JOHNSTOWN-MONROE LOCAL SCHOOLS

October 5, 2018 **Special Session**

The Johnstown-Monroe Local Board of Education met in Special Session on Friday, October 5, 2018 at 12:00 p.m. in the High School Innovation Center, Room 102. Roll call was answered by Mr. Benton, Mr. Beverick, Mrs. Booher, and Mr. Swauger. Mr. Dodderer was absent.

DISCUSSION – Dialogue with administration on academic and curricular strategies

Mr. Dickson introduced Mrs. Almendinger to discuss current curriculum and strategies being implemented at the Middle School. Mrs. Almendinger explained the underlying philosophies and the 3 tier system currently in place to instruct different student needs. She discussed the committees currently in place to address various aspects of the school's operations. She explained the transition process from Elementary to Middle to High School on both ends, and how the Middle School helps facilitate students. Mr. Swauger asked about the process for changing student schedules throughout the year, based on need. Mrs. Almendinger detailed a few specific cases, and explained the general process around this. Mr. Swauger voiced his desire to have as many students involved in extracurricular activities as possible, to help reinforce social skills. Mr. Busenburg said the high school has approximately 92% of the students involved in something. He also explained that C-tec is able to exclude students at its discretion, and this presents a problem getting some students involved in vocational. Mrs. Booher asked about the credit recovery process. Mr. Busenburg and Mrs. Almendinger explained that credit recovery is handled through JOLT, and there is no charge for this, as the District's costs are fixed. Mr. Swauger asked how additional time and PD with teachers could help with some of the programming. Mrs. Wilson and Mrs. Almendinger explained that it is hard to put a number on how much more, but any additional would be helpful.

Mr. Benton indicated that state mandates can take away from the educational process and how larger schools can designate resources toward specific needs while smaller schools can't afford it. The principals discussed how much time is spent on discipline, and other matters that take away from instructional coaching and curriculum. Mrs. Wilson and Mrs. Smith explained the needs of the Elementary, including the benefit of having a student support specialist or guidance counselor. The individual could take some of the items off of the principal's, and they could better focus on instruction and curriculum needs. Mr. Dickson explained the districts hiring a social-emotional person to help students is a growing trend. He has also discussed at the County level, that County agencies should be focusing their efforts to help these issues. Mr. Benton explained the efforts of the High School staff in addressing behavioral issues and discipline.

Mrs. Smith and Mrs. Wilson discussed how students need to be able to better learn problem solving and life skills that will better support them later in life. Different strategies were discussed to help address this area. Mrs. Almendinger explained that a guidance counselor at the Elementary would help with a lot of these issues, and would help students learn these skills at a young age.

Mrs. Smith and Mrs. Wilson gave a presentation on the current curriculum at the Elementary School, as well as areas to address and areas of need. They discussed the 3rd grade reading guarantee, and the regulations and processes in place to help students achieve this. Mrs. Eyerman discussed that the ELL population is rising, and discussed the challenges of having only one employee assisting in addressing the needs of these students.

Mr. Busenburg gave a presentation on the High School curriculum, goals, needs and initiatives. He stressed collaboration, social skills, and involvement as key focuses. He discussed the new student ambassador program, which allows students to visit and shadow students from other schools. He explained the student mentorship program, designed to help new students adjust. He discussed preparation for college, the workforce, and life after high school.

The Board expressed that they will further review and analyze this information from the meeting, and reconvene this group to discuss ideas and strategies at a future date.

18-087 ADJOURNMENT

Moved by Mr. Beverick, seconded by Mr. Benton to adjourn the meeting at 2:58 p.m.

Aye: Mr. Beverick, Mr. Benton, Mrs. Booher, and Mr. Swauger
Motion Carried

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Treasurer	President