

JOHNSBURG CENTRAL SCHOOL  
Monday, March 9, 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 7:00 with the Pledge of Allegiance.

**Approval of Minutes:** Tara Sears made a **MOTION** to approve the minutes of the February 24, 2020 Board of Education Meeting, seconded by Sarah Williams, and carried.

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

**Agenda Changes:**

Agenda Changes

Under V. Items for Discussion and/or Action:

A. Letter I.

Acknowledgment of James Gereau and Ralph Deshetsky as volunteer coaches for the Modified Softball team for the 2019-2020 school year.

B. Letter J.

**MOTION** to appoint Michael Markwica as Lead Data Officer for the 2019-2020 school year.

C. Letter K.

**MOTION** to appoint Gene Maiorano as a volunteer coach for the Varsity Baseball team for the 2019-2020 school year.

**Financial:**

Larry Ringer explained the reason for two oil delivery payments and stated we were right on financial track with our fuel oil bills.

Tom Ordway asked what sign was mentioned on page 5 from Decker Equipment. Mike Markwica stated it was a internal set of A-U door letters. Tom Ordway told the Board to ask the county for pricing the next time we need to order a sign.

**Motions & Discussion:**

**Executive Session:** Tom Ordway made a **MOTION** to adjourn to Executive Session for personnel hiring at 7:05, seconded by Jake Sauer-Jones and carries.

**Regular Session:** Tara Sears made a **MOTION** to return to Regular session at 7:31, seconded by Tom Ordway and carries.

**Audit Report:** Jake Sauer-Jones made a **MOTION** to approve the June 30, 2019 Audit report that was presented to the Board on November 4, 2019, seconded by Erwin Morris and carries.

**Sports Merger:** Tom Ordway made a **MOTION** to accept a Sports Merger with Minerva Central School for the following sports for the 2020-2021 school year:

Soccer: Boys, Girls, Varsity and Modified.

Cross Country Running: Varsity and Modified

Basketball: Boys, Girls, Varsity, and Modified

Nordic: Varsity and Modified

Baseball: Varsity and Modified

Softball: Varsity and Modified

Tennis: Varsity and Modified

seconded by Tara Sears and carries.

Tom Ordway made a **MOTION** to appoint approve a Sports Merger with North Warren Central School for the following sports for the 2020-2021 school year:

Cross Country Running: Varsity and Modified

Nordic Skiing: Varsity and Modified

seconded by Sarah Williams and carries.

**Budget Workers:** Tom Ordway made a **MOTION** to appoint Cindy Homer, Jennifer Glode and Mary Cooper as Election/Budget Workers on May 19, 2020 from 11:30 AM-8:30 PM at \$12.00/hr. or their present hourly wage, whichever is higher, seconded by Tara Sears and carries

**Tennis:** Tara Sears made a **MOTION** to appoint Steve Tomb as the Varsity Tennis coach for the 2019-2020 school year, seconded by Sarah Williams and carries.

Jake Sauer-Jones asked if there will be a Modified team this year.

Mike Markwica stated there would not be.

Tom Ordway asked if the students who wanted modified tennis could play varsity. Mike Markwica said one may be able to but the test to play up may be difficult for the younger student-athletes.

**SRO:**

**Tom Ordway:** Would like an SRO during the school day, arrival to departure and at games. Mike Markwica stated that there could be a game almost every day.

**Sarah Williams:** Would like every school day - feels games are not necessary but would like two or splitting the position to two people if the budget allows for this.

**Mike Sharp:** Would like all-day/every day and coverage of larger events.

**Jake Sauer-Jones:** Would like every day from drop off to pick up and large events.

**Erwin Morris:** Told the Board that he works with Rob Smith's wife who told him that school days were the best time to have an SRO available.

Mike Markwica stated that hours would depend on our budget and explained that these officers are retired who do not need health care benefits and can only make \$35,000 without a waiver.

Tara Sears thanked the Board members and said that the Safety Committee will meet and then they will meet with Warren County to discuss our needs.

**Volunteers:** Rachel DeGroat **Recognized** James Gereau and Ralph Deshetsy as volunteer Modified Softball Coaches for the 2019-2020 school year.

Tara Sears made a **MOTION** to appoint Gene Maiorano as a volunteer coach for the Varsity Baseball Team for the 2019-2020 school year, seconded by Tom Ordway and carries.

**Lead Data Officer:** Tom Ordway made a **MOTION** to appoint Mike Markwica as Lead Data Officer for the 2019-2020 school year, seconded by Sarah Williams and carries.

**Committee Reports:**

**Curriculum Committee:** Heather Flanagan reported that Dan Walter is doing very well in his new role as a “shop” teacher. The committee is working on adding a seventh grade Life Skills class.

Career Day is being organized for late May.

**Audit Committee:** The committee met with Judy Cook and there were no concerns to report.

**Finance/Negotiation Committee:** Worked on the ground rules to begin negotiations. Dates were discussed to exchange packets.

**Update Reports:**

**Staff Day:** Heather Flanagan invited all Board members to attend the upcoming Staff Day being held on March 25, 2020. The first part will consist of the New York State Police Presentation/Drill and the afternoon session will be Stop the Bleed.

**Battle of the Books:** Mike Markwica and Heather Flanagan attended this year’s event.

**YMCA:** Mike Markwica and Heather Flanagan met with the program director of the YMCA to consider hosting events at the school for students and community members.

**13 Kids Who Care:** Hudson Dunkley met with Bob Kovachick and his interview will be shown on Monday, March 16, 2020 at 6 PM.

**Coronavirus:** Governor stated that if there is a case of COVID-19 in the school, the school will be shut down for 24 hours. Mike Markwica reported that many local schools are thinking ahead to school trips. We have three trips scheduled. Mike asked for the Board’s thoughts on this issue.

Jake Sauer-Jones reported the Health Care professionals are taking the virus very seriously. The virus may transform to pneumonia in younger children. He asked if the school is limiting visitors. Mike Markwica explained that we do not have many visitors during the school day. Jake also asked if we have a quarantine room ready if need be. Mike Markwica responded that that was an excellent idea and he will speak to our school nurse.

Tom Ordway: Wondered if we should reach out to Hudson Headwaters since they are our Health Officers. Mike Markwica replied that it is Public Health who we need to

report too. Tom Ordway also asked if the water fountains are being disinfected more often. Mike Markwica said that he has spoken to the custodians and precautions are being taken. Tom Ordway asked if we should put cup dispensers near the water fountains. Mike Markwica stated they will look into this suggestion as well as ask parents to send in water bottles for their student's use.

Mike Sharp: Questioned our handwashing procedures and suggested that we take the time to make children wash their hands before lunch and after PE.

Rachel DeGroat suggested we wait and see how the virus progresses before we cancel any of the school's trips.

Mike Markwica reported that he has a meeting set up with our IT department to see how we can handle technology if a student or the school needs to be quarantined.

Sarah Williams: Questioned if we have a Chromebook for every student. Mike Markwica said they are conducting a survey and they will give students who do not have access to a device one if it becomes necessary.

**Other Business:**

**Spectator Bus:** Erwin Morris would like to add a discussion of creating a policy on a Spectator Bus on the next agenda.

**Visitor's Comments:**

**Peter Olesheski:** Expressed his continuing desire to be considered as the Modified Baseball coach. He handed out papers with his credentials and references. He stated that he did not violate any school or section rules so he was surprised to hear of his rejection.

**Gene Arsenault:** Past BOE member as well as serving five years on the Town of Johnsbury Board with Peter Olesheski came out to speak on Peter Olesheski's behalf.

**Andrea Hogan:** The Town of Johnsbury Supervisor came out to support Peter Olesheski.

Mrs. Hogan also spoke on the Coronavirus.

Andrea Hogan also spoke on the hiring of an SRO.

**Randy LaFountain:** Randy LaFountain spoke on Peter Olesheski's behalf.

**Erika Patton:** Erika Patton came to speak on Pete's behalf.

**Rachel DeGroat:** Mrs. DeGroat thanked all visitors for coming and stated that Mr. Markwica will speak to Peter Olesheski in a few days.

**Adjournment:**

Tara Sears made a **MOTION** at 8:39 to adjourn to Executive Session for Personnel Hiring, seconded by Jake Sauer-Jones and carries.

Tara Sears made a **Motion** at 9:43 to return to Regular session and adjourn, seconded by Erwin Morris and carries.

District Clerk: Cindy Homer

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