

JOHNSON CREEK SCHOOL DISTRICT  
**Special Board of Education Meeting Minutes**  
**Sunday, August 23, 2020**  
**1 p.m.**  
**Weis Center**

President Rick Wrench called the meeting to order.

Board Members Present: Duane Draeger, Heidi Hartz, Ken Johnson, June Kolaske, Janelle Kwarcianny, Mark Siewert, and Rick Wrench

Also Present: Superintendent Michael Garvey, Principal Neil O'Connell, Dean of Students/Activities Director/Recreation Director Chad Hayes, Jefferson County COVID School Liaison Pam Streich, Diane Trimborn, Mary Moulding, Richard Moulding, Angela Caminata, Sandy Heth, Amy Paul, Krista Anton, Dave Poltrock, Shannon Radisky, Kaya Johnson, Nick Fairchild, Leslie Hansen, Shelley Walling, Dennis Walling, Alyson Trujillo, Rick Nicholson, Sara Matz, Chris Matz, Kevin Bigsby, Andrew Swanson, Patricia Swanson, Paige Swanson, Alexis Swanson, Rooney Freimund, Shaina Freimund, Joshua Kamuchey, Alisha Kamuchey, Matthew Spangler, Tom Kopatich, Ed Zagorski, Jason Yantis, Diane Schuh, Braden Walling, Kaiyli Thompson, Merisa Nicholson, Any Benz, Chad Rouhoff, Lachelle Rouhoff, Stacci Barganz, Daniel Bennett, Renee Granzow, Melissa Murray, Heather Raabe, Shauna Grenz, Jeffrey Penna, and Kayla Johnson

Dr. Garvey verified that the meeting was properly posted Pursuant to § 19.84(1) Wis. Statutes.

Motion by Kolaske/Draeger to adopt the agenda placing community viewpoint after Dr. Garvey and Mrs. Streich present. Motion Carried.

Mr. Wrench acknowledged that the Board received a petition signed by 265 individuals.

Mr. Wrench asked Dr. Garvey to speak.

Dr. Garvey reviewed the process that he and the administrators took to recommend starting the year virtually. He reviewed the science behind the decision and the recommendation of the Jefferson County Health Department.

Dr. Garvey recognized that despite the recommendations from the County Health Department, the School Boards of Jefferson, Lake Mills, and Fort Atkinson ignored the science, ignored the County Health Departments recommendations, and ignored the recommendations of their respective Administrative teams.

Dr. Garvey thanked the Jefferson County Administrator and Health Department for partnering with the school leaders to share information, communicate recommendations, and for the advice given since March. The county hired an epidemiologist and a COVID school liaison.

Dr. Garvey recognized that the purpose of the meeting was to review the overhaul that the County made Thursday which used different metrics and moved to the Harvard Rating System.

Dr. Garvey asked Mrs. Streich, the County COVID School Liaison to speak.

Mrs. Streich reviewed the changes in the County guidelines and gave the rationale for the changes.

Dr. Garvey returned to the podium. He explained the importance of robust instruction regardless of virtual or face to face. He indicated that the administrative team did not see it as possible to offer a robust virtual at the same time as a robust face to face program.

Dr. Garvey shared that many courses have lab components that truly need a face to face activity (Tech Ed, Ag, SPED & related services, AP Bio, etc.). Even during virtual we will schedule small group labs face to face.

### Community Viewpoint

5<sup>th</sup> grader Paige Swanson spoke in favor of opening face to face. She told the Board that kids learn better in person and reminded the Board that parents have to work.

Andrew Swanson thanked the Board and Administration for their hard work. He spoke in favor of a September 1<sup>st</sup> face to face start. He told the Board that students should be in class. Schools provide socialization, safety, access to nutritious meals, and physical activity. He also raised the issue for mental health of the students. He shared that the back and fourth of the decisions is not good for anyone. He pointed out that the seclusion caused by the pandemic has increased suicidal rates, drug and alcohol issues, and domestic abuse is on the rise.

Rooney Freimund thanked the Board for their service. He stated that he wanted to start with an end in mind – a choice for parents. He shared his experiences with his employer hiring experts to help his company through the pandemic. Wisconsin rode the 1<sup>st</sup> wave, then Wisconsin rode the 2<sup>nd</sup> wave – “We do not have enough kids.” “104 children die in traffic accidents but we don’t keep our kids off the roads.”

Patti Swanson echoed the speakers before her and thanked the Board members who responded to her e-mail.

Stacci Barganz had hoped for a virtual option. She has been forced to unenroll her children to be home schooled.

Dr. Garvey answered questions posed in writing by Leslie Hansen, Alyson Trujillo, and Kayla Johnson:

He reiterated that the Administrative team, based upon comments from parents last Spring, had recommended that students attend either face to face or virtual but did not believe that the District could provide robust instruction while simultaneously doing both.

Dr. Garvey also shared the changes to the school nutrition services. Lunch periods will be spread out and we will distance the seating.

Those attending virtual will be offered meals but this service will be drastically different than what was available last spring.

Students or their parents/guardians will need to pick up the meals. Regular preparation (including portion size) will be required. Families will be charged accordingly. The Board members discussed options.

Motion by Johnson/Hartz to delay the 4K-8th grade start of school to September 8th and to open school face to face for grades 4K-8, on September 8.

Roll Call vote: Draeger (Y), Hartz (Y), Johnson (Y), Kolaske (Y), Kwarciany (Y), Siewert (N), and Wrench (Y).

Yes – 6                      No – 1                      Absent – 0                      Motion Carried

Motion by Kolaske/Johnson to start High School Instruction on September 8<sup>th</sup> face to face.

Roll Call vote: Draeger (N), Hartz (N), Johnson (Y), Kolaske (Y), Kwarciany (N), Siewert (N), and Wrench (Y).

Yes – 3                      No – 4                      Absent – 0                      Motion Failed.

Motion by Draeger/Johnson to have grades 9-12 start virtually on September 1st as planned. Provided that the metrics dictate opening invite 9-12 to go face to face as early as September 21<sup>st</sup>, 2020

Roll Call vote: Draeger (Y), Hartz (Y), Johnson (Y), Kolaske (Y), Kwarciany (Y), Siewert (N), and Wrench (Y).

Yes – 6                      No – 1                      Absent – 0                      Motion Carried

Motion Hartz/Siewert to adjourn. Motion Carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Michael P. Garvey, Ph.D.  
District Administrator