

JOHNSBURG CENTRAL SCHOOL  
Monday, March 23, 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:** Tara Sears made a **MOTION** to approve the minutes of the March 23, 2020 Board of Education Meeting, seconded by Jake Sauer Jones, and carried.

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

**Agenda Changes:** N/A

**Financial:** Larry Ringer explained that the Extra-Curriculum Fund Balance will look different in the next few months due to refunds and cancellations of trips.  
Larry Ringer presented the 2020-2021 School Budget as a document with the Board. Mr. Ringer explained Line Items, additions and decreases.  
Mike Markwica stated that the CSO's (Chief School Officers) have not been told that the date of the budget vote has been changed at this time.

Erwin Morris questioned the decision to purchase a bus within the budget instead of adding a bus as a Proposition. Larry Ringer explained the benefits of buying a bus outright. Tom Ordway asked if the number of signatures required to be considered on the ballot for the open Board seat has changed due to COVID-19. Mike Markwica stated he did not hear of the number changing from 25 at this time.

#### **Update Reports:**

**COVID-19:** Mike Markwica shared with the Board how quickly the school reacted to the mandatory shut-down of the school. Teachers came on Monday and Tuesday to organize and prepare and on-line learning began on Wednesday. We are still providing some services.

Students without the internet are to be given hard copies. The Town is working on obtaining “hot Spots” for those without any internet or unreliable access.

Mike Markwica stated that as of Wednesday the 18th, we have started our breakfast and lunch deliveries with about 40 families partaking. We are also using this transportation to deliver work, Chromebooks, and the Backpack Programs bags.

Mike Markwica wanted to congratulate the teachers and all staff for their quick adjustment.

Mike Markwica stated that the Governor told schools that they are responsible for locating daycare for essential workers. If needed, we would provide busing for children to Southern Adirondack Education Center. .

Sarah Williams asked if there were any updates on AP/Regent testing? Mike Markwica replied that AP testing will be taken online with 45 questions and the CSOs are having a meeting with the Interim Commissioner regarding Regent testing and he will update soon.

Jake Sauer-Jones stated that the transition is going smoothly but we need to consider mental health during this time. He questioned if we are stressing that everyone needs to just do their best. Mike Markwica stated we are.

Jake Sauer-Jones asked if teachers were reaching out by phone to students who do not have internet access? Heather Flanagan stated as of today, 30 children have not made contact with their teachers. Phone calls are being made.

Rachel DeGroat thanked the Administration, teachers, and staff. Mike Sharp expressed this is more time consuming than a day to day teaching schedule.

Erwin Morris stated that the JCSTA made a \$2,500 donation to our local food pantry.

Tom Ordway asked if we have counselors on hand to deal with any stress.

Mike Markwica stated he was having a meeting on Wednesday with all the school counselors.

Mike Sharp asked if the Administration was overseeing all teachers.

Mike Markwica replied that Heather and he were having weekly meetings with all teachers.

**Meal Program:** Mike Markwica stated we are supplying meals for over 80 people. The Governor mandated schools will need to provide meals over Spring Break. He will speak to Karen Moore, Cafeteria Supervisor, to work this out.

**Spring Sports:** Questions regarding payment of coaching staff for all spring sports. Three options were presented.

1. Prorate every coach's pay
2. Pay contract salary
3. Wait and see what happens with the season.

Jake Sauer-Jones asked if there was a discussion of a possible cut-off date to have a season.

Mike Markwica stated there has been much discussion but no concrete decisions made at this time.

A discussion was held on the different ideas of coach's pay. (Erwin Morris left the meeting at this time (due to his phone running out of power))

Rachel DeGroat stated we would add a **MOTION** to appoint Peter Olesheski on the agenda for the next meeting.

#### **Other Business:**

**Social Media:** Mike Sharp stated that school Employees should be cautious regarding what they post on social media during this time. Many local families are without jobs or paychecks. Mike Markwica agreed stating we need to be aware of our surroundings.

**Thank You:** Tom Ordway wanted to publicly thank the EMS, Emergency crew members and all JCS staff for their hard work.

**Positive Thoughts:** Jake Sauer-Jones asked everyone to continue posting positive messages.

Heather Flanagan stated that she is working on a video message to send out to our students, She is also working on a virtual “Spirit Week” and other positive ideas to keep the students and staff connected.

**Visitor’s Comments:**

**Andrea Hogan:** The Town of Johnsbury Supervisor stated she was very impressed with how quickly and calmly everyone handled the fast-moving situation. She will continue to check-in with her sources to get the most updated information. She is getting mobile “hot-spots” and will work with Heather Flanagan to get them to the people who need them.

**Kim McKenna:** JCSTA President reported that the teachers are doing above and beyond what they thought they’d be doing.

She stated that teachers are also struggling emotionally.

Mike Markwica explained that Kim McKenna has been working side by side with him during this time.

**Cathy Kennedy:** Special Education Teacher stated that it is difficult to be on the computer as much as she has been.

**Adjournment:**

Jake Sauer-Jones made a **MOTION** at 8:40 to adjourn, seconded by Sarah Williams 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 except one person from the public who was only in attendance through audio. .