JOHNSTOWN-MONROE LOCAL SCHOOLS

July 27, 2020 **Work Session**

The Johnstown-Monroe Local Board of Education met in Work Session on Monday, June 27, 2020 at 6:30 p.m. in the High School, Room 102 and streamed via the District's Facebook account. 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 voiced his disappointment in the treatment of the Superintendent at the previous meeting. Mr. Kessler praised the fundraising team for the scoreboard, but expressed his disappointment again at the treatment of Mr. Dickson. Mr. Kessler also noted that he had done some research following some of the comments of the previous meeting. He was interested to find that Johnstown had the second highest third and fourth grade math scores in Licking County. Fifth grade was third in the county, Sixth was second, Seventh was third, and Eighth grade was second in math in Licking County. Mr. Kessler also noted that of the 115 graduates, 78 (or68%) asked for their transcripts to be sent to colleges beyond high school.

Dr. Kathy Benton noted that on the agenda is a resolution to spend $750,000 to look at renovating Searfoss. She questioned why the public would want to know why the Board is giving its authority to two Board members to drive this project. She noted we don't need another albatross around our neck, we need a plan.

20-085 Mr. Benton made a motion to invite OSBA to come in to make a presentation on the role of the Board, the role of administration, and education regarding the Sunshine Law. Mrs. Davis inquired if the OSBA was the proper organization to do this, and Mr. Benton noted that he had the opportunity to talk to two attorneys and this is what he was told. Mr. Swauger asked if it was the same presentation as the New School Board Seminar OSBA offered. Mr. Benton noted it is tailored to our request. Mrs. Booher noted the OSBA has an annual conference that Board members can elect to attend. Mrs. Davis seconded the motion.

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

Mr. Swauger asked if we could find out if that would count toward our public records requirements.

TREASURER'S RECOMMENDATIONS:

Discussion before the motion: Mrs. Pulley explained that this schedule is necessary because the Cleaning Technician is a new class of employee, therefore a new column on the salary schedule needed to be created.

20-086 Moved by Mr. Benton, seconded by Mr. Swauger to approve the FY21 Salary Schedule as presented.

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

SUPERINTENDENT'S RECOMMENDATIONS:

a. To approve Policy 8450.01 COVID-19 Face Covering Requirements, as presented.

Discussion before the motion: A broader discussion regarding policy and the need to update them ensued. Mrs. Booher asked if it would be to our benefit to see if other organizations or our own attorney would improve our policy manuals.

20-087 Moved by Mr. Swauger, seconded by Mr. Benton to table this motion until the August meeting.

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

SUPERINTENDENT'S PERSONNEL RECOMMENDATIONS

20-088 Moved by Mr. Benton, seconded by Mr. Swauger to approve the Superintendent's Personnel Recommendations as presented.

a. To approve the following Certified position for employment contracts, for the 2020-2021 school year, as listed, pending approval of BCI and/or FBI clearance as required, contingent upon obtaining/holding required certification and completion of all other required documentation. Should requirements not be met, this offer of employment will be considered null and void.

Cannon, Chelsea	H.S. Intervention	M/Step 1	1 year

b. To approve the change of salary schedule for Theresa Edwards, Food Service Administrative Assistant, to the Classified Food Service Administrative Assistant salary schedule, step 2, effective with the 2020-2021 school year.

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

ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

- Weight Room Project – Project is moving along nicely. Ms. Travis and Mrs. Pulley indicated the purchase order for the weight room equipment will be issued this week. Mr. Swauger indicated Mr. Hazelbaker will take care of getting the booster portion to us once the purchase order is finalized. Mrs. Booher noted Robertson mentioned it would take about 6 weeks to complete once construction begins.
  Mr. Swauger also noted we would need to look at our wrestling program since they had been using Searfoss as a practice space. A representative from JYAA (Mike Gianni) noted the youth wrestling program is coming under the JYAA umbrella and there will be space for the district team to practice, though further discussion is needed on this point.

- Searfoss Project: Mrs. Booher noted the Oversight Committee is involved in this project and was involved in several building projects. She noted community members, administrators and staff have been involved in the project to date. She also noted that in a bond issue project, the budget is set based on the amount of the bond issue. This is an independent project.
  Mr. Swauger explained the Oversight Committee and its purpose. Mr. Swauger noted that the difference between this project and others is the Superintendent is not involved but the building administrators are. He explained this resolution is to design the building to get the project out to bid. Mr. Swauger also noted that engineering tends to be a higher percentage cost of a project on a remodel versus a new construction. Mr. Swauger noted that we do not want to get additional bonded money, but that we want to spend current dollars. This project is estimated by the engineering firm as a 7-8 million dollar project.
  Mr. Benton noted that when we did the middle school renovation the cost ended up about 75% higher than the original estimate. He asked for the committee to be cognizant of whether that 7-8 million cost is what we want to spend versus and increased cost that would get us closer to the cost of a new building.
  Mrs. Booher noted that we are looking at a walkway between the PAC/middle school and the Searfoss building in order to be able to share services between the buildings.
  Discussion also ensued regarding an owner representative for this project. The Board agreed to hold off on this representative unless we felt it was needed later.

20-089 Moved by Mr. Swauger, seconded by Mr. Benton to approve the Resolution authorizing the Oversight Committee to negotiate the Searfoss project, approve the contract amendment for architectural services, and approve a preconstruction amendment with the construction manager.

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

- Return to School Planning:
  Update on Opt Out/Transportation Survey Results
  Update of Spread of Virus
  Current Information from state and county

  Mrs. Seibel presented in Mr. Dickson's absence. She noted a FAQ had been posted and will be continued to be added to as more information is available. Over 1,400 responses have been received regarding learning options. Mrs. Seibel noted this information was

critical in order to plan the online and in person learning options. Mrs. Thomas inquired if a student had a positive Covid test, what would happen if they were unable to get tested again to have a negative test. She also inquired regarding absenteeism and truancy. Mrs. Seibel noted she would direct those questions to Mr. Dickson and the health department, and that also we are waiting on guidance from the state regarding the absenteeism. Mr. Benton asked if a student is going to be quarantined, would they be able to participate in the Johnnie Learning Academy. Mrs. Seibel indicated she is meeting with administrators tomorrow and Wednesday to hammer out those details. There was some discussion regarding delaying the start of the school year. Mrs. Seibel noted of those survey results so far, 25% have indicated a preference for the online instruction. Mr. Benton wanted to thank the teachers for being willing to work with us and he appreciates their flexibility. Mrs. Davis also noted she wants the Board to support the teachers in bringing back our students in the safest way possible. Mrs. Seibel said we are blessed with such a group of teachers and principals.
Mr. Kessler commended the staff, administrators and Board for their work in what is clearly a challenging time.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

20-090 Moved by Mr. Swauger, seconded by Mrs. Thomas to move into Executive Session at 8:30 p.m. As permitted by law, matters to be discussed in Executive Session may involve:

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

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

President declares Board out of Executive Session at 10:22 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

20-091 Moved by Mrs. Davis, seconded by Mr. Swauger to adjourn the meeting at 10:24 p.m.

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

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Treasurer President