JOHNSTOWN-MONROE LOCAL SCHOOLS

February 4, 2020 **Special Session**

The Johnstown-Monroe Local Board of Education met in Special Session on Tuesday, February 4, 2020 at 4:00 p.m. in Room 102 at the High School. Roll call was answered by Mr. Benton, Mrs. Davis, Mr. Swauger, Mrs. Thomas, and Mrs. Booher.

SILENT PRAYER
PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

ANNOUNCEMENTS/VISITORS/AUDIENCE COMMENTS

Mr. Chuck Kessler welcomed new board members. Mr. Kessler and his wife moved here in 1958 and began teaching and coaching for over 30 years. Mr. Kessler was also the Athletic Director and Principal, and Superintendent for four years. Mr. Kessler noted he was not as fond as being Superintendent as he was of day to day action. He went on to Licking County Board of Education, and then on to the Department of Education as a Title VI-B auditor. He retired with 51 years of experience in education. He has worked with many Superintendents throughout his career, and he feels our current Superintendent has done an outstanding job. He has overseen the largest building project in Mr. Kessler's memory. He congratulated Mr. Dickson and Mrs. Seibel on their three year contracts, but he was disappointed it wasn't unanimous. Mr. Kessler knows this is the best administrative team that the district has ever had. Mr. Kessler is most proud of this district because it turns out outstanding students, and he hopes everyone is thankful for what we have here. He understands that 90% of students are involved in an extracurricular activity, which is a testament to our great staff. He urges everyone to work together, which he understands is a give and take situation, but the goal has to be for the betterment of the students, because they are our product. Lastly, Mr. Kessler asked the board to adhere to the code of ethics on the OSBA website. Understand that you are one vote on a school board. Delegate the authority to the Superintendent and staff. Express your personal opinion but accept the vote of the majority. Mr. Kessler is speaking from his heart and his wife's heart as well.

Alice Main also mentioned her longevity in the district. She is so proud to be a Johnnie, she was in a marching band of thirty. Mrs. Main was on the search committee for the Superintendent and congratulated Mr. Dickson and Mrs. Seibel on their new contracts. She welcomed the new board members, and knows it is a privilege and an honor, and hopes everyone will move forward for the kids of the district.

Louie Main is also very proud of this school system. Mr. Main has worked with Mr. Dickson as a council member. As a council member he hears a lot of outside comments regarding the schools. He appreciates that the leadership of the district promotes the good of the village as well.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

Committees:

Mrs. Booher mentioned the Oversight Committee that she and Mr. Swauger would like to continue to serve on. Under that committee would be Searfoss renovation, weight room, donor bricks, board office, punch list, building décor, etc., as suggestions.

Mr. Benton mentioned he would like to see a survey, with staff involvement, for Searfoss that is comprehensive. He said the first thing to know is how we intend to use and staff that building before we decide on a scope of project. Mrs. Booher noted that some of the items Mr. Benton is requesting have been completed. Mr. Benton indicated he is not referring as much to the architecture and what we can do with the building, but the functionality and operation. Mr. Benton also mentioned that Mr. Dodderer had spoken to him before the meeting and he would like to continue to be involved in this project since he was the point person on the project during his term. Mrs. Booher asked if an underground utility line map exists to see how much of an addition can actually be done. Mr. Dickson indicated the previous presentation did make a recommendation for an addition. Mr. Benton would like to increase the priority of this project, as we have been talking about it for a few years now. Mr. Dickson reminded the board that this project will exceed the $50,000 competitive bid threshold and we will have to work with the options of the Ohio Revised Code. Mr. Dickson suggested the board consult with the attorney who specializes in construction for guidance on how to proceed. He noted the current contracts with Robertson and BHSM may be able to be extended, but if the board wishes to use another firm, there would be additional time involved. It would be a matter of deciding if we want to be a design build or CMR. Mr. Dickson said that the objectionable language in the contract is required by state law to be included per our attorney. The attorney suggested that if we are happy with the current architect and contractor, then there would be time and cost savings by extending the contract. Mrs. Thomas asked if there was a design already for the weight room. Mr. Dickson indicated there was not. Mr. Dickson believes the priority is for the board to

decide if this is going to be a temporary solution or is this going to be a 40-50 year solution. Mr. Dickson asked if the board would like him to find and architect for the weight room separately. He also noted that a big reason not to delay these projects is the upcoming storm shelter requirements, which are costly. Any building used as a classroom must meet these requirements and the weight room would qualify. Mr. Dickson also noted that Mrs. Gillis suggested that if we have the cash in hand to do the project, we would not be subject to the storm shelter requirements. Mrs. Booher believes we have the background data for the project and we will be ready to make a decision soon. Mr. Benton inquired on the timeline. Mrs. Booher suggested in the next month to six weeks we should make a determination on the weight room. Mr. Swauger suggested we can have the scope completed by March. Mrs. Booher inquired if there is a reason our employees couldn't do the demo of the interior walls. Mr. Dickson and Mr. Swauger said no, we could do the demo. The board agreed we would have a direction by March.

Weight Room option: Mrs. Thomas and Mr. Swauger

Curriculum (especially Project Lead the Way): Mrs. Davis and Mr. Benton
Mrs. Wilson noted that curriculum is driven by state standards and is not a local driven item. Mrs. Davis wants to be a part of such a large project. Mr. Benton would like to be involved as well for its technology tie in. Mrs. Davis would like to be the general PLTW point person for the board. Mrs. Seibel explained that after the last meeting, the state coordinator came in to meet with teachers and administrators as appropriate to see if we are on track. She noted that until the trainings are published or there is a hire, there won't be much. Mrs. Thomas indicated everyone is excited about the project and Mrs. Booher agreed the board wants to see the process. Mrs. Thomas suggested that liaison is a better term for these items.

Technology: Mr. Benton will remain on board.

Policy: Mrs. Thomas currently does this for her job, so it will be her and Mrs. Booher.

Grounds and Maintenance: Mrs. Thomas will be the point person on this committee.

Village Liaison: Mrs. Booher

Vendor Contracts: Mrs. Pulley to investigate contracts and report back to the board.

Insurance Committee: Mrs. Thomas and Mrs. Booher

North End Reclamation: Mrs. Booher requested an update. Mr. Dickson noted demolition is done and there will be a one-year walkthrough in July. We installed the middle school softball field. We are replacing the dugouts and the fencing is almost done (weather hasn't helped). Mr. Dickson indicated we will be using shipping containers for the new dugouts. The cost is around $12,000 instead of $54,000 and no permits are required. Mrs. Booher noted that the best part is the dugouts would be moveable if needed. Mrs. Booher inquired about the taps. Mr. Swauger indicated the boys will be on the lower field and the girls on the upper fields and suggests a port-a-john instead of putting in electric and water at this point. The taps are cut and plugged but are still there for future use.

Mrs. Booher inquired about the board having a second meeting each month. Mrs. Thomas would be in favor of the second meeting. Mrs. Davis would rather have the meeting scheduled and on her calendar. Mr. Busenburg inquired if action would be taken at these meetings. Mrs. Booher stated that under normal circumstances, no action would be taken. An agenda would be published for the meeting. On the agenda for the next meeting, there will be an agenda item to add a work session to the fourth Monday of the month at 6:30 p.m.

Mrs. Booher asked to follow up for the new Board members to have badges/electronic access to buildings. Laptops were determined to not be necessary at this time.

Mrs. Booher updated on the trophy cases. Someone came in to do measurements, but he has not been heard from since. We are looking for someone with carpentry skills.

Scoreboard Discussion:
Soil samples have been delayed until next week due to the rain. Turf has been cut back and is ready to go. Mr. Swauger indicated that our samples will determine if it is going to be spread footing or pier. Mr. Swauger noted the scoreboard will be placed behind the bandstand. The original quote was for $75,000 for a board set 10 feet off the ground. As the board design was completed, the size of the board grew, and the footings are different with the larger size. The

pier footing is more expensive, as you drill two five foot holes 40 feet into the ground and fill with concrete ($118,000). Spread footing is 31 feet long, 15 feet deep, and 18 feet wide. You would definitely see something above the ground, but not sure exactly how much. Cost for spread footing would be $105,000. Mr. Swauger indicated if the samples support it, he would like to see spread footing as the installation. The installation is less, and the product is better. The other board members concurred. Mr. Kessler asked to speak to state just how proud he is of the men who have donated to this project and he is blown away by the caliber of student Johnstown produces.

20-017 Moved Mr. Mr. Swauger, seconded by Mr. Benton to approve installation up to $118,000.

Aye: Mr. Swauger, Mr. Benton, Mrs. Davis, Mrs. Thomas, and Mrs. Booher.
Motion carried.

OLD BUSINESS

Mr. Benton mentioned the Village would like to do a presentation for the new board and for the board to decide to either support or not the creation of a joint recreation board. Mrs. Thomas indicated she would like to hear from the Village. Mr. Dickson will invite someone to present.

Mrs. Davis asked about recognition for the group of people who cleared lunch accounts. Mr. Dickson indicated the group had been invited to the next regular board meeting.

Mrs. Thomas asked about the creation of a Johnnie store, in order to support the elementary or middle schools. These items would not be sports specific but generic to the district. Mrs. Booher mentioned Ms. Chumney had investigated some options online previously. The board concurred Mrs. Thomas will work with Ms. Chumney on this project.

Mr. Benton brought up ESL services, which he knows are limited. He feels, however, it is difficult for a young student who does not have English as a primary language and would like to see if there is a way for the district to better service these students. Mr. Dickson noted we currently have 32 ESL students and a paraprofessional. It is likely this will need to evolve into a full time teaching position but we had been trying to hold off on this. Mr. Benton would like to see us be proactive to this population. The board would like to see a presentation on the current program.

Mr. Swauger would like to video board meetings. Mrs. Davis noted that she has heard from community members they would like that as well. This will be added to the February 10, 2020 agenda.

Mrs. Booher would like to have a file room in Searfoss to use as a place to view files, blueprints, etc. The board concurred they would be fine with this.

Mr. Swauger had spoken with Mrs. Almendinger and Mr. Busenburg regarding bell schedules and also block scheduling. Mrs. Almendinger indicated that lining up the bells does not solve the problem due to staffing issues. She indicated that Mr. Rings is looking into some options as he is a more creative thinker. Mr. Swauger noted we should consider this when discussing Searfoss as well and how it can be incorporated.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

20-018 Moved by Mrs. Thomas, seconded by Mrs. Davis to move into Executive Session at 5:54p.m. As permitted by law, matters to be discussed in Executive Session involve:

(1) Consideration of the appointment, employment, dismissal, discipline, promotion, demotion, or compensation of a public employee, or official;

Aye: Mrs. Thomas, Mrs. Davis, Mr. Benton, Mr. Swauger, and Mrs. Booher
Motion carried.

President declares board out of Executive Session at 7:20 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

20-019 Moved by Mrs. Davis, seconded by Mr. Benton to adjourn the meeting at 7:21 p.m.

Aye: Mrs. Davis, Mr. Benton, Mr. Swauger, Mrs. Thomas, and Mrs. Booher

JOHNSTOWN-MONROE LOCAL SCHOOLS

Motion carried.

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Treasurer President