

JOHNSBURG CENTRAL SCHOOL
Monday, April 6, 2020
BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING
This Meeting was held through WebEx
MINUTES

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

Board Members Absent: N/A

Call to Order: Tara Sears opened the meeting at 7:05 with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Approval of Minutes: Jake Sauer-Jones made a **MOTION** to approve the minutes of the March 23, 2020 Board of Education Meeting, seconded by Sarah Williams. Erwin Morris asked when transcribing minutes would start. Mike Markwica stated they would be created for this meeting and all future Webex meetings, the vote was then carried.

Tom Ordway made a **MOTION** to accept the CSE/CPSE/504 report, seconded by Jake Sauer-Jones and carried.

Agenda Changes: N/A

Financial: Tom Ordway asked a question based on page 7 of the General Fund Expenditures if MaryAnn Moran was still teaching. Mike Markwica stated she was retired and that reference was regarding her Medicare Part B insurance.
Tom Ordway then asked a question found on page 10 regarding the purchasing of tires for school vehicles. He asked if we put bids out to purchase. Mike Markwica stated we purchase so few that we do not and that these were only

for the school car and van. The school Busses we use State contract.

Discussion:

Spring Sports: Mike Markwica stated that the Section was meeting today but no new information was released.

Jake Sauer-Jones asked if there was any indication of the school closing lasting beyond the new date of April 29, 2020.

Mike Markwica replied that the date is determined by the Governor and he is going in two weeks at a time.

Erwin Morris stated that we should wait and see when schools return before making any decisions on spring sports.

Mike Sharp questioned if not having spring sports could hurt our chances of obtaining coaches for next year. Mike

Markwica stated he did not believe that would hurt us since all schools were in the same situation.

Tom Ordway asked what other schools were doing. Mike

Markwica stated that some were paying the coaches a prorated stipend while other schools were paying their coaches full pay whether they have a season or not. He then stated that the schools who were prorating coaches's pay stated they would pay their coaches the full stipend if the season started back up again.

Mike Sharp stated he agrees that the coaches that started the season should receive prorated pay, but everything should be put on hold until we know more.

Tom Ordway stated he feels we should prorate coaches's pay but we still need to appoint our modified coach tonight so we can start immediately when we are back in session.

Tara Sears asked if tennis started before the shut-down.

Heather Flanagan stated it did not but the season can run into June if necessary. Tara Sears then asked if there was any talk of extending the sports season. Mike Markwica said there hasn't been a lot of talk in that regard.

Mike Sharp then stated his thoughts regarding the cancellation of Regents may allow for the spring sports season to run later than normal. Mike Markwica reminded the Board that although Regents have been canceled, he does not know what requirements the Governor may ask for.

Mike Sharp asked what sport teams started before the

shut-down. Heather Flanagan stated that varsity baseball and varsity softball started on March 9 and went until March 13th. Larry Ringer stated that he had received an email from Ryan Carpenter, our Athletic Director, and he reported they practiced for one full week.

Motion:

Sarah Williams made a **MOTION** to appoint Peter Olesheski as Modified Baseball Coach for the 2019-2020 school year, seconded by Tom Ordway. Jake Sauer-Jones asked if Johnathan Rayder was going to be the assistant coach. Mike Markwica stated he did talk to Peter Olesheski about Johnathan and Peter agreed with the idea but he did not ask Johnathan at this time. Vote carries with Mike Sharp abstaining.

Discussion:

Travel Club: Mike Markwica asked the BOARD if they were in favor of canceling this year's Travel Club trip but letting the ninth graders go with the seventh and eighth +graders next year. All Board members were in favor of this idea.

Mike Markwica then stated that they had one bus and with the addition to the ninth graders there may not be room for all parents. Was the Board willing to limit or exclude parents from next year's trip if transportation becomes an issue? Board members agreed.

Mike Sharp asked if another bus company could be considered if they had a bigger bus. Mike Markwica explained that Wade Tours offers Johnsbury good service and a good price.

Lighting Project: Mike Markwica stated that he had a conversation with Mike Pioggie regarding the workers coming to school during the closure. Both agreed to hold off with the lighting project until school is open again.

Mike Sharp asked if the company cancelled or we did. Mike Markwica stated the company has shut down but he spoke to the people in the building and they would feel more comfortable not having extra people in the building.

Governor's Executive Order: Mike Markwica explained the Governor's latest order was to have schools continue to

provide education, meals and means to childcare. Mike Markwica stated that letters were sent out to parents explaining the Governor's Executive orders.

Sarah Williams stated she thought the letters were well written.

Mike Sharp said he thought the letters were well written but he feels for the kids and teachers. He stated he does not think the Governor realizes that kids and teachers need a break. He encourages everyone to take full advantage of Spring Break week.

Mike Markwica stated he believes the Governor is basing his statement on the three weeks of school closure without considering the weeks prior to the shut-down.

Mike Sharp offered praise for the cafeteria workers, transportation workers and school aids for all the work they are doing. He said it is amazing all that is going on to make sure our families are being fed.

Erwin Morris wanted to thank the Administration, teaching staff and faculty. He said they are working very hard.

Tara Sears thanked Heather Flanagan for the inspirational videos she has been posting. She said she has heard that the students are excited to participate and they are good for morale.

Motion:

Heather Flanagan stated that they are fun to put together.

Rachel DeGroat made a **MOTION** to allow TruGreen to apply Herbicide/Pesticide: The Johnsburg Central School District, BOE, with the knowledge, consent, and approval of the School Superintendent, Michael J. Markwica, requests: **MOTION** authorizing the Head of Buildings and Grounds, Frank Morehouse, Jr., to arrange for the TruGreen Control Company to make the application of necessary pesticides/herbicides to the fields to combat the destructive influences currently present, seconded by Mike Sharp. Jake Sauer-Jones asked if this was the same company we hired to take care of the grass. Mike Markwica stated it was. Jake Sauer-Jones asked if Mike Markwica spoke to Frank Morehouse about his concerns.

Mr. Markwica stated this company has offered compensation for the past trouble and we have worked with this company since

changing from the company that lost our fields. Mike Markwica stated it comes down to our water system. The well we put in during the early 90s has never been big enough to cover our needs. Mike Sharp told the Board that Gore Mountain runs a pipeline from town to the mountain and maybe we could look into the cost of having it come to the school.

Mike Markwica said that was an interesting concept and he will look into it.

Tom Ordway stated the pipe was going from the train station and it would be expensive.

Erwin Morris state the town was putting in town water and we could look into that. He did state this water would be metered.

Jake Sauer-Jones said we should also price turf fields as a comparison.

Mike Markwica stated this idea should go to the Buildings and Grounds Committee.

MOTION carried.

Committee Reports:

Mike Markwica stated there will be a finance committee on Thursday.

Rachel DeGroat asked how meetings are taking place.

Mike Markwica stated through invitation in a email to meet on Google Meet. A Safety Committee meeting will also be scheduled.

Update Reports:

Mike Markwica:

Education: Mike Markwica and Heather Flanagan **have** met each week with all teachers. Teachers offered input on third quarter grading. He stated Heather Flanagan is doing an excellent job. Mike Markwica also stated Regents information will be in tomorrow.

Covid-19: ENTs and other emergency personnel are in need of face masks. David Pede will be making face masks on our 3-D printer for the community's first responders.

Budget: Mike Markwica stated there will be a Pandemic adjustment within our school budget. There is no clarity at this time what that may mean for us.

Teachers: Mike Markwica reported that teachers are moving forward with fourth quarter work. Introducing new concepts is

easier in the high school level than in the elementary grades but teachers are doing their best.

Hot Spots: Mike Sharp asked if Town Supervisor, Andrea Hogan has had any luck getting hot spots out to our students and teachers in

need. Heather Flanagan stated she had twenty names and about half of them were able to be helped. The other group was not within working distance.

Heather Flanagan:

Heather Flanagan reported that the meetings were going well with the teachers. She stated the custodians, and staff were doing a great job keeping the school clean and running as smoothly as possible.. She said she was very pleased with how efficiently we were moving forward during this difficult time.

Meal Program: At this time we are feeding 103 students with deliveries three times a week.

Other Business:

Petitions: Erwin Morris stated that it was difficult to get the twenty-five signatures to run for a Board position. He has researched the problem and informed the Board that electronic signatures were valid. He will look into what type of form can be used.

Budget Vote: Mike Markwica reported that at this time there has not been a decision made on when the school budget or board member elections will take place.

Visitor's Comments:

Kim McKenna: JCSTA President questioned the use of Webex for Board Meetings. District Clerk Cindy Homer explained that Webex had the capability for translation where Google Meet did not. Kim McKenna thanked the Board and Administration for allowing “us” to be teachers. Teachers were creating a new “norm” and everyone was doing the best of their ability. They have reported finding joy in their day during this difficult time. Kim McKenna also thanked Heather Flanagan and Mike Markwica for the interaction they provide.

Jake Sauer-Jones asked Mrs. McKenna to please let all the teachers know they are doing a great job. He also wanted to let the Board know that the school counselors were doing a great job as well. Mike Sharp wanted to personally thank the teachers also and he

reported of a “Drive-By Wave” time teachers were doing.
Tom Ordway wanted Kim McKenna to also thank the high school teachers for their hard work during this time.

Adjournment:

Jake Sauer-Jones made a **MOTION** at 8:17 to adjourn, seconded by Erwin Morris 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.