

JOHNSON CREEK SCHOOL DISTRICT
Regular Board of Education Meeting Minutes
Monday, September 18, 2023
6:00 p.m.
Elementary Music Room

President Mark Siewert called the meeting to order.

Board Members Present: Duane Draeger, Ken Johnson, June Kolaske, Christina Norby, Mark Siewert, Natasha Steenbergen, and Wesley Trapp

Also present: District Administrator Mark Gruen, Principal Neil O'Connell, Principal Melissa Enger, Special Education Director Stacy Pustina, Administrative Assistant Becky Stewart, Student Representative Kiya Imig, Heidi Hartz, Richard Wrensch, Christiana Childs, and Courtney Morris (arrived at 6:15 p.m.)

Becky Stewart verified that the meeting was properly posted pursuant to § 19.84(1) Wis. Statutes.

Motion by Draeger/Norby to adopt the agenda as posted. Motion Carried.

Conduct the Annual Budget Hearing

Mr. Siewert appointed Rebecca Stewart to be the secretary of the Budget Hearing and Annual Meeting.

State of the District 2023

Mr. Gruen stated the school year is off to a great start. He continues to be impressed with the professionalism and friendliness of all staff, students, parents, and community members. The annual staff picnic was very successful again.

Some items completed are the sound barrier in the elementary gym, LED lighting, parking lot cameras, Football locker rooms, school garden, UTV, bleacher raps, fitness center equipment, and long jump pits. All of these were paid for from Fund 49 (our referendum debt account).

Budget Review

Mr. Gruen stated the 2023-24 proposed budget:

- We have a unique opportunity to pay on our debt while our state aid is held to a 15% drop keeping our mill rate steady.
- We paid off \$5.1 million last year and hope to make a large payment again this year.

Mr. Gruen reviewed the Budget.

We are not immune to the loss of revenue like all Districts state wide. We are struggling to backfill the hole created by the state giving us zero new money two years in a row. We will continue to monitor this in the future.

Mr. Gruen explained the revenue limit process. He also reminded Board members that even though the Annual Meeting will set an advisory levy, by statute, the final levy must be set by November 1st, by the Board.

Mr. Siewert recessed the Board meeting in order to convene the Annual Meeting.

Following the Annual Meeting, the Board meeting resumed.

Mrs. Morris arrived at 6:15 p.m.

Approval of Minutes

Motion by Norby/Draeger to approve the minutes of the Regular Board meeting of August 21, 2023. Motion Carried.

Community Viewpoint

None

Business Affairs/Treasurer's Report

Motion by Draeger/Steenbergen to approve Accounts Payable checks 243909-244165 in the amount of \$1,078,542.11, no wire transfers, Payroll checks 15767 in the amount of \$1,300.28, and Payroll ETF transaction 900952956-900953027 in the amount of \$92,614.73.

Roll Call vote: Draeger (Y), Johnson (Y), Kolaske (Y), Norby (Y), Siewert (Y), Steenbergen (Y), and Trapp (Y).

Yes – 7

No – 0

Absent – 0

Motion Carried

Personnel

Motion by Kolaske/Norby to accept Sue Voigt's resignation. Motion Carried.

Motion by Steenbergen/Draeger to hire Van Driver Mary Kralj, Food Service staff Kayse Lawler, and Head Cook Teresa Keeser. Motion Carried.

Motion by Johnson/Steenbergen to approve Christina Childs' unpaid leave request from November 13-17, 2023. The first two days will be taken from her remaining Personal leave and the last three days will be unpaid. Motion Carried.

Motion by Personnel Committee/Norby to approve the Bereavement Language as presented. Motion Carried.

Motion by Steenbergen/Johnson to allow all three of the three Personal days to be carried over into sick days annually if unused for all staff that get Personal days. Motion Carried.

Motion by Personnel Committee/Steenbergen to add a part time support staff member. Motion Carried.

Motion by Johnson/Steenbergen to move increasing support staff position hours into closed session. Motion Carried.

Motion by Personnel Committee/Steenbergen to create a Middle School Newspaper Advisor position at 1% for one year, to approve the addition of a High School Yearbook Advisor at 3.5%, and to accept the new Pep Band job description with the reduced responsibility and reduced compensation paying the position 2%. Motion Carried.

Recreation

Motion by Joint Recreation Committee/Steenbergen to approve the recommendation from the Joint Recreation Committee to approve the Junior Jay Program proposal for one year hiring four high school assistant coaches for the sports of Volleyball, Football, Girls Basketball, and Boys Basketball paid out of Fund 80 for the 2023-24 school year, to reorganize the Recreation Director position to a Recreation Coordinator position with reduced responsibilities and compensation, and to post the new position by October 15, 2023.

Roll Call vote: Draeger (Y), Johnson (Y), Kolaske (N), Norby (Y), Siewert (N), Steenbergen (Y), and Trapp (Y).

Yes – 5

No – 2

Absent – 0

Motion Carried

New Business

Motion by Steenbergen/Johnson to approve the LEAP Program Agreement with Lake Mills for one student. Motion Carried.

Motion by Steenbergen/Draeger to approve the field trip to England and France in late June 2025, to not conflict with graduation or any state sporting tournament play. Motion Carried.

Motion by Kolaske/Draeger to move the October Board to Monday, October 30th, 2023 instead of the Monday, October 16th, 2023 at 6 p.m.

Communications

Administrative Report

Mr. O’Connell stated the 5th Grade Orientation and Back to School night were both successful. He mentioned about 45 staff members attended the 2nd Annual Staff Tailgate, MAP testing is completed in Middle School, and Homecoming is this week.

Mrs. Enger stated they had a successful Open House night. MAP testing will take place this week and next week. Elementary classes wrote letters to Veterans. Mrs. Enger started her Check In Meetings with grade levels.

Mrs. Pustina gave a shout out to Carol O’Neil on giving her a pamphlet for County resources. She also stated the Bluejay Café is up and running.

Mr. Gruen stated our Board members cannot volunteer to drive school bus because we don’t own our busses.

Board Member Comments

Mr. Siewert asked if 10 passenger vans were a Federal or State law. Mr. Gruen responded that it is a Federal law.

Mr. Draeger stated the lights in the parking are not working again.

Mrs. Kolaske stated she would like budget sheet, enrollment numbers, and would like a true Board retreat.

Mrs. Steenbergen stated Mark Gruen and her met with Neola. School Board member week is October 1-7, 2023. She also mentioned that Cross Country had a home meet last Thursday and thanked Buildings and Grounds for all their help.

Mrs. Norby stated she has a map of school in CAD software.

Committee Reports

None

Motion by Draeger/Steenbergen for the Board to conduct a closed session pursuant to Wis. Stats. §19.85(1)(e) and if the said Motion is adopted, then to hold a Closed Session immediately after approval of the said Motion to deliberate or negotiate the purchasing of public properties, the investing of public funds, or conducting other specified public business, whenever competitive or bargaining reasons require a closed session

Roll Call vote: Draeger (Y), Johnson (Y), Kolaske (Y), Norby (Y), Siewert (Y), Steenbergen (Y), and Trapp (Y).

Yes – 7

No – 0

Absent – 0

Motion Carried

The Board returned from closed session.

Motion by Johnson/Trapp to increase the paraprofessional position to 8 hours contingent upon the need established when the current paraprofessional who is doing crossing guard resigns.

Motion by Steenbergen/Draeger to adjourn. Motion Carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Rebecca A. Stewart
District Administrative Assistant