

JOHNSBURG CENTRAL SCHOOL
Monday, February 10, 2025
BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING
Minutes

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

Board Members Absent: N/A

Call to Order: Rachel DeGroat opened the meeting at 6:00 with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Approval of Minutes: Tom Ordway made a **MOTION** to approve the minutes of the January 13, 2025, Board of Education Meeting, seconded by Tara Sears and carried.

Sarah Williams made a **MOTION** to approve the minutes of the January 16, 2025, Board of Education Meeting, seconded by Erwin Morris and carried.

Melissa Freebern made a **MOTION** to accept the minutes of the CSE/CPSE/504 report, seconded by Tara Sears and carried.

Financial: Tom Ordway asked if we fuel our buses at the County and Kathy Spring said we do. He asked what the rate was and Stephanie Hutchins said the last time we filled up it was \$2.99 and it is \$2.70 today.

Erwin Morris asked why there were two different bills to WSWHE BOCES. Kathy Spring stated one was for health care and the second one was our regular monthly bill.

Motions:

Sarah Williams made a **MOTION** to appoint Sara Pierson as a Teaching Assistant, Level 1, per the CSEA contract, effective January 6, 2025, seconded by Sarah Williams and carried.

Tara Sears made a **MOTION** to approve Kathryn Ashe's horizontal Promotion, MA + 12 as per the JCSTA contract, seconded by Chris Jay and carried.

Tara Sears made a **MOTION** to accept Kathryn Ashe's letter of Resignation as Director of the School Musical effective immediately, seconded by Tom Ordway and carried.

Tom Ordway made a **MOTION** to approve John Hurley's letter of Intent to Retire, effective June 30, 2025, with gratitude for his years of service to our school, seconded by Tara Sears and carried.

Tara Sears made a **MOTION** to appoint Robin Jay, Linda Quintavalle, Denise Conti, and Anne Buckwheat as co-directors for the 2025 school musical, seconded by Melissa Freebern. Tara Sears asked if they get the full stipend. Mike Markwica said they have not asked to get paid, but we're volunteering. Mike Markwica went on to explain how the women came together. Chris Jay abstained, **MOTION** carried.

Tara Sears made a **MOTION** to approve the 2025-2026 school district calendar, seconded by Sarah Williams and carried.

Discussion:

Athletics Girls' Soccer: Mike Markwica stated that the Board asked him to gather more information regarding joining with North Warren Central School for girl's soccer. The administrators met with the ADs, and the ADs showed how merging could work. Mike Markwica stated that he believes that transportation is going to be an issue, but it is not enough to not go through with the merge. He did say that the ADs stated that most students ride home with their parents after games, so that should be taken into account.

Tara Sears asked for clarification on returning from a game. Mike Markwica stated whichever school drives is the school that students will be dropped off at after the game.

Tom Ordway stated he sees this as losing students because parents will not want to drive at night to North Warren to pick up their child.

Rachel DeGroat stated with lower enrollment this may be the only way to have sports.

Sarah Williams asked if practices will now be split three ways, she said two schools is confusing.

Mike Markwica said that the administration and athletic directors will have the ability to make logical decisions which will elevate some of the confusion.

Sarah Williams asked if North Warren was asked to become us and not merge. Mike Markwica said they are not interested in doing that.

Melissa Freebern asked if we would play the same teams, and Mike Markwica said we will. He explained why we may have to play “up” in sectional play.

Erwin Morris asked if this was for modified and varsity, and Mike Markwica said it was.

Rachel DeGroat asked where the Board members were in their thoughts: Tom Ordway, no. Sarah Williams unsure at this time. Melissa Freebern, yes. Erwin Morris is not against it but still needs more information to decide. Tara Sears, yes. Chris Jay, yes.

Rachel DeGroat then went on to ask Mike to inform the Board what Minerva Central School’s thoughts were. Mike Markwica said he thought we might need a special board meeting due to the timeline.

Chris Jay made a **MOTION** to approve a sports merger with North Warren Central School and Minerva Central School for cross-country running for the 2025-2026 school year, seconded by Erwin Morris and carried.

Tara Sears made **MOTION** to approve a sports merger with North Warren Central School and Minerva Central School for golf for the 2025-2026 school year, seconded by Sarah Williams and carried.

Committee Reports:

Financial: Kathy Spring spoke for the Finance Committee. The business office and Mr. Markwica have created a budget that balances with state aid and tax cap.

Erwin Morris asked if increases were considered in the budget because a union contract will start negotiations soon. Kathy Spring said it was.

Updated Reports:

Mike Markwica talked about BOCES building project and how it will benefit our students

Heather Flanagan said that the musical is back up and running and thanked Robin Jay, Linda Quintavalle, Denise Conti, Anne Buckwheat, Max Garrett, and Heather Olesheski.

Other Business:

Erwin Morris spoke about the Archery Program and how he felt it was run excellent this year. Mike Markwica spoke of the hard work the Mays put in and said 16 of our students qualified to attend states this year.

Melissa Freebern spoke about the possibility of a monthly article written by the BOE to inform the public what is taking place.

Rachel DeGroat stated that the School Climate Committee will look into this.

Mike Markwica said that the PARP Reading program has asked if the BOE would donate their time to provide ice cream sundaes during the PARP kick-off event.

Sarah Williams, Erwin Morris, Chris Jay, and Rachel DeGroat said they would volunteer.

Visitor Comments:

David Pede spoke on board goals, hiring new administration, the musical, BOSES new building project, and AI.

Adjournment:

Chris Jay made a **MOTION** to adjourn at 6:59 seconded
by Sarah Williams and carried.

District Clerk: Cindy A. Homer

Date: _____