

JENNINGS COUNTY SCHOOL CORPORATION
Central Administration Office Building
Executive Session
Regular Board Meeting
April 23, 2026

Executive Session: The Jennings County School Corporation Board of School Trustees met in executive session on April 23, 2026 at 6:00 p.m. in the Special Education Conference Room of the Jennings County School Corporation Central Administration Office Building, 34 West Main Street, North Vernon, IN 47265, to discuss the following in accordance with IC 5-14-1.5-6.1(b):

- (2B) For discussion of strategy with respect to any of the following:
Initiation of litigation or litigation that is either pending or has been threatened specifically in writing. As used in the clause, “litigation” includes any judicial action or administrative law proceeding under federal or state law.
- (3) For discussion of the assessment, design, and implementation of school safety and security measures, plans, and systems. *IC 5-14-1.5-6.1 (b)(3).*
- (5) To receive information about and interview prospective employees.
IC 5-14-1.5-6.1(b)(5).
- (6) With respect to any individual over whom the governing body has jurisdiction:
(A) to receive information concerning the individual’s alleged misconduct;
IC 5-14-1.5-6.1(b)(6).
- (9) To discuss a job performance evaluation of individual employees. This subdivision does not apply to a discussion of the salary, compensation, or benefits of employees during a budget process. *IC 5-14-1.5-6.1(b)(9).*
- (16B) To discuss employee handbook changes. *IC 5-14-1.5-6.1(b)(16)*

Board members present were Dr. Amy Pettit, Cheryl Miller, Pat Sullivan, Travis Shepherd, Chelsea Morrison, Mary Lynn Whitcomb and Curt Nieman. Superintendent Dr. Nicole Johnson, Administrative Assistant Carrie Manowitz, Philip Marsh, and Lisa Hearne were also in attendance.

The meeting adjourned at 6:55 p.m.

Regular Meeting: The Board of School Trustees held its regular meeting in the Board Room of the Jennings County School Corporation Central Administration Office Building, 34 West Main Street, North Vernon, IN 47265. The meeting will begin at 7:00 p.m. The following link was also available to live stream the Regular Board meeting from your home:

<https://youtube.com/live/ZCIH9dCt4lQ>

Board members present were Dr. Amy Pettit, Cheryl Miller, Pat Sullivan, Travis Shepherd, Chelsea Morrison, Mary Lynn Whitcomb and Curt Nieman. Superintendent Dr. Nicole Johnson,

Administrative Assistant Carrie Manowitz, Philip Marsh, Amanda Sullivan, Todd Ebinger, Lisa Hearne, and Board Executive Secretary Deb Johnson were also in attendance.

This meeting was a meeting of the School Board in public for the purpose of conducting the School Corporation's business and it is not to be considered a public community meeting. There will be time for public participation as indicated by the agenda. (Policy 0166)

Consent Agenda Items: The following items were provided to the Board for their review and approval. If any Board Member had a concern about an item, he/she would have requested that the item(s) be removed from this grouping to be voted upon individually.

The following consent agenda items will be presented for approval without discussion:

- III. Minutes;
- VIB4. Field Trips;
- VIC1. Professional Staff: Leaves;
- VIC2. Professional Staff: Resignations, Retirements;
- VIC3. Professional Staff: Transfers;
- VIC5. Conference Requests;
- VID1. Support Staff: Leaves;
- VID2. Support Staff: Resignations, Retirements;
- VID3. Support Staff: Transfers;
- VID5. Conference Requests;
- VII. Claims;

Information Items: These items were given to the Board to review. If a Board Member wished to discuss any of these items; he/she would have indicated that the item(s) be removed from the grouping for discussion during the meeting.

The following information items will be shared with the Board:

None at this time.

Agenda

- I. Pledge
The President, Dr. Amy Pettit, opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance. She reminded everyone that we are live-streaming this board meeting and welcomed those joining us via the web and those present in person.
- II. Consent Agenda Items.
Mr. Sullivan made a motion to approve consent agenda items. Mr. Nieman seconded the motion. 7 yes, 0 no. Approved.
- III. Minutes of the Executive Session and the Regular Board Meeting of April 9, 2026.
These minutes were approved without discussion as consent agenda items.
- IV. Community Non-Agenda Items
 - Sand Creek Elementary Presentation
Sand Creek Elementary will showcase the musical Cinderella: If the Shoe Fits," on May 7, 2026 starting at 6:30 p.m. Students performed a snippet from the musical during the board meeting, with cast members Aleeniah Hatton, Gracie Bowers, Christopher Hatton and Ellie Bowers accompanied by their Drama Club Sponsor Angie Dowell and high school student coach Alyssa Dowell.
 - JCSC Information Statement.
This policy can be located on our District Website: jpsc.org/Board of

Trustee/Board Reports/Board Policies/Bylaws/po0167.3 (Public Participation at Board Meetings).

- The President asked if anyone would like to speak on any items on the agenda or any other topic.
None at this time.

V. Old Business

A. Programs (Policy 2000)

1. Student Handbooks 2026/2027, Approval.

- JCSC Elementary Handbook
- JCMS Handbook
- JCHS Handbook

Mrs. Manowitz requested approval for all three handbooks that have been updated to meet NEOLA policies and legislation changes.

Mr. Shepherd made a motion to approve. Ms. Whitcomb seconded the motion.

7 yes, 0 no. Approved.

2. IDOH Health Issues and Challenges Grant, Movement and Art to Reduce Stress, Elementary Workshop, Approval.

Mrs. Manowitz requested approval for Perceptions partnering with Purdue Extension to provide a 6-week workshop for grades 4-6th grades for IDOH Health Issues and Challenges Grant that would be piloted at SCE and GCE.

Mrs. Miller made a motion to approve. Mr. Nieman seconded the motion.

7 yes, 0 no. Approved.

B. Finances (Policy 6000)

None at this time.

C. Operations (Policy 8000)

1. Strategic Plan BLUEprint 2030, Inform.

Dr. Johnson shared with the board the complete comprehensive needs analysis (CNA) that was used to develop five “Action Areas”, identified by the committee consisting of building administrators and teachers. The five action areas are: Panther Wellbeing, Academic Achievement and Growth, Operational Effectiveness, Positive School Culture and Climate, and Fiscal Responsibility.

D. Property (Policy 7000)

None at this time.

VI. New Business

A. NEOLA, Inform.

- NEOLA, Policy 6320, Purchasing, 1st Reading, Inform.
- NEOLA, Policy 7455, Accounting System for Capital Assets, 1st Reading, Inform.
- NEOLA, Policy 8500 (*T.C.*), Food Service Program, 1st Reading, Inform.
- NEOLA, Policy 1130, Conflict of Interest, 1st Reading, Inform.
- NEOLA, Policy 3113, Conflict of Interest, 1st Reading, Inform.
- NEOLA, Policy 4113, Conflict of Interest, 1st Reading, Inform.
- NEOLA, Policy 6110, Grant Funds, 1st Reading, Inform.
- NEOLA, Policy 6112, Cash Management of Grants, 1st Reading, Inform.
- NEOLA, Policy 6114, Cost Principles-Spending Federal Funds, 1st Reading, Inform.

- NEOLA, Policy 6325, Procurement Federal Grants/Funds, 1st Reading, Inform.
- NEOLA, Policy 6550, Travel Payment and Reimbursement/Relocation Costs, 1st Reading, Inform.
- NEOLA, Policy 7450, Property Inventory, 1st Reading, Inform.
- NEOLA, Admin. Guidelines 3121, Personal Background Check, 1st Reading, Inform.
- NEOLA, Admin. Guidelines 4121, Personal Background Check, 1st Reading, Inform.
- NEOLA, Admin. Guidelines 1521, Personal Background Check, 1st Reading, Inform.
- NEOLA, Admin. Guidelines 8120, Personal Background Check, 1st Reading, Inform.
- NEOLA, Admin. Guidelines 8121, Personal Background Check, 1st Reading, Inform.

Dr. Johnson presented NEOLA Policies and Admin. Guidelines for first reading.

B. Programs (Policy 2000)

1. Staff Professional Development Summer Programming, Inform.
Mrs. Manowitz stated the summer PD program allows multiple teachers to obtain PD opportunities to support continued instructional growth and prepares the alignment with strategic plan goals for 2026-2027 school year.
2. Panther Online Academy Update, Inform.
Mrs. Manowitz shared a progress update concerning Panther Online Academy for the 2025-2026 school year.
3. Accountability Model, Inform.
Mrs. Manowitz presented on the accountability model published by the Indiana Department of Education at the beginning of March.
4. Field Trips
None at this time.

C. Professional Staff (Policy 3000)

1. Leaves
None at this time.
2. Resignations/Retirements
 - Kathy Hearne, BCE Teacher, retirement effective at the end of 2027-2028 school year. Approval.
 - Brad Morris, JCMS Boys Soccer Coach, resignation effective 4/17/2026. Approval.

These resignations/retirements were approved without discussion as consent agenda items.
3. Transfers
 - Alaina Newby, NVE Pre-K Teacher to GCE Teacher, \$47,000 / yr., effective 8/3/2026. Approval.
 - Charlee Simpson, GCE Teacher to Hayden Elem. Guidance Counselor, effective 2026-2027 school year. Approval.

These transfers were approved without discussion as consent agenda items.
4. Recommendations
 - Morgan Branaman, JCHS Guidance Counselor, \$46,100 / yr. x 195 days, effective 7/1/2026. Approval.

- Chelsey Davis, BCE Summer School Teacher, (4.5 days) effective 5/26/2026-6/5/2026, Approval.
- Rebecca Driver, JCMS Girls Tennis Coach, \$1,000.00 stipend, effective 4/14/2026. Approval.
- Erin Green, HE Summer School Teacher, (9 days) effective 5/26/2026-6/5/2026. Approval.
- Kristin Jahn, GCE Summer School Teacher, (9 days) effective 5/26/2026-6/5/2026. Approval.
- Jennifer Laman, Scipio Elementary Summer School Teacher, (9 days) effective 5/26/2026-6/5/2026. Approval.
- Samantha Low, SCE Summer School Teacher, (9 days) effective 5/26/2026-6/5/2026. Approval.
- Stephanie Puckett, BCE Summer School Teacher, (4.5 days) effective 5/26/2026-6/5/2026. Approval.
- Sara Wathan, SCE Summer School Teacher, (9 days) effective 5/26/2026-6/5/2026. Approval.

Ms. Whitcomb made a motion to approve. Mr. Sullivan seconded the motion. 7 yes, 0 no. Approved.

5. Conference Requests

- Travis Wrightsman, IBCA Basketball Coaches Clinic, effective 4/23/2026-4/24/2026. Approval.

This conference was approved without discussion as consent agenda items.

D. Support Staff (Policy 4000)

1. Leaves

- Toni Wicker, JCSC Bus Aide, Admin. Leave effective 4/21/2026 (1/2 day) and 4/22/2026. Approval.

This leave was approved without discussion as consent agenda item.

2. Resignations/Retirements

- Mary Barlow, JCMS SPED Para Pro, retirement effective 5/22/2026. Approval.
- Megan Brown, SCE SPED Para Pro, resignation effective 4/16/2026. Approval.
- Sherry Hughes, HE Para Pro, retirement effective 6/5/2026. Approval.
- Jennifer Moore, JCMS SPED Para Pro, resignation effective 5/1/2026. Approval.
- LeAna Matern, JCHS College & Career Coach, resignation effective 5/22/2026, Approval.
- Madison Swindall, JCSC Floating Sub Cook, resignation effective 4/14/2026. Approval.
- Toni Wicker, JCSC Bus Aide, resignation effective 4/22/2026. Approval.

These resignations/retirements were approved without discussion as consent agenda items.

3. Transfers

- Angie Money, GCE Administrative Asst. to JCSC HR Administrative Asst., \$22.00 / hr. x 260 days/yr. Approval.

This transfer was approved without discussion as consent agenda item.

4. Recommendations

- Rebecca Burkhead, SCE Custodian (Part-time), \$15.50 / hr. x 4 hrs./day. Approval.
- D.J. Campbell, GCE Summer School Para Pro, \$15.20 / hr. x 9 days, effective 5/26/2026-6/5/2026. Approval.
- Nathan Davis, JCHS Asst. Girls Soccer Coach, \$3,000.00 stipend, effective 4/24/2026. Approval.
- Tiffany Quintero Francisco, SCE Summer School Para Pro, \$15.00 / hr. x 9 days, effective 5/26/2026-6/5/2026. Approval.
- Sherry Hughes, HE Summer School Para Pro, \$18.70 / hr. x 9 days, effective 5/26/2026-6/5/2026. Approval.
- Travis Jones, JCHS Volunteer Girls Soccer Coach, effective 4/24/2026. Approval.
- Skyann Lovitt, NVE SPED Para Pro, \$15.50 / yr. x 7 hrs./day x 180 days, effective 4/24/2026. Approval.
- William Marling, JCSC Summer Grounds Worker/Mowing Crew, \$12.00/hr., effective 4/20/2026. Approval.
- Kathy McPeck, SCE Summer School Para Pro, \$16.20 / hr. x 9 days, effective 5/26/2026-6/5/2026. Approval.
- Teresa Monday, BCE Summer School Para Pro, \$20.20/hr. x 9 days, effective 5/26/2026-6/5/2026. Approval.
- Justin Nelson, JCHS Custodian (2nd shift), \$15.50 / hr. x 8 hrs./day x 260 days, effective 4/27/2026. Approval.
- Jana Smock, Scipio Summer School Para Pro, \$14.95 / hr. x 9 days, effective 5/26/2026-6/5/2026. Approval.
- Jessiah Watts, JCHS Volunteer Boys Golf Coach, effective 4/24/2026. Approval.

Mr. Shepherd made a motion to approve. Mrs. Miller seconded the motion 7 yes, 0 no. Approved.

5. Conference Requests

None at this time.

E. Finances (Policy 6000)

1. Donations/Grants, Approval.

- Graham Creek Elementary, Approval.
 - Graham Presbyterian Church, \$100.00 to honor Paul Hicks and used for student needs.
- JCHS, Approval.
 - WJCP, \$235.00 to the Kindness Closet.
- JCSC, Approval.
 - Alpha Mega Chapter of Psi Iota Xi, \$3,500.00 total to Speech, Language, and Hearing Department for:
 - JCSC SLP teachers.
 - Jennifer Barber - \$500.00
 - Erin Biehle - \$500.00
 - Carissa Copley - \$500.00
 - Erin Treadway - \$500.00
 - Kelly Zohrlaut - \$500.00
 - JCSC, Speech, Language, and Hearing Dept. - \$1,000.00

- JCSC Crescendo Music Dept., Countywide Fine Arts Festival for T-shirts, Sound, and posters.
 - Amy Thompson - \$100.00
 - Dove & Sharp Rudicel Funeral Home - \$150.00
 - Jennings County Sheriff's Office - \$500.00
 - Mason's Automotive - \$100.00
 - Paige's Music - \$500.00
- Jennings County Health Dept., 9 LifeVac School Pack Kits (total of 36 units).
- Joy of Giving, \$4,500.00 to the H.O.P.E. Food Program.
- Premier Sports Groups, LLC, multiple t-shirts for student needs.
- Sand Creek Elementary, Approval.
 - Decatur County REMC's Operation Roundup, \$3,084.50 to support Mystery Science for hands-on learning.

Mr. Sullivan made a motion to approve. Mr. Nieman seconded the motion.

7 yes, 0 no. Approved.

F. Property (Policy 7000)

1. 2026 Secured Entrance Contract, Approval.

Mr. Marsh recommended rejecting all bids that were submitted. Mr. Marsh also requested authorization for a future rebidding process.

Ms. Morrison made a motion to approve. Ms. Whitcomb seconded the motion.

7 yes, 0 no. Approved.

G. Operations (Policy 8000)

1. Comprehensive Systems for Support for Schools, LLC, Approval.

Dr. Johnson requested approval for CSSS to complete a comprehensive review of facilities and resources in regards to enrollment and any possible recommended action steps such as redistricting or school closure(s).

Mr. Shepherd made a motion to approve. Mrs. Miller seconded the motion.

7 yes, 0 no. Approved.

2. 4th Annual Muscata "duck" Race, Approval.

Mrs. Manowitz requested approval for JCHS Girls Basketball Team to host their 4th Annual Muscata "duck" Race charitable gaming event following all policies and procedures required by the state. This was a very successful event last year which enabled the JCHS Girls Basketball team to donate back to the Hope Food Program as well.

Mr. Nieman made a motion to approve. Mr. Sullivan seconded the motion.

7 yes, 0 no. Approved.

3. 2026 Facility Assessment Contract, Approval.

Mr. Marsh requested approval to have a Facility Assessment performed by Garmann Miller. The assessment will provide vital information to determine proper use of bonds for new debt replacing the old debt for future decision making.

Ms. Whitcomb made a motion to approve. Mr. Nieman seconded the motion.

7 yes, 0 no. Approved.

H. Relations (Policy 9000)

None at this time.

- VII. Claims
The claims were presented for approval in the amount of \$1,056,891.22 (claims 111909 – 112099) and payroll in the amount of \$1,214,986.13 (check date 4/15/2026).
These claims were approved without discussion as consent agenda items.
- VIII. Other
 - A. Updates.
Dr. Pettit reminded everyone of the upcoming Sand Creek Elementary musical.
- IX. Adjournment
Mr. Sullivan made a motion to adjourn at 7:37 p.m. Ms. Morrison seconded the motion.
7 yes, 0 no. Adjourned.

Next Regular Meeting: The next Regular Board Meeting will be on May 7, 2026 in the Board Room of the Jennings County School Corporation Central Office, 34 West Main Street, North Vernon, IN 47265. The regular meeting will begin at 7:00 p.m.

The Board of Trustees of Jennings County School Corporation did not discuss any subject matter in the Executive Session other than that specified in the Public Notice.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Amy Pettit - President

Curt Nieman

Cheryl Miller - Vice President

Travis Shepherd

Pat Sullivan - Secretary

Mary Lynn Whitcomb

Chelsea Morrison