

JOHNSBURG CENTRAL SCHOOL  
Monday, April 21, 2020  
BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING  
This Meeting was held through WebEx  
MINUTES

Board Members Present: Rachel DeGroat  
Tom Ordway  
Erwin Morris  
Sarah Williams  
Jake Sauer-Jones  
Mike Sharp

Board Members Absent: Tara Sears

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

**Approval of Minutes:** Tom Ordway made a **MOTION** to approve the minutes, seconded by Sarah Williams, tabled in discussion due to incorrect minutes being presented.

Tom Ordway made a **MOTION** to accept the CSE/CPSE/504 report, seconded by Erwin Morris and carried.

## Agenda Changes: N/A

**Financial:** Larry Ringer spoke on converting our Bond for our Building Project. Mike Markwica explained that the State has yet to release any money for the Generator project and we may need to reconsider the project.

**Motion:** **BOCES BOARD MEMBERS:** Erwin Morris made a **MOTION** to Cast a Ballot for the three BOCES Board of Education Candidates, seconded by Jake Sauer-Jones. Mike Markwica explained that there were only three candidates for five vacancies. When BOCES does not have enough candidates to

fill the board they have to power to appoint new members after July 1st. Vote was carried.

**BOCES BUDGET:** Tom Ordway made a **MOTION** to Cast Ballot for the BOCES Administrative Budget Vote, seconded by Jake Sauer-Jones, Mike Markwica stated that the original budget was at a 1.8% increase and the budget presented had a 0% Increase due to BOCES making changes because of the State Aid cuts that districts are going to see. Vote was carried.

**Committee Reports:**

**Safety Committee:** Sarah Willliams reported that the school building is open to faculty and staff. The kitchen staff are preparing 108 deliveries three times a week and they are wearing masks and disinfecting everything. Due to a surplus, milk is being given to our families as well.

Discussion of an SRO took place with the committee agreeing to the hours (during school) as well as additional hours for large events. Sarah Williams reported that more information will be finalized by August. Mike Markwica stated that when the committee is ready, Tara Sears will let Mike Markwica know and he will contact the Sheriff. Jake Sauer-Jones stated they also discussed talking to the town and Minerva Central School regarding sharing some of the cost. Jake Sauer-Jones also spoke of a company that had a device that was used to disinfect his vehicle and Mike Markwica asked Larry Ringer to look into it for the school.

**Finance Committee:** Mike Markwica reported that we are waiting on the Governor before we can work on our own budget timeline. Mike Markwica stated that there has been a suggestion to pass all district's budgets if they stayed under the tax cap. More information to come.

Erwin Morris stated he spoke to a person at NYSSBA and was told that the third week of June is a targeted date. Voting will take place by absentee ballot and candidate petitions will be due thirty days prior.

We have exchanged packets with the teacher's union and a meeting regarding the JCSTA contract is scheduled for next week.

**Update Reports:**

**Education:** Mike Markwica and Heather Flanagan have met with high school teachers to work out a plan for grading the fourth quarter. Everyone will use the average from the first three quarters as a base-line. Students can not go lower than that average. Administration is working closely with teachers to develop a system of grading. The main criteria is to not hurt our kids grades on report cards /transcripts. We want to make sure we take all factors into consideration.

Sarah Williams asked if the decision will consider all subjects. Mike Markwica stated that the skeleton of the grading process will be for all grades with some individual differences with subjects.

Erwin Morris asked if there would be variations within elementary, middle and high school. Mike Markwica stated yes.

Grading will be created for the following groups:

Primary: mostly large narrative and 2,3,4's and Non-Applicable (N/A) will be used.

3-12: The skeleton makeup that will be created soon.

Jake Sauer-Jones asked if grading on a curve was considered because you can grade on effort.

Mike Markwica replied that they need to be cautious because they do not know who is actually doing the work assigned.

Mike Sharp stated that some children deserve to fail for not doing anything.

Heather Flanagan stated that the students who aren't working remotely are the same students who we need to chase down in school. We actually do not have any students who have dropped off. They may not be doing what we wish, but they are doing something.

Tom Ordway reminded the group that family situations need to be considered.

Erwin Morris commented about his own child in high school who is at the other extreme working eight/nine hours a day. He feels confident her efforts will be rewarded.

Mike Markwica stated that remote learning will help our students who continue on with their education. Many colleges offer classes in this manner and our students will be successful due to this experience.

Jake Sauer-Jones stated that what you put into your education you

will get out. He does not want parents to feel guilty about their child's education.

Mike Markwica stated that at this time all teachers will be teaching new subject matter. Anything that was not taught this year will be taught the following year.

**Federal Government:** Mike Markwica reported that he had meetings with US Representatives through his BOCES meetings, Elise Stefanik and Carrie Warner regarding state money. He reported that Carrie Warner, although not our representative, was fighting hard for schools to receive money.

**Heather Flanagan:**

Heather Flanagan reported that after speaking to this year's Prom Committee, the decision was made to cancel the prom. Further conversation will take place regarding future plans.

Heather Flanagan also reported that David Pede is making twelve-fifteen face shields with the 3D printer for first responders.

**Other Business:**

Jake Sauer-Jones: Would like to have an executive session for personnel issues after regular session.

Erwin Morris: Reported that he is aware that there has been some differences among teachers on how to teach during this time.

Mike Sharp: Wanted to thank Heather Flanagan for all she is doing to keep children involved in school activities. Her efforts are greatly appreciated.

Mike Sharp also wanted to thank Karen Moore and everyone helping her for their work on organizing school breakfast and lunch deliveries.

**Visitor's Comments:**

**Kim McKenna:** JCSTA President asked the Board of Education members if they had any questions for her regarding the teachers. Jake Sauer- Jones asked how everyone was holding up and Kim McKenna reported that most teachers are finding their new

normal and it is getting better. Everyone supports each other.

Tom Ordway wanted the teachers to know that the Board appreciates everything they are doing and wanted to extend his gratitude.

**Motion:** Tom Ordway made a **MOTION** to go into Executive Session at 8:09 for personnel issues, seconded by Sarah Williams and carried.

**Adjournment:** Jake Sauer-Jones made a **MOTION** at 8:23 to adjourn, seconded by Mike Sharp and carries.

District Clerk: Cindy Homer

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

NOTE: This meeting was done by WebEx due to the Coronavirus. Everyone was present by both Video and Audio.