

JENNINGS COUNTY SCHOOL CORPORATION
Central Administration Office Building
Executive Session
Regular Board Meeting
April 9, 2026

Executive Session: The Jennings County School Corporation Board of School Trustees met in executive session on April 9, 2026 at 5:00 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).
- (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).*

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 6:47 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 is also available to live stream the Regular Board meeting from your home:

https://youtube.com/live/q_0FjHFII6s

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;
- VIA6. Field Trips;
- VIB1. Professional Staff: Leaves;
- VIB2. Professional Staff: Resignations, Retirements;
- VIB3. Professional Staff: Transfers;
- VIB7. Conference Requests;
- VIC1. Support Staff: Leaves;
- VIC2. Support Staff: Resignations, Retirements;
- VIC3. Support Staff: Transfers;
- VIC8. 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:

- VIE2. March Fund Report.

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. Shepherd seconded the motion. 7 yes, 0 no. Approved.
- III. Minutes of the Executive Session and the Regular Board Meeting of March 12, 2026.
These minutes were approved without discussion as consent agenda items.
- IV. Community Non-Agenda Items
 - JCHS The Kind Company
Joining us from JCHS, The Kind Company, are Annie, Mikayla, Toby, Tracy, and Seth. The Kind Co. is a collaborative effort between students and staff at the high school. Together, they make and sell goods to raise money for the Kindness Closet.
 - JCHS 2025-2026 Winter Sports Recognition.
Mr. Hartwell, Athletic Director for JCHS introduced and recognized the Girls basketball team and their coaches for all of their accomplishments for the 2025/2026 basketball season. The basketball team made its first-ever appearance in the Final Four. They finished the season with a 20-7 record. Coaches are Kristi Siglar, Bill Lane, Erika Brown, Levi Burn, and Emma Campbell. Team members include: Karmindy Lowman, Ella Hubbard, Hailey Dunham, Aniston Kent, Bradleigh Matern, Kaydence Lowman, Addison Petro, Riley Byford, Addiston Grunden, Madisyn Johnson, Mookky Ratcliff, Amilia Gresham, Ilene Hifo, Gabi Morin, Etta Young, and Mollie Ernstes.

- JCHS Presentation

Mr. Roller introduced Heather Lopp, Braeden Day and Danny Giltner to talk about this special project to 3D print a special functioning computer mouse to hold a pencil, a crayon, etc. for a student during class. This special functioning computer mouse was designed by Danny Giltner.

- JCSC Information Statement.

This policy can be located on our District Website: [jpsc.org/Board of Trustee/Board Reports/Board Policies/Bylaws/po0167.3](http://jpsc.org/Board%20of%20Trustee/Board%20Reports/Board%20Policies/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. T.A.G. (Teacher Appreciation Grant) Update, Inform.

Dr. Johnson stated that the T.A.G. grants will be distributed on the May 15th payroll for the 34 teachers who will receive grant money (there were enough funds from IDOE to cover less than 13% of teachers using the new criteria).

B. Finances (Policy 6000)

None at this time.

C. Operations (Policy 8000)

None at this time.

D. Property (Policy 7000)

None at this time.

VI. New Business

A. Programs (Policy 2000)

1. JCSC Elementary Handbook, Inform.
2. JCMS Handbook, Inform.
3. JCHS Handbook, Inform.

Mrs. Manowitz informed that all three handbooks have been updated to align with NEOLA policies and updated legislation.

Dr. Johnson also stated that the false informing along with the cell phone policy has been updated/added to match state laws.

4. IDOH Health Issues and Challenges Grant, Movement and Art to Reduce Stress, Elementary Workshop, Inform.

Mrs. Manowitz stated that Perceptions is 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.

5. Public School (Out of District) Transfer Deadline for 2026-2027, Approval.

Dr. Johnson requested approval with a deadline of May 21, 2027 in order to maximize enrollment potential.

Ms. Whitcomb made a motion to approve. Mrs. Miller seconded the motion.

7 yes, 0 no. Approved.

6. Field Trips

None at this time.

B. Professional Staff (Policy 3000)

1. Leaves

- Hannah Cooper, GCE Teacher, Unpaid leave 3/16/2026, Approval.

- Hannah Whitaker, GCE Teacher, Unpaid Leave 5/4/2026 and 5/7/2026, Approval.

These leaves were approved without discussion as consent agenda items.

2. Resignations/Retirements

- Corey Baughman, Hayden Elementary Teacher, retirement effective at the end of the 2025-2026 school year, Approval.
- Roger Williams, NVE SPED Teacher, retirement effective at the end of the 2028-2029 school year, Approval.

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

3. Transfers

- Cindy Law, SCE Assistant Principal to SCE Principal, \$80,975.00 / year, effective 7/1/2026, Approval.
- Shannon McFall, NVE Instructional Coach to JCSC District Instructional Coach (Literacy Focus), effective 8/3/2026, Approval.

These transfers were approved without discussion as consent agenda items.

4. Permission to Fill Positions Prior to Next Board Meeting, Approval.

Dr. Johnson requested approval to fill positions for seasonal mowing crew. Mr. Shepherd made a motion to approve. Mr. Sullivan seconded the motion. 7 yes, 0 no. Approved.

5. High Ability Coordinator Stipends, Approval.

Mrs. Manowitz requested approval for ECA stipends from the High Ability Grant to High Ability Coordinators for work outside of the contracted time.

- Kristi Rice – BCE
- Courtney Kreutzjans – GCE
- LuAnn Gant – Hayden
- Rachel Neal – NVE
- Samantha Low – SCE
- Suzanne Wilson – Scipio
- Jennifer Laman – District
- Tara Kelley - JCMS

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

6. Recommendations

- Megan Buchanan, JCHS Teacher to ½ JCHS Teacher / ½ JCSC District Instructional Coach (Math Focus), effective 8/3/2026, Approval.
- Career Increment / Master Stipend
2026/2027, 2027/2028, 2028/2029, 2029/2030, 2030/2031
 - Hannah Cooper
- Courtney Kreutzjans, GCE Instructional Coach to GCE Principal, \$80,000.00 / year, effective 7/1/2026, Approval.
- Samantha Low, SCE Instructional Coach to ½ SCE Assistant Principal / ½ District Instructional Coach (Math), \$71,250.00 / year, effective 7/1/2026, Approval.

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

7. Conference Requests

- Toby Harrell, 2026 ISNA Director Retreat, Lawrenceburg, IN 47025, 4/13/2026-4/14/2026, Approval.

This conference was approved without discussion as consent agenda items.

C. Support Staff (Policy 4000)

1. Leaves

- Megan Brown, SCE SPED Para Pro, Unpaid Leave 4/13/2026 and 5/14/2026-5/15/2026, Approval.
- Abigail Chasteen, JCHS SPED Para Pro, Unpaid Leave 4/16/2026 and ½ day on 4/20/2026, Approval.
- Diana Marshall, HE Cook, Unpaid Leave 3/9/2026, Approval.
- Richard Sochacki, JCMS Boys & Girls Tennis Coach, Administrative Leave, effective 4/7/2026, Approval.

These leaves were approved without discussion as consent agenda items.

2. Resignations/Retirements

- Rae Jean Auterson, JCHS/JCMS Music Accompanist Para Pro, resignation effective 3/31/2026, Approval.
- James Hiday, JCHS Custodian, resignation effective 4/2/2026, Approval.
- Heather Lucas, NVE SPED Para Pro, resignation effective 4/3/2026, Approval.
- Linda Martin, JCSC OT (Occupational Therapist), retirement effective at the end of 2025-2026 school year, Approval.
- LeAna Matern, JCHS Girls Volleyball Coach, resignation effective 3/18/2026, Approval.
- Richard Sochacki, JCMS Boys & Girls Tennis Coach and JCMS Asst. Wrestling Coach, resignation effective 4/8/2026, Approval.

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

3. Transfers

- Chelsea Fields, JCMS 7th Grade Head Volleyball Coach to JCMS 8th Grade Volleyball Coach, effective 4/10/2026, Approval.

This transfer was approved without discussion as consent agenda item.

4. Permission to Post 1 Kitchen Manager Position, Summer Food Program, Approval.

Mrs. Hearne advised that this position will be funded from the Summer Food Program grant.

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

5. Permission to Post up to 4 Cook Positions, Summer Food Program, Approval.

Mrs. Hearne advised that these positions will be funded through the Summer Food Program grant.

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

6. Permission to Post Summer Support Positions, Approval.

- 3 Technology Positions
- 7 Custodian Positions
- 3 Grounds Worker Positions
- 1 Central Office Assistant Position

➤ 4 Moving Crew/Custodial

Mrs. Hearne requested permission to post for summer positions.

Ms. Morrison made a motion to approve. Mr. Sullivan seconded the motion.

7 yes, 0 no. Approved.

7. Recommendations

- Mary Derringer, JCMS Custodian (2nd Shift), \$16.50 / hr. x 8 hrs. x 260 days, effective 4/10/2026, Approval.
- Jessica Dickmeyer, JCSC Nurse, \$25.50 / hr. x 8 hrs. x 185 days, effective 4/10/2026, Approval.
- Lillyan Franks, JCSC Lifeguard (Part-time), \$12.00 / hr., effective 4/10/2026, Approval.
- Madison Swindall, JCSC Floating Sub Cook, \$14.00 / hr. x 7 hrs. x 184 days, effective 4/10/2026, Approval.
- Samuel Pratt, JCSC Bus Driver, \$17.00 / hr. x 8 hrs. x 180 days, effective 4/10/2026, Approval.
- Evan Sochacki, JCSC Pool Supervisor (Part-time), \$16.00 / hr., effective 4/10/2026, Approval.

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

7 yes, 0 no. Approved.

8. Conference Requests

None at this time.

D. Finances (Policy 6000)

1. Donations/Grants, Approval.

- Brush Creek Elementary, Approval.
 - F & AM Masonic Lodge #219, \$250.00 for student snacks.
 - Midwest TCG Co, Sean Webster, \$1,000.00 for student awards.
- Hayden Elementary, Approval.
 - NVIC, \$250.00 to use for school-wide Hayden 500 project.
- JCHS, Approval.
 - Coffee Creek Conservation Club - Roy & Wanda Green, \$1,500.00 to the Academic Honor Banquet.
 - Jennings Church of Christ, Inc., \$200.00 to the Panther Pantry.
 - JCHS Boys Volleyball Club.
 - 812 Driving Academy, LLC - \$110.00.
 - Expert Eyecare, P.C. - \$175.00.
 - Harmon Construction - \$110.00.
 - North Vernon Industry Corporation - \$175.00.
 - JCHS Junior Class Prom.
 - Dave O'Mara Contractor, Inc. - \$250.00.
 - HOS Coffee, LLC - \$50.00.
 - Iron Benders Fitness and Nutrition, LLC. - \$100.00.
 - Lawson Auction Service - \$100.00.
 - My Mobility, LLC - \$500.00.
 - North Vernon Industry Corporation - \$200.00.
 - North Vernon Pizza King - \$100.00.
 - Tailfeather Farm Market - \$100.00.
 - Zamora Electric - \$100.00.
- Las Chalupas Restaurant, \$305.00 to JCHS Staff PBIS

- Las Chalupas Restaurant, \$343.00 to JCHS Student PBIS.
- Las Chalupas Restaurant, \$412.00 to JCHS Staff PBIS and JCHS Student PBIS.
- JCMS, Approval.
 - 8th Grade Celebration.
 - North Vernon Preschool - \$100.00
 - Precision Window Tinting - \$100.00
 - Kaitlynn Gaines - \$100.00
 - Joyce's Flowers - \$50.00
 - Lucas Wrecker Service - \$50.00
- JCSC, Approval.
 - HOPE Food Program.
 - North Vernon 2nd United Methodist - \$300.00.
 - Timothy & Dorene Krawczyk - \$100.00.
- North Vernon Elementary, Approval.
 - Anonymous, \$400.00 for student needs.
 - Hayden Methodist Church, snacks and supplies to support student needs.
 - NVIC, \$193.50 to 1st grade classes for Scholastic News/Science News.

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

2. Resolution, Approval.

- a. *Resolution* – **BUS2026-008** - The Superintendent of Schools is specifically authorized to pay the Early Retirement Incentive payment to the teacher specified in the attached document titled “JCSC 2026 Early Retirement Payment” in the amount specified in the attached document. The attached document is incorporated into the Resolution by reference. These are one-time payments.
 - Corey Baughman

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

3. March Fund Report.

A copy of this report was included in the board packet.

E. Property (Policy 7000)

None at this time.

F. Operations (Policy 8000)

- a. *Resolution* – **BUS2026-009** - Application for Annual 1003 Flexibility Waiver, Approval.

Dr. Johnson stated the 1003 Flexibility Waiver would allow three waiver days for students. These days will be used by staff to complete professional development to be applied in September, February, and April. Students will not be required to log in for eLearning/virtual learning on these days, if approved by the state board.

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

G. Relations (Policy 9000)

None at this time.

VII. Claims

The claims were presented for approval in the amount of \$2,920,344.98 (claims 111522 – 111907) and payroll in the amount of \$1,220,310.35 (check date 3/13/2026).

These claims were approved without discussion as consent agenda items.

VIII. Other

A. Updates.

1. Waiver for 2/26/2026 Classified Staff Payment, Approval.

Mrs. Marsh requested approval to pay classified staff members for the missed instructional day due to weather on 2/26/2026 instead of making up the time. IDOE has waived the requirement for students and certified staff to make up this day.

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

7 yes, 0 no. Approved.

Travis / Pat 7-0

IX. Adjournment

Mr. Sullivan made a motion to adjourn at 7:37 p.m. Ms. Whitcomb seconded the motion.

7 yes, 0 no. Adjourned.

Next Regular Meeting: The next Regular Board Meeting will be on April 23, 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