

JOHNSTOWN-MONROE LOCAL SCHOOLS

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Board approves Kyle Higgins as new JHS Varsity Boys Basketball Coach

Kyle Higgins has been selected to serve as Johnstown High School Varsity Boys Basketball Coach starting with the 2023-24 school year.



The J-M Board of Education unanimously approved hiring Coach Higgins at its May 8, 2023, Regular Board Meeting.

Coach Higgins comes to Johnstown from Olentangy City Schools, where he has instructed English since 2016. He has served as Olentangy Orange's JV Boys Basketball Coach since 2018, and Orange Boys Varsity Assistant Basketball Coach since 2016.

Derick Busenburg named new J-M Director of Operations

Derick M. Busenburg, current principal at Johnstown High School, has been selected to become the district's new Director of Operations starting with the 2023-24 school year.

Busenburg has 18 years of administrative experience and has served as Principal of JHS since August 2015.

"Serving as a high school principal in such a wonderful and supportive community has been the highlight of my professional career," Busenburg recently stated. "During my eight years in Johnstown, our district has experienced a great deal of change, and in many ways, has made significant progress. However, I have never been more excited or optimistic about our future than I am today."

He succeeds Debbie Seibel, who announced her decision to retire with the completion of the current school year, but who will return in the fall part-time to serve in a role supporting the adoption of the district's new math series, reviewing, and preparing for future textbook adoptions, while continuing to support technology.

BOE approves new 5-year financial forecast; shares committee updates

As required by Ohio law, the J-M Board of Education also approved the district's five-year-forecast. Because of the recent passage of two, five-year, district funding renewal levies, the

forecast presented by Treasurer Kim Pulley predicts the district operating in the black over the course of the forecast.

Board Member Alan Benton said of the renewals' passage during a finance committee update, "I want to thank everyone on behalf of the board for voting as we now have funding clarity through 2028 as we move forward."

Superintendent Dr. Philip H. Wagner agreed about the critical importance for district planning to have a clear financial path determined over the next five years: "I thank everyone, including the community, for such a resounding passage."

Board Member Ruth Ann Booher summarized a "wonderful Communications Committee meeting," leading with substantial progress being made toward a more polished, consistent, and dynamic "Johnnie" that will be trademark protected by the district.

She also summarized the nearing launch of a new app and a new district website, and progress being made on the establishment of a space dedicated to the memory and preservations of artifacts related to Johnstown Hometown Hero Brigadier General-Retired Perry L. Miles.

Board Member Booher also shared a Buildings, Grounds and Safety Committee update. "We're certainly focused on safety issues and working to get grant monies to augment our radios." The district is also surveying options for ALICE or similar safety training exercises, she said.

The Curriculum Committee is continuing a strong emphasis on the district's math focus efforts, according to Board Member Amanda Davis. These efforts, "are making a difference and we're seeing improvement."

Davis added that the 2023-24 school year will include a similar focus on science instruction.

In his technology update, Mr. Benton applauded the efforts of staff, students, and families to take care of the district's computers. "We've had very little damage that is occurring."



In other business, the board approved new school calendars, including approval to transition K-5 scheduling from quarters to trimesters.

The board was also presented with a brief exhibition from instructor Andrew Beers of various visual projects created by students in the district's "Media Arts" program. Mr. Beers also spoke of the plan to create a new district, student-run news program in the coming school year.



The board also (reluctantly) accepted the resignation of Johnstown Middle School Secretary Debbie Hayes, who is retiring at the end of this school year. Mrs. Hayes was in attendance for the meeting with her sons.

She said, "I will miss my babies terribly and probably cry a lot of tears. I'm grateful to be here every day. I get to work with the most amazing people on earth every day." However, she added, "I'm ready to be a grandma."