



JOHNSTOWN-MONROE SCHOOL DISTRICT

BOARD SUMMARY, Sept. 14, 2023

J-M Board approves new branding icons, colors & fonts; receives enrollment update

At its Thursday evening special session on Sept. 14, 2023, the J-M Board of Education unanimously adopted official colors, fonts, building emblems/medallions, and “J” with Top-Hat for future branding purposes.

As previously noted, the Johnnie mascot will continue to be refined toward a refreshed version, based on a staff survey and community input for later BOE consideration. The existing or “retro” Johnny will remain available for use.

However, as noted at the meeting, the board-approved branding elements will also be trademarked and housed in a controllable brand locker, giving the district and allied organizations — the PTO, Athletic Boosters, and so forth — greater protection and use control of the new images, as well as consistent color and font use for uniforms, helmets, etc.



Superintendent Dr. Philip H. Wagner praised the team spearheading the branding effort, particularly board member Ruth Ann Booher, who has been a driving force throughout the project.

Dr. Wagner and Operations Director Derick Busenburg shared a plan for structuring, reviewing and approving overnight trips and procedures with the board.

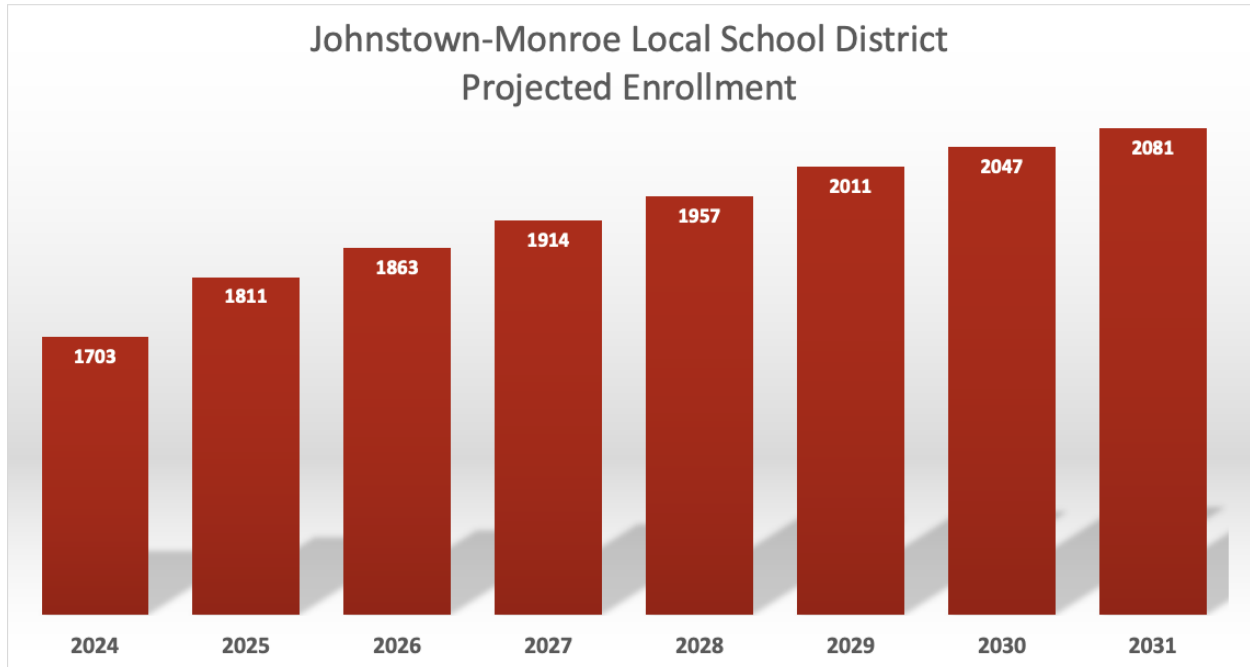
Also, they shared most recent student enrollment and forecasting, but stressing current models for district growth also do not yet factor in potential growth from Intel and allied commercial and residential developments because such enrollment impacts cannot yet be modeled in a meaningful way.

Dr. Wagner and board members stressed they are not interested in deliberately “growing” the district in the manner of some other area school districts which operate multiple high schools and middle schools. The school board members stressed commitment to maintaining “one district” and one high school and one middle school. Board President Tim Swauger stated his belief that when you add a second high school within a district, you effectively, “divide a community.”

The board restated its commitment that future commercial and residential developments adhere to development compensation agreements now being shaped that will ensure infrastructure and staffing needs resulting from enrollment growth are paid for by tax revenues encumbered from the developments, thereby insulating local residents against further tax increases.



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In other business, Dr. Wagner discussed the various forms of recognition made within buildings at age-appropriate levels to remember and recognize the attacks of September 11, 2001.

A few hours before the meeting, the state issued its annual School Report Cards for the 2022-23 school year. Because of a two-year averaging system employed in shaping the report cards, there was outwardly little difference from last year's J-M Card, Dr. Wagner said. The district again received four-out-of-five stars, exceeding state standards.

However, Dr. Wagner noted that in digging deeper, there were a number of significant gains made over the past year, particularly in the area of math, which has been a focus of districtwide effort over the past year. Based on these gains, Dr. Wagner said there is likely much to anticipate when the 2023-24 State Report Cards are issued.

In committee reports, board member Anne Thomas summarized discussions at an August 29 meeting of the Buildings, Grounds & Safety Committee. She noted there was significant discussion of HVAC issues within the middle school. Bidding processes are underway to review baseball and softball walking paths.

Thomas said last school year, a safety assessment was made, and that exercise will be repeated this year. Last year's assessment has already resulted in upgrades to door security and security cameras throughout the district.

Board member Thomas also provided a summary of a recent Curriculum Committee meeting which also involved Johnstown-Monroe math coaches, noting there is great excitement around the increased math focus and new math curriculum. Thomas said a similar planned focus on science instruction was also discussed.