

JOHNSBURG CENTRAL SCHOOL
Monday, May 11, 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: Rachel DeGroat opened the meeting at 7:02 with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Approval of Minutes: Erwin Morris made a **MOTION** to approve the minutes on the April 6, 2020 Board of Education Meeting, seconded by Tara Sears and carried.

Tom Ordway made a **MOTION** to approve the minutes on the April 21, 2020 Board of Education Meeting, seconded by Sarah Williams and carried.

Agenda Changes: N/A

Motion: Tom Ordway made a **MOTION** to accept Kathy McGowin's Letter of Intent to Retire with gratitude, seconded by Tara Sears and carried.

Tom Ordway made a **MOTION** to accept the 2020-2021 Johnsbury Central Budget, seconded by Mike Sharp.
Discussion was held:
Mike Markwica stated it was a fair budget created with the information we have received at the time.

Erwin Morris asked if there are budget cuts in the future who will decide what is to be cut. Mike Markwica stated that the administration would make recommendations, and the Board would have to vote on any of the recommendations. **MOTION** was carried.

Larry Ringer discussed the Finance and Budget update. He spoke of savings and expenditures since the shutdown. Mike Sharp asked about the coach's pay line item. Mike Markwica explained that as per contract, Johnsburg paid half of the coach's salaries and Minerva Central School paid the other half. He also said we were only paying the two coaches for the one week with varsity baseball and softball. Erwin Morris asked a question regarding the deficit with school lunches. Larry Ringer explained that we are serving less students than in a regular school year so less reimbursements and income.

Rachel DeGroat asked if overtime decreased. Larry Ringer stated he would get the numbers for overtime and report back to the board.

Erwin Morris asked about voting. Mike Markwica explained ballots will be mailed with return postage and a ballot box will be made available outside the school on June 9th for last minute ballot drop offs.

Mike Sharp asked if we need to pay the people who are tallying the ballots since they are already on payroll. Mike Markwica stated he will ask them to change their hours for the day.

Sarah Williams made a **MOTION** to change the May 19, 2020 Board of Education Meeting to June 9, 2020 at 7 PM, seconded Mike Sharp with discussion. Mike Markwica stated that the May 19th meeting was due to the Budget Vote that is now on June 9, 2020. Motion was voted and passed.

A Discussion was held regarding the Budget Vote and Absentee Ballots. Mike Markwica explained that the District can use the voter registration list provided by the county or they can use the last four years of District voters.

Mike Markwica stated the difference between the two options was a cost of \$5,200.

Mike Sharp stated we need to make sure everyone sees on Facebook the voting process and how to obtain a ballot. It was then agreed that every Monday, Wednesday and Friday, Heather Flanagan would post the Budget vote information on Facebook.

Jake Sauer-Jones stated we should post a flyer in all post offices, Tops and our digital sign as well as running an ad in The Sun newspaper.

Mike Markwica stated we would post our "Postcard" at all locations as well as in the newspaper.

Board unanimously agreed to send the ballots to the list of the last four years voters and to anyone who qualifies and requests a ballot.

Committee Reports:

Building and Grounds Committee:

Sarah Williams reported:

Lighting project: After delays due to the pandemic, the company is ready to come back, using the recommended guidelines for safety of their staff as well as ours, will follow protocols for PPE and distancing. Rooms will be cleaned after they are done. They estimate there is about 1 week's worth of work left.

Staffing: As of Monday May 11, all custodial staff will be back to full time. They will begin the summer projects early, starting with the gym and cafetorium. Everyone will practice safety precautions

Projects: Some large projects, such as landscaping and possibly repaving will be put on hold until budget picture becomes clearer, but other projects such as the stairs and railings and parking lot lighting may go forward.

Frank and the staff will be cleaning up the edges of the sports fields where they meet the parking lots, also minor landscaping around the building

"No Overnight Parking" signs have been hung for the lower lot
Windows are being worked on to replace the ballasts, starting with all emergency windows. Entrances have been assigned letters and those will be displayed at the entrances, for emergency and law enforcement purposes

Trophy Case bathrooms have been assigned to a "family bathroom" with a changing table and a neutral bathroom, both with locks on the main doors.

Re-opening: Mike is on the BOCES re-opening committee, and reports that many plans for the fall are being discussed and what it may look like physically for the building such as room configurations and floor markings for social distancing.

BOCES is also part of a large buying group for PPE as well as other equipment such as foggers and sanitizer dispensers.

Negotiation Committee: Mike Markwica stated that Negotiations are taking place and another meeting is scheduled for later this month.

Update Reports:

Class Size: Heather Flanagan reported on the process of class size that was asked in a previous meeting by Jake- Sauer-Jones. She reported the process starts mid-year with possible retention. She works with a rough draft numbers chart and hosts monthly meetings with the two elementary chair people as well as with Annada Durkee, CSE Chairperson. She then talks to individual teachers.

Rachel DeGroat asked about this year's Kindergarten Round-up. We are basing our enrollment numbers on related services and teacher information. We will do a modified screening in the fall. Jake Sauer-Jones stated that the teacher move scheduled for next year blew up on Facebook and Board members were not told anything about it. He stated he was getting calls because students were upset about not getting Mr. Hurley next year.

Heather Flanagan stated that she did not inform the Board of Education Members of this change because it was not set at that time. She then explained that one of the kindergarten teachers will move to first grade, a first grade teacher will move to fourth, a fourth grade teacher will join the 5-6 grade team of teachers.

Sarah Williams asked questions. Mrs. Flanagan answered.

Tom Ordway asked if everyone would have a full schedule and Heather Flanagan responded that they would as per contract.

Mike Sharp asked if Mrs. Hayden and Mrs. Carr's schedule would be the same and Heather Flanagan stated it would.

Mike Markwica stated that people need to hold off on posting to

Facebook because information gets out too early.

Mike Sharp stated that he feels Mike and Heather have the right to make these changes without consulting the Board but he felt like a fool as well as blindsided by not knowing. He felt the teacher should have waited before posting.

Heather Flanagan apologized to the Board for not informing them of the change sooner and Mr. Markwica said he should have told the teacher to hold off on posting.

Tom Ordway stated that it is a never good situation to be caught unaware but the best thing to do is to tell people to call Mike or Heather directly; they are in charge of the day to day runnings of the school.

Heather Flanagan invited the Board members to join them in the 3 PM Senior Parade scheduled for tomorrow (Tuesday, May 12, 2020) . While practicing Social Distancing, they will deliver yard signs, yearbooks to all seniors.

Rachel DeGroat asked about Graduation plans. Mike Markwica stated they are unsure of what they can or can not do at this time. There are many ideas being shared and he will let the Board know as soon as he can. Heather Flanagan asked if June 24th was still the date. Mike Markwica answered at this time it is.

Other Business:

Mike Sharp: Asked if there was a definitive 180 day ruling passed by the Governor yet. Mike Markwica stated not at this time.

Tom Ordway: Thanked Heather Flanagan for her videos. He especially like the one where Jiggy hit every town within our district. Mike Markwica stated that Heather has kept the moral up as well as working on curriculum. Heather said she is appreciative of the Board and it is great to work with members you can communicate with.

Visitor's Comments:

Kim McKenna: JCSTA President asked Mr. Markwica if she could get a copy of the Budget presentation. Mike Markwica stated he will have a staff meeting and present it to everyone.

Motion: Tom Ordway made a **MOTION** to go into Executive Session at 8:25 for contract negotiations, seconded by Mike Sharp and carried.

Adjournment: Sarah Williams made a **MOTION** at 9:30 to adjourn, seconded by Tom Ordway 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.