel drive van would be less money.

Erwin Morris asked if the District needed such a vehicle, and Mike Markwica said we did.

**Merger:**

Rachel DeGroat stated the letter in Mike Markwica's newsletter address was the same letter sent to the Board of Education of Minerva Central School.

Rachel DeGroat then read a letter we received from Minerva stating they were interested in gathering more information regarding a potential merging of the two schools.

Mike Markwica reported the next step is contacting our WSWHE BOCES for guidance.

Rachel DeGroat stated that every BOE meeting would have a Merger update.

**Update Reports:**

Heather Flanagan reported that this year's Soccer Fest was successful on both days.

Heather Flanagan also reported that Open House had an excellent turnout.

Mike Markwica said he met with the new Board for Tannery Pond, and they are interested in us working with them on using the facility.

**Other Business:**

Rachael DeGroat reported on receiving a grant for eighty new air purifiers as well as three years of replacement filters.

Mike Markwica stated they had been distributed in each classroom and offices throughout the building.

Tom Ordway thanked all the bus drivers for all they do for our kids.

**Visitor's Comments:**

Christian Holtz stated he was concerned about our seniors citizens within our town regarding taxes. He asked how to start a discussion with the Board on the Senior Tax Credits.

He then stated he no longer works for the Town and does not want to step on anyone's toes.

Mike Markwica said he would set up a meeting.

Frank Morehouse stated that he would like the school to set up a list of volunteer drivers and have them trained in basic driving knowledge.

Rachel DeGroat asked if this is done in other schools.

Brandon Dunbar replied that it is done in North Warren.

He said he would not want some teachers (staff) driving his own kids home.

Carrie VanDeMark stated that a civilian would not know to leave a vehicle where it is if it was in an accident.

Rick Ross explained all the tests a licensed bus driver has to take yearly. He also stated that volunteers are not paid.

Rachel DeGroat said that Brandon Dunbar (Head of Transportation) and Mike Markwica should meet.

**Adjournment:**

Tara Sears made a **MOTION** to adjourn at 8:53 pm, seconded by Sarah Williams and carried.

District Clerk: Cindy Homer

\_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_