

JOHNSBURG CENTRAL SCHOOL  
Monday, June 1, 2020  
BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING  
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:** 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 of the May 11, 2020 Board of Education Meeting, seconded by Sarah Williams, and carried.

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

**Agenda Changes:** N/A

**Financial:** Mike Sharp asked questions regarding a new wood door and a lever set listed in the line items on the General Fund report. Larry Ringer and Mike Markwica explained and answered. Rachel DeGroat asked how we are tracking the school breakfast and lunch program Larry Ringer stated that we won't have a final result until the end of the school year. Mike Markwica stated they are working on paperwork for the program.

Mike Sharp asked about Government funding for the food cost and Larry Ringer explained. Mike Sharp also asked if we could offer families meals at a cost and Mike Markwica stated

we could not. Families in need were to be given meals free of charge for all members.

Larry Ringer spoke on payment and savings due to the Covid-19 school closure.

Mike Sharp asked what the extra costs we've accrued so far.

Larry Ringer stated that cleaning supplies, postage, and envelopes were higher due to our shut down.

### **Presentation:**

Ryan Carpenter presented a power-point presentation as Athletic Director. He spoke on participation numbers, academic achievements, changes in the physical requirements, and projections for the fall.

Mike Sharp asked if the school would be liable if students did not have to obtain a physical before playing sports. Ryan Carpenter explained that parents were still responsible for filling out the updated physical form required.

Tom Ordway thanked Mr. Carpenter and then stated that the girls' teams did very well last year.

Jake Sauer-Jones spoke of getting qualified coaches from outside the building to help boost numbers. He stated that coaches make sports better and we need to have a coach for more than one year. He asked Mr. Carpenter if he had any ideas on how to get outside coaches.

Ryan Carpenter stated that we already advertise, we held a coaches meeting and he does talk to people regarding coaching.

Mike Sharp asked what the cost is for an individual to become a coach. Mike Markwica stated that the District pays for all course-related expenses. Ryan Carpenter explained the courses needed.

Erwin Morris stated he spoke to the students and the number one issue for them was the coaches.

Mike Markwica stated that Fred Morse as well as Minerva Central School's head of Transportation needed to be congratulated for a smooth transition.

### **Motions:**

Tara Sears made a **MOTION** to accept Rachel Brower for Tenure in the area of Elementary Education, seconded by Erwin Morris and carried.

Sarah Williams made a **MOTION** to accept Katy Ashe for tenure in the area of Music, seconded by Erwin Morris. Mike Sharp asked Mike Markwica if he has seen any improvement. Mike Markwica stated he has seen much improvement. A vote was taken and carried.

Mike Sharp made a **MOTION** to accept Maxwell Garrett for Tenure in the area of Music, seconded by Sarah Williams and carried.

Tara Sears made a **MOTION** to accept Jennifer Newell for tenure in the area of Reading, seconded Tom Ordway and carried.

Tara Sears made a **MOTION** to accept Heather Flanagan for Tenure in the area of Principal, seconded by Sarah Williams and carried.

**Discussion:**

Mike Markwica discussed the process and procedures of our ballots for Board Election.

Jake Sauer-Jones questioned the time frame and the methods used to notify the public. Mike Markwica explained the many ways we used to publicize the voting process. Jake Sauer-Jones asked if we could do more.

Heather Flanagan stated she would post it on FaceBook every Monday, Wednesday, and Friday.

**Committee Reports:**

**Curriculum Committee:** Heather Flanagan reported for the Curriculum Committee. The Life Skills class is set for next year with Jodie Seymour teaching it. We still are looking for a shop” teacher for 7th & 8th grade classes as well as some electives.

**Negotiation Committee:** Rachel DeGroat reported that the committee has met with the teachers regarding their contract and plan to meet again.

Erwin Morris asked if our negotiations team was meeting with the teacher’s negotiation team. Rachel DeGroat replied yes.

## **Update Reports:**

**Graduation:** Mike Markwica reported that he met with the senior class and the students were positive with the Gore Mountain Graduation plan.

Questions were asked about the number of people allowed to attend for each graduate. More discussion was had on the subject. Jake Sauer-Jones offered his assistance if needed and was thankful we were offering an alternative.

Tom Ordway said the biggest disappointment was not handing out diplomas but he was glad something was being done.

**Bus Inspection:** Mike Markwica reported that Fred Morse earned a 100% inspection rating and if you see him let him know he does a great job.

**Meals:** Mike Markwica reported that we may be required to provide meals for our students over the summer. He is looking into working with other districts to help with the cost.

Mike Sharp asked if this includes just students who qualify for the Free and Reduced Meal Program. Mike Markwica stated that it would include all students.

**Taxes:** Mike Markwica reported that there is a proposal, which was already passed by the Senate, to allow taxpayers an extra 120 days to pay their school taxes. Mike Markwica stated that we count on the tax revenue to help with payroll and other expenses in the fall. If this proposal goes through we may have to borrow money to cover expenses. He also explained that School Boards will be given the option of having their district get the additional time.

Jake Sauer-Jones was upset that the decision fell on the Board. Mike Sharp asked if we could borrow from the reserves that are allowed to cover expenses. Larry Ringer explained that we could but still at an expense.

Mike Markwica stated that he will keep the Board posted. Erwin Morris asked if there was flexibility in the number of days. Mr. Markwica stated that it was 120 days or no days

**Education:** Heather Flanagan reported that 15 students took the AP tests. The tests were good but there are no scores yet.

Sarah Williams asked about Honors Night and said parents have expressed concerns with holding it in the fall. Students would need to know about any scholarships before that time. Mike Markwica replied he will look into this further.

**End of the Year:** Heather Flanagan stated that the last day of school will be June 16th for students and we are having a “Wave Goodbye” parade scheduled for June 17th. The parade will start in the school parking lot and will cover an estimated 70 miles. Families will be notified of the route and Board Members are welcome to attend.

**Other Business:**

**Website:** Jake Sauer-Jones asked about the status of our new website. Heather Flanagan and Mike Markwica they would look into it and get back to the Board.

**Grading System:** Erwin Morris asked what the grading system in place was due to COVID -19. Heather Flanagan explained that the teachers were to take the first three-quarter averages as a baseline. Students putting forth effort will see their average increase. Teachers with specific concerns/cases will speak to Heather Flanagan.

Erwin Morris asked if effort gave students 5 points. Heather Flanagan stated it was not a set number.

Mike Sharp stated there were students with more hardships than other students. He also asked if students who worked harder are going to be given a higher grade.

Heather Flanagan stated that she has spoken to the teachers and told them to be generous with the students who have gone above and beyond what was asked of them. She has also told teachers to notify her if there are students who are not doing any work and they will discuss grades.

Tara Sears asked if there are any students who can not get on to the internet.

Erwin Morris reported that there were 26 students unable to get online.

Heather Flanagan stated that she did not feel comfortable penalizing students during this time.

Mike Markwica also stated that teachers usually know by March where students are academically.

Rachel DeGroat stated that she feels we should be supporting students not penalizing any student. Tom Ordway agreed.

Heather Flanagan stated a letter will be going home to parents explaining the grading system.

**Adjournment:**

Mike Sharp made a **MOTION** at 9:04 to adjourn to executive session to discuss a personnel contract, seconded by Erwin Morris and carried.

Sarah Williams made a **MOTION** to adjourn at 10:15, seconded Tara Sears and carried.

District Clerk: Cindy Homer

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

NOTE: This meeting was done by WebEx due to the Coronavirus. Everyone was present by both Video and Audio except one person from the public who was only in attendance through audio.