

The Johnstown-Monroe Local School District Board of Education met in a special and joint session with the Johnstown City Council on January 27, 2025, at the Johnstown Middle School, Library located at 401 S. Oregon Street, Johnstown, Ohio 43031. President, Tim Swauger, called the meeting to order at 5:07 p.m. Responding to roll call were: Alan Benton, Ruth Ann Booher, Amanda Davis, Tim Swauger, and Anne Thomas. Also present were Philip Wagner, Superintendent, and Felicia Drummey, Treasurer.

These written minutes, with resolutions passed and any attachments, in combination with the video recording of regular meetings and audio recording of work sessions of Board proceedings, which is available to the public <https://www.youtube.com/@jmsdyoutube5802> together constitute the official minutes of the meeting of the Johnstown-Monroe Local School District Board.

1. Opening of Meeting

Procedural: A. Call to Order

Procedural: B. Invocation by City Representative

Procedural: C. Pledge of Allegiance

Procedural: D. City Council Roll Call

Procedural: E. Board of Education (BOE) President calls on Treasurer to Take Roll

Procedural: F. BOE Reading of the Notice of the Meeting
Recited by Philip Wagner

2. Presentation of the Agenda

Procedural: A. Additions or Deletions to the City Council Agenda

Procedural: B. Approval of City Council Agenda

Procedural: C. Additions or Deletions to the BOE Agenda

Action: D. Resolution #25-01-020: Adoption of the BOE Agenda
(not specified)

Motion by Alan Benton, second by Ruth Ann Booher.
Final Resolution: Motion Carried
Yea: Alan Benton, Ruth Ann Booher, Amanda Davis, Tim Swauger, Anne Thomas

3. Presentation of Prepared Remarks by the Public

Procedural: A. Citizen Comments on Matters not on the Agenda
None

Information: B. BOE Public Remarks
None

4. Topics for Discussion

Information: A. Purchase Contract, Lease, and Strategic Planning

5. City Council Comments

6. Board of Education Comments

7. Superintendent's Comments

Both governing bodies discussed items 4 through 7 simultaneously

Philip Wagner reviewed the school district enrollment projections and future planning priorities to level-set conversations about growth and facility needs. He also shared conceptual drawings and site plans of floor plans Option A and Option B for the multi-purpose building. Dr. Wagner indicated a lot of work is in progress toward the High School Addition. The school district is up against the deadline to make decisions if the multi-purpose building is to open next fall.

Bob Orsini is very involved in wrestling and indicated that a multi-purpose building on the north campus would hurt participation and inquired about transportation options. Jeff Barr shared that he is involved in JYAA at the Barn and freeing up space in Belt Barn would allow increased participation for younger students that are coming up in sports programs.

Dr. Wagner indicated that the City property is important to obtain to fulfill future School District goals of a centralized campus.

Sean Staneart, city administrator, shared that the lease presented at the last council meeting has challenges and is not functional

in its current format. He suggested a meeting with the township to understand the township's needs better. He would like to explore the sale of the building to the school with alternatives such as a phased approach. He shared that the city's current need is for 2100 sq. ft for the administrative department and 3000-4000 sq. ft. to include the police department. The police current is 5100 sq ft, roughly 7,000 to 8,000 sq ft would be ideal but could even need up to 10,000 sq. ft. Mr. Staneart indicated that future housing density would impact the city's square footage requirements. He encouraged the smaller committee to work with the school on exploring shared space, usage, costs, and needs then bring back a recommendation to each of the governing bodies.

Dr. Wagner encouraged the bodies to make a decision on the sale of the property now and continue exploring alternatives with the townships.

Mr.Swauger indicated that the township lease was not supportive of the police department, leaving the school district only to determine where is the lean two going. Mr. Barhard shared that he trusts the committee to identify a suitable location and move forward with the multi-purpose building.

Mrs. Booher noted that both entities appear to agree upon a) the sale of the building, b) the price, and c) the time constraints and encouraged clear-cut ideas from the city on a suitable solution.

Mr. Staneart expressed that the city has financial constraints and has explored creative solutions with limited options. He stated that while the city has some land, building a facility would be a financial challenge.

Mr. Swauger is interested in moving forward with the sale and school occupying the firehouse in the short term.

Mr. Staneart indicated an interest in shared safety solutions with police and fire.

Mr.Orsini expressed that Wrestling usually gives in for the greater good and wants to advocate for them.

Mrs. Hollis encouraged both entities to focus on the long-term goals. She said this is a first and great opportunity for both entities to do what is best for each entity in the long range.

Mr. Green said it is a great opportunity for all involved, but the problem is putting the cart before the horse.

Mrs. Booher shared that the 15-year lease is problematic. She understands it takes 3-5 years to build a building and encouraged the city to explore any positive idea to see what could work.

Mr. Orsini stated the city cannot build a building within 5 years.

Mr. Benton inquired if 10 years was feasible and asked what else the school do to help the city. He said the Board is willing to explore other possibilities because we want the solution to work for everyone in the community.

Mayor Barnard indicated that until the revenue issue passes the city cannot afford a new building. He is concerned that citizens have said no twice to new tax revenue.

Mrs. Thomas shared that she is also concerned about a 15-year lease. Mrs. Thomas shared her thinking of building the multi-purpose building on the north campus, for soccer, restrooms, and concessions.

Mr. Swauger said none of the challenges or opportunities is insurmountable and is confident the two boards can get this resolved quickly.

The smaller joint-sub committee will meet from 12:30 to 1:30 on Friday to brainstorm options for the lean two and then return the information to the City council for its February 4th meeting so that way any action items requiring action of the school board can be ready for Monday, Feb 10th.

8. Meeting Closing

Procedural: A. Johnstown City Council Adjournment

Action: B. Resolution #25-01-021: BOE Adjournment

Motion that the Board of Education meeting is hereby adjourned at 6:22 PM.

Motion by Ruth Ann Booher, second by Alan Benton.

Final Resolution: Motion Carried

Yea: Alan Benton, Ruth Ann Booher, Amanda Davis, Tim Swauger, Anne Thomas

Board President

Treasurer