

JOHNSBURG CENTRAL SCHOOL  
Monday, May 13, 2019  
BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING  
Minutes

Board Members Present: Rachel DeGroat  
Erwin Morris  
Tom Ordway  
William Conner  
Tara Sears  
Sarah Williams

Board Members Absent: Chris Jay

**Call to Order:**  
Pledge of

Rachel DeGroat opened the meeting at 7:02 with the  
Allegiance.

**Approval of Minutes:**

Tara Sears made a **Motion** to approve the minutes of the  
April 30, 2019, Board of Education Meeting, Seconded by Erwin  
Morris and carried.

**CSE/CPSE/504:**

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

**Financial:**

Larry Ringer answered past questions of the General Fund  
account regarding seal coating. Erwin Morris wanted to know  
if the bill was part of the building project. Larry Ringer  
responded that it was not it was maintenance.

Rachel DeGroat asked Larry Ringer to bring the numbers for  
our lunch bill/student debt.

William Conner asked if we were in debt, meaning do we have  
students that owe money to our lunch program and our after  
school program. Mike Markwica explained that we are in  
better shape this year. Heather Flanagan will provide  
After-School payment information at the next meeting.

**Discussion/Motions:**  
**Presentation:**

Eilene Totzke spoke on our ELA program; present and future  
plans. Grades 3-8 have been transitioning to the Next  
Generation standards by attending many trainings. Feedback  
has been positive.

Eilene Tetzke demonstrated what computer-based testing looks like with a brief tutorial, as well as discussed ways to prepare the students for the test.

William Conner asked if students need to learn how to take the test with the many options available on the screen. Eilene Tetzke explained that they are trained.

Tom Ordway asked if Eilene finds there are some students without internet access at home. Eilene Tetzke replied yes, but she indicated very few, but she teaches, “when in doubt, write it out”.

Sarah Williams asked if students were able to access home accounts like Amazon? Eilene Tetzke replied they can not. Only teachers can access those domains.

William Conner asked about ELA opt-out rates. Eilene Tetzke stated the state tests are meaningless to some of the students because there are no consequences for grading.

Mike Markwica stated these tests are to make sure students in every grade across the state are learning the same information. It is also a check and balances system for curriculum.

Eilene Tetzke thanked the Board of Education for her years of service and how kind they were to her when she needed to take time off.

#### **Travel Club:**

Tara Sears, made a **MOTION** to approve Nancy LaVergne as a paid chaperone for the 2019 Travel Club trip to Washington D.C., seconded by Tom Ordway and Carried.

Mr. Ordway asked if she was paid a salary or given a paid trip. Heather Flanagan replied her trip cost was paid for.

#### **Committee Reports:**

**Merger Committee:** Sarah Williams reported that the group was very close to present the final paperwork to each BOE. Members will be able to review and suggest changes. Committee will bring information back. The Board will vote on June 2, 2019. Rachel DeGroat said they will send the packet out tomorrow.

#### **Updates:**

Mike Markwica reported that the lock-down drill with dogs went well. We had a Mock Drill which involved many

community organizations and it was successful/ Barry McKinney's help was greatly appreciated.

Mike Markwica and Sarah Williams attended the annual AASBA Community Service Award dinner. One student from 27 districts were honored. Ryan Riedinger was chosen from Johnsbury.

Tom Ordway stated he does not like the fact that there is a cash bar available for a function that involves students. Mike Markwica will discuss this with James Dexter.

Heather Flanagan reported that she misspoke regarding the travel club numbers. Johnsbury had 23 students travel to Washington, DC. William Conner asked if the cost was a factor in the low numbers. Erwin Morris stated that some students did not like to fundraise and parents did not want to pay the full price. William Conner suggested the BOE look into subsidizing the cost for students in the future.

Heather Flanagan reported she has received many positive comments regarding the Mock Drill. Although it involves a great deal of planning it is very well received.

We inducted 9 students into the Junior and Senior Honor Society.

The Wall of Fame went well

Heather Flanagan presented a handout with statistics of the students who opted out of the New York State testing. Science tests are coming up but very few students opt out of that test. Mike Markwica reported on the Small Group Health Insurance Meeting he attended with Larry Ringer and Tom Ordway. We will be in financial stress if this is passed.

#### **Other Business:**

**External Audit:** William Conner brought up concerns about signing the affidavit that was presented to the Board. Michael Markwica suggested we invite Ray Preusser to explain. Mike Markwica also stated he will speak to the school's attorney.

Rachel DeGroat spoke of the Superintendent and Board of Education evaluations that she will be sending out electronically. She would like Members to return the forms by June 10, 2019. Rachel DeGroat will gather information and go over results during the Summer Retreat.

Tom Ordway asked about some visitors we had in school and our policies we have in place for them.

**Visitor's Comments:**

Mike Sharp reported that the Archery Program is going strong with 32 students. Johnsbury had three archers competing at the National Tournament in Louisville Kentucky. Our students did well.

Mike Sharp asked if we charged for Out of District tuition. Mike Markwica responded that we do: \$3,000 for K-6 and \$3,100 for 7-12. Mike Sharp asked if Johnsbury would consider recruiting for enrollment like other schools are doing.

Mike Markwica stated we do not recruit but if someone asks, we do tell them our Out of District fees.

Bob Nessle stated he hoped the merger with Minerva goes through. Combining for athletics will be positive for both schools. Rachel DeGroat informed him that the Sports Merger has been approved and Johnsbury-Minerva will combine for the 2019-2020 school year.

**Adjournment:**

Sarah Williams made a **MOTION** to adjourn at 8:50 seconded by Erwin Morris and carried.