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BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING SUMMARIES: June 10 & June 13, 2024

### **Johnstown-Monroe Board approves new administrators, educators & more**

June 10, 2024 Regular Meeting

The Johnstown-Monroe Board of Education approved selection of Robertson Construction Services, Inc., for the District's planned improvement projects at its Regular Session meeting on June 10, 2024.

The projects include an expansion of Johnstown High School with six additional classrooms; a new Administrative Office Building; a new Multipurpose Facility to be used for athletics, curricular activities, and community events; and an addition to or renovation of the Performing Arts Center that will increase the number of seats from 580-700.

Revised Johnstown-Monroe District Calendars for the coming and next two school years were also approved by the Board. These include minor revisions for the 2024-25 and 2024-2026 calendars, as well as approval of the 2026-27 calendar.

Approved resignations included that of Intervention Specialist Christy Rose, who is retiring after 28 years with Johnstown-Monroe Schools. She was praised for "her heart for students" and "ability to meet students where they are," her integrity, and "respect for students, parents and colleagues," as well as her "unwillingness to lower the bar."

Paraprofessional Mark Fleisher's retirement was also approved after eight years of service to Johnstown Schools. He came to Johnstown-Monroe as a retired teacher and "embedded himself in both the school and community, volunteering throughout his time with sports activities."

Two overnight field trips received approval from the Board, one for next year's 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Washington, D.C.; the other for the Ohio Leadership Institute — Ohio Model United Nations this December.

Superintendent Dr. Philip H. Wagner shared reminders regarding the annual Firemen's Festival, scheduled from June 19-22, and the accompanying parade on June 22, which is scheduled to begin at 11 a.m.

Plans also continue in preparation for the Johnstown Fireworks Display, scheduled from 5-11 p.m., Friday, July 5, at Frank H. Chamber's Stadium.

June 13, 2024, Special Meeting

The Board of Education approved hiring of three high-profile positions during a Special Board meeting on June 13, 2024.



**Kathleen Shambaugh (left), seen with Johnstown Elementary School Principal Roben Wagoner, will be joining JES as an intervention specialist with the 2024-25 school year.**

**Bradley Wehrman** will become the new Johnstown Intermediate School Principal for the 2024-25 school year. Mr. Wehrman has served variously as a principal of grades K-3 and K-5 for Southwest Licking Local Schools since 2013, supervising approximately 500 students.

He previously served as an assistant principal within the Licking Valley Local School District and makes his home in Licking County.



**Bradley Wehrman**



**Greg Gantt**

**Greg Gantt** has been selected as J-M's new athletic director. He comes to Johnstown from South-Western City Schools, where he currently serves as Athletic Supervisor at Westland High School.

Among his accomplishments, Mr. Gantt is credited with building of a substantial social media presence for athletics and restoration of the school's gymnastic program after a seven-year lapse. Also, he has partnered with a current NFL player to host a free youth camp.

Mr. Gantt also coordinated a successful fundraising effort for weight room enhancements and orchestrated a new coaching evaluation system. He previously served with Harvest Preparatory School in Canal Winchester and also was an associate head basketball coach at Independence High School in Columbus.

**Abby Fitz** was approved June 13 to serve as the new Dean of Students at Johnstown Middle School.

She comes to J-M from Licking Valley Local Schools and Licking Valley Middle School where her various educational roles have included math instruction (including at-risk math and Algebra 1) since 2007, reading Intervention provider (2010-2013), and Language Arts instruction (2009).



**Abby Fitz**

Additionally, she has served on the Licking Valley "Building Leadership Team" since 2018, and as a member of the Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports (PBIS) Leadership Team and District Special Education Committee (2015-17).

Abby Fitz is also a highly successful and well-regarded volleyball coach at Licking Valley, with service in that coaching role reaching back to 2007. She is a Licking County resident and has served on the Crossroads Christian Church Sunday School Leadership Team since 2019.

**Tina Cox** joins Johnstown High School as an instructional paraprofessional and as the new Johnstown Girls Volleyball Head Coach. She comes to J-M from Licking Heights, where she also has been a highly successful Softball and Girls and Boys Volleyball coach. In 2022, she earned the D2 Coach of the Year Award.

In other June 13 hiring approvals, the Board extended a teaching contract to **Joel Foxall**, who comes from Harvest Prep and who will be teaching Spanish at Johnstown High School this coming school year.



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Two new Intervention Specialists were also approved for service to Johnstown Middle School: **Emilee Edwards** and **Vincente Giardino**.

Previously, it was announced JMS Dean of Students **Nick Hancock** will assume the position of Middle School Principal with the coming year, succeeding Kris Almendinger who is retiring after many years of distinguished service to Johnstown-Monroe Schools.

During its Regular Session May meeting, the BOE also approved the hiring of **Christian Grove** as Johnstown High School's new Dean of Students. Mr.



**Nick Hancock**