

JOHNSON CREEK SCHOOL DISTRICT
Regular Board of Education Meeting Minutes
Monday, July 15, 2024
6:00 p.m.
Middle School Room 309

President Mark Siewert called the meeting to order.

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

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, Dennis Schuh, Jennifer Tracy, Jennifer Stiegman, Shelby Keller, Albert Keller, George Nimm, Charles Moehling, Melissa Sweger, Justin Rageth, Brittanie Rageth, Andrea Badon, Theresa Kempf, Jennifer Ramey, Kayla Johnson, Mistie Rodberg, and 2 police officers

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

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

Approval of Minutes

Motion by Norby/Draeger to approve the minutes of the Regular School Board Meeting of June 17, 2024 and Special Board Meeting of June 27, 2024. Motion Carried.

Community Viewpoint

Albert Keller said he submitted his viewpoint in writing in regards to paying off the debt. Mr. Siewert responded the Board received it.

Dennis Schuh stated he was a little disappointed with the Board meeting last month because he would like to see some real discussion on where the money is needed for the referendum, not "just trust us". He also stated Johnson Creek has the 4th highest mill rate in the state of Wisconsin.

Shelby Keller stated that Christina Norby posted an invitation in multiple local Facebook groups, inviting the public to a BBQ at her home this Friday. She pointed out that this and other events hosted by Ms. Norby in the past have had direct ties to the national conservative organization Moms for Liberty, which advocated against the rights of LGBTQ+ youth.

Business Affairs/Treasurer's Report

Motion by Steenbergen/Draeger to approve Accounts Payable checks 245825-245987 in the amount of \$978,367.28, no Wire Transfers, no Payroll checks, and Payroll ETF transaction 900955235-900955737 in the amount of \$768,645.01.

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

Yes – 7

No – 0

Absent – 0

Motion Carried

Personnel

Motion by Norby/Johnson to approve hiring an additional part-time paraprofessional. Motion Carried.

Motion by Steenbergen/Draeger to accept Morgan Dunton's resignation. Motion Carried.

Motion by Norby/Steenbergen to approve Guidance Counselor Catherine Engel, Elementary Teacher Sara Guenette, and Part-time Paraprofessional Nicholas Zindars. Motion Carried.

Motion by Personnel Committee/Norby to eliminate the portfolio piece in the Salary and Stipend Guide – VII. Promotion accepting the new proposed language. Motion Carried.

Motion by Personnel Committee/Norby to create combined sick bank language for all staff and correct the Employee Handbook as presented. Motion Carried.

Motion by Johnson/Wensch to approve the five salary promotion recommendations. Motion Carried.

Curriculum

Motion by Steenbergen/Trapp to affirm the academic standards in place at the Johnson Creek School District are the Common Core Standards and Wisconsin State Standards. Motion Carried.

New Business

Motion by Steenbergen/Wensch to approve the AP High School English field trip to Chicago, IL. Motion Carried.

Old Business

Referendum

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 for up to \$2,500,000 non-recurring for 4 years, starting with the 2024-2025 school year.

Specific Question to be:

Shall the School District of Johnson Creek, Jefferson County, Wisconsin be authorized to exceed the revenue limit specified in Section 121.91, Wisconsin Statutes, for up to \$2,500,000 non-recurring for 4 years, starting with the 2024-2025 school year, to maintain ongoing operational expenses, technology, safety, and educational programming.

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

Yes – 7

No – 0

Absent – 0

Motion Carried

Communications

Administrative Report

Mrs. Pustina mentioned the Greater Watertown Community Health Foundation did a presentation to a lot of local leaders about Connectiveness. She also submitted a grant proposal to the Greater Watertown Community Health Foundation for a Peer to Peer Mentoring program.

Mrs. Enger is working on scheduling stuff for next school year. Last year Nickel Night gave the Johnson Creek School District \$5,000 and they are creating an outdoor classroom between the 2-4 dome and middle school dome for the students to use.

Mr. O'Connell stated nine students from the High School are being recognized as AP Scholar's. He congratulated Kiya Imig as being an AP Scholar with Distinction. Mr. O'Connell also shared some stats including 36% of the 2023-24 seniors left with college credit and 50% of the 2023-24 graduating class took an AP course last year.

Mr. Gruen mentioned summer school went well. He reminded the Board members to get their bio sheets to him for the school website.

Board Member Comments

Mr. Wrensch has been very concerned with stuff on Facebook in regards to the Moms for Liberty group so he did some research and shared what he found.

Mrs. Norby mentioned how awesome of a school Johnson Creek is and she advocates for all students.

Mr. Johnson mentioned he is proud of our school and appreciates all the audience members for coming tonight.

Mrs. Steenbergen thanked everyone who came to the Board meeting tonight.

Mr. Trapp is amazed at how far the AP program has come since he has been in school at Johnson Creek.

Committee Reports

None

Motion by Steenbergen/Norby to adjourn. Motion Carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Rebecca A. Stewart
District Administrative Assistant