

JOHNSON CREEK SCHOOL DISTRICT
Regular Board of Education Meeting Minutes
Monday, September 16, 2024
5:00 p.m.
High School Room 114

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, George Nimm, Justin Rageth, Brittanie Rageth, Shelby Keller, Charles Moehling, Jennifer Tracy, Jammie Trapp, Edward Havlik, Sara Wilder, Les Gray, Paula Constable, Heidi Hartz, Jennifer Stiegman, and Kristin Chowanec

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

Motion by Wensch/Draeger 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 August 19, 2024. Motion Carried.

Community Viewpoint

George Nimm mentioned he would like the referendum mailings, signs, and banners to include the tax levy impact, mil rate impact, and impact on a typical home. He also questions children taking home referendum materials in their backpacks. George also asked if the sale of the old school would be under the revenue limits and if we would be able to spend that money?

Jennifer Tracy stated she likes information being sent home with the children.

Shelby Keller was hoping to get some response from the Board after speaking at the July Board meeting reassuring her about the LGBTQ+ youth are members of the community and are protected, however, she hasn't. Therefore, she is back tonight asking for inclusion for all and transparency from the Board and District.

Business Affairs/Treasurer's Report

Motion by Draeger/Steenbergen to approve Accounts Payable checks 246127-246283 in the amount of \$2,601,699.71, no Wire Transfers, Payroll check 15814 in the amount of \$954.50, and Payroll ETF transaction 900955822-900955888 in the amount of \$87,154.85.

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 Wensch/Steenbergen to approve Food Service employee Amarilis Ramirez, Middle School Boys Basketball Coach Ethan Buss, and Elementary Student Council Co-Advisor Stacy Miller. Motion Carried.

Motion by Steenbergen/Norby to approve Marc Blakeley leave request for Thursday, March 20 – Friday, March 21, 2025 leading up to Spring Break using his 2 personal days and to approve Kaylene Nicolet leave request for November 11th – 15th using her 3 personal days and 2 sick days. Motion Carried.

Motion by Draeger/Norby to approve the mentor contracts of \$1,157 each for Jamie Blakeley, Megan Perkins, and Kelsey Johnson. Motion Carried.

New Business

No action was taken on the moving the October Board meeting date. The October Board meeting will remain on Monday, October 21, 2024.

Motion by Steenbergen/Trapp for the Board to conduct a closed session pursuant to Wis. Stats. § 19.85(1)(e) 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), Norby (Y), Siewert (Y), Steenbergen (Y), Trapp (Y), Wensch (Y).

Yes – 7

No – 0

Absent – 0

Motion Carried

The Board returned to open session.

Communications

Administrative Report

Mr. O'Connell stated sports are up and running. Homecoming week also starts on Sunday.

Mrs. Enger stated everything is going well with their new schedule. She also mentioned that she was told by a sub who does not work at Johnson Creek daily that whatever we are doing this year to create a positive environment is working!

Mrs. Pustina stated she currently has 35 students (6th – 12th) and 8 community partners signed up for the Sources of Strength Peer Mentoring program. She also has been working with Jay and Vanna Leonard, who are local police officers and have a therapy dog named Moose.

Board Member Comments

Mr. Johnson was glad to see we had a good turnout for the Budget Hearing and Annual Meeting.

Mrs. Norby mentioned she wanted to reiterate from the July meeting that she definitely advocates for all students in the school.

Kiya Imig is excited for homecoming week to start.

Committee Reports

None

Conduct the Annual Budget Hearing

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

State of the District 2024

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.

Budget Review

Mr. Gruen stated the 2024-25 proposed budget:

- The District's total 39 debt is approximately 20 million and it was around 38 million in 2021.

Mr. Gruen reviewed the Budget.

Running a deficit for 4th year in a row – made \$750,000 in cuts – still projected to be 1.3 million in deficit for 2024-25.

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

Following the Annual Meeting the Board meeting did not resume.

Respectfully submitted,

Rebecca A. Stewart
District Administrative Assistant