

JOHNSON CREEK SCHOOL DISTRICT  
**Regular Board of Education Meeting Minutes**  
**Monday, January 15, 2024**  
**6:00 p.m.**  
**Elementary Music Room**

President Mark Siewert called the meeting to order.

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

Board Members Absent: June Kolaske 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, Rick Wrench, Paula Constable, Lia Constable, Chuck Moehling (arrived at 6:30 p.m.), and Andrea Badon

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

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

**Approval of Minutes**

Motion by Draeger/Norby to approve the minutes of the Regular Board meeting of December 18, 2023 and Special Board meeting of January 4, 2024. Motion Carried.

**Community Viewpoint**

None

**Business Affairs/Treasurer's Report**

Motion by Draeger/Trapp to approve Accounts Payable checks 244796-244901 in the amount of \$729,765.39, no wire transfers, Payroll checks 17597-15801 in the amount of \$4,880.61, and Payroll ETF transaction 900953746-900953996 in the amount of \$342,740.91.

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

Yes – 5

No – 0

Absent – 2

Motion Carried

**Personnel**

Motion by Draeger/Steenbergen to accept Isabelle Doherty, Madison Edgren (pending \$1,500 liquidated damages) and Tyi Huff's resignation. Motion Carried.

Motion by Steenbergen/Johnson to hire Middle School Wrestling Coach John Burke and Food Service worker Barb Learned. Motion Carried.

Motion by Personnel Committee/Norby to eliminate the specific language in Beth Hanna's contract for the 2024-2025 school year that limits her to one week of vacation during the school year and to include in all Administrator/Supervisor contracts that vacation needs to be approved by the District Administrator and that extended vacations should be outside of the regular school year. Motion Carried.

Motion failed to have all contracts consistent with the teaching staff, which requires a doctor's note after 3 sick days. This will be sent back to the Personnel Committee.

Motion by Personnel Committee/Norby to request Administrative evaluations be finished by January 15<sup>th</sup> and Supervisors and the rest of the staff by March 15<sup>th</sup>. Motion Carried.

Motion by Personnel Committee/Johnson to eliminate tuition reimbursement from all Administrative contracts after the 2025-2026 school year. Motion Carried.

### **New Business**

#### **Open Enrollment Space Determination**

Motion by Steenbergen/Draeger to set the open enrollment limits for the 2024-25 school year at:

Regular Education Recommendations: No space limits will be placed upon regular education applicants.

Special Education Recommendations: For the purpose of accepting non-resident open enrollment applications for the 2024-2025 school year, due to staffing shortages, the following program limits are established for the District's special education programs:

- Early Childhood Program: 0 spaces available
- Elementary cross-categorical: 0 spaces available
- Middle School cross-categorical grades 5-8: 0 spaces available
- High School cross-categorical grades 5-8: 0 spaces available

Because of the current numbers of students with identified needs, current staffing levels, current contracted services levels and space available, the district will not accept open enrollment applications for students with the following needs:

- Students who require services for a vision impairment or a deaf/hard of hearing impairment
- Students who require occupational therapy or physical therapy
- Students who require behavioral support

The available spaces are based upon a level 1 service designation of a child's disability. Consequently, it is understood that an accepted open enrollment applicant may fill more than one

of the open spaces based upon the distinct individual needs as listed in the child's IEP, thus reducing the number of applicants accepted. It is also understood that in the case of students with disabilities, the district may deny open enrollment based upon other factors than lack of space, including the inability to meet the needs outlined in the student's IEP.

The Board discussed the WASB Resolutions.

Mr. Gruen announced that Duane Draeger, June Null Kolaske, Mark Siewert, and Richard Wensch are the candidates in the spring election and will be listed on the ballot with Mark Siewert listed first, followed by Duane Draeger, followed by Richard Wensch, followed by June Null Kolaske. There will not be a primary for school board. Electors will be asked to vote for up to three candidates.

Motion by Steenbergen/Norby to table the 3 Year Review Library Plan. Motion Carried.

### **Referendum**

Motion by Steenbergen/Johnson to approve a resolution authorizing the School District Budget to exceed revenue limit by \$3,000,000 for recurring purposes.

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

Yes – 5                      No – 0                      Absent – 2                      Motion Carried

Motion by Steenbergen/Draeger to approve a resolution providing for a referendum election on the question of the approval of a resolution authorizing the School District Budget to exceed revenue limit by \$3,000,000 for recurring purposes.

Shall the School District of Johnson Creek, Jefferson County, Wisconsin be authorized to exceed the revenue limit specified in Section 121.91, Wisconsin Statutes, by \$3,000,000 beginning with the 2024-2025 school year, for recurring purposes to maintain ongoing operational expenses, technology, safety, and educational programming.

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

Yes – 5                      No – 0                      Absent – 2                      Motion Carried

### **Communications**

#### **Administrative Report**

Mrs. Enger stated the teachers had inservice today.

Mr. O’Connell stated exams will be finished tomorrow and we will start 2<sup>nd</sup> semester on Wednesday, January 17<sup>th</sup> now.

Mr. Gruen explained how he makes weather/snow day calls. He handed out a Referendum fact sheet that he started.

Board Member Comments

Mrs. Steenbergen shared she is attending the WASB Convention and thanked Mr. O’Connell for how he is handling the Middle School Math teacher resignation.

Mrs. Norby stated she is attending the WASB Convention.

Committee Reports

None

Motion by Draeger/Steenbergen for the Board to conduct a closed session pursuant to Wis. Stats. §19.85(1)(c) and if the said Motion is adopted, then to hold a Closed Session immediately after approval of the said Motion to consider employment, promotion, compensation or performance evaluation data of any public employee over which the governmental body has jurisdiction.

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

Yes – 5

No – 0

Absent – 2

Motion Carried

The Board did not return from closed session.

Respectfully submitted,

Rebecca A. Stewart  
District Administrative Assistant