



JOHNSTOWN-MONROE SCHOOL DISTRICT

REGULAR BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING SUMMARY, November 13, 2023

Naval Veteran Receives JHS Diploma, Joining Class of 1964

The Johnstown-Monroe Board of Education awarded Mr. James W. Metz, Jr. his Johnstown High School Diploma in a special ceremony on November 13, 2023.

Mr. Metz would have graduated with the Class of 1964, but instead chose to enlist in the Navy at the age of 17, rather than waiting to be potentially drafted during the Vietnam War.

Accompanied by his wife, Carol, Mr. Metz was officially presented with his diploma, as well as a piece of Johnnie apparel reflecting a new branding image.



James and Carole Metz prior to the start of the Nov. 13, 2023, Board of Education meeting.

Superintendent Dr. Philip H. Wagner read a resolution stating in part, “In deep appreciation and admiration of your enlistment at age 17 for service with the U.S. Navy during the Vietnam War — including service aboard the USS Fort Snelling LSD-30, as well as during the Cuban Missile Crisis blockade — in accordance with Ohio Revised Code 3313.616, and in accordance with Johnstown-Monroe Local School Board Policy 9800, it is our distinct pleasure to inform you that you have satisfied all of the requirements to earn a high school diploma and to graduate from Johnstown High School. “

Mr. Metz told those assembled, “With God’s help, my mission has been completed... Thank you all for your time this evening. I truly appreciate it.” A special video regarding Mr. Metz’s diploma quest may be viewed [HERE](#).

Also, the Board of Education approved the final visual elements in the district’s rebranding process. An official “Brand Locker” containing the new and/or refreshed and trademarked images is nearly complete and will also permanently include the “Classic Johnnies” for those who prefer the retro-images.

In other business, the board was again approached by a number of LifeWise Academy supporters asking for lunch or recess release of interested students for off-school-site religious instruction.

The administration and Board of Education are in the process of updating district policies. One such policy regarding absences for religious instruction was among those policies being updated or rescinded because they no longer conform to current policy standards or laws.

The LifeWise representatives also asked that the board table rescission of the policy regarding absence for religion instruction. However, that policy, in addition to several other policies, received a second and final reading and the J-M Board of Education approved their rescission.

Board members also unanimously approved a resolution starting the process for the demolition of the former

District Board Office. For many years, the District administration operated from a former residential structure. Following a costly to repair waterline failure earlier this year, the decision was made to abandon the failing structure.

The district administration is currently operating from within the Intermediate School while plans are set for eventual construction of a new district office, tentatively upon the former administrative offices' site.

Before the close of the meeting, board members and Dr. Wagner also praised school staff and students for their moving and well-attended Veterans Day recognitions on Friday, Nov. 10. Video of each J-M school buildings' Veterans tributes can be found on the district's [official YouTube channel](#).

Enthusiastic praise was also lavished upon this year's sold-out Varsity Show.