

JENNINGS COUNTY SCHOOL CORPORATION
Central Administration Office Building
Executive Session
Regular Board Meeting
February 26, 2026

Executive Session: The Jennings County School Corporation Board of School Trustees met in executive session on February 26, 2026 at 5:30 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)*.

Board members present were Dr. Amy Pettit, Cheryl Miller, Travis Shepherd, Chelsea Morrison, Mary Lynn Whitcomb and Curt Nieman. Pat Sullivan was not in attendance. Superintendent Dr. Nicole Johnson, Administrative Assistant Carrie Manowitz, Philip Marsh, and Lisa Hearne were also in attendance.

The meeting adjourned at 6:52 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/LvMJ_kBEoNc

Board members present were Dr. Amy Pettit, Cheryl Miller, Travis Shepherd, Chelsea Morrison, Mary Lynn Whitcomb and Curt Nieman. Pat Sullivan was not in attendance. 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 were presented for approval without discussion:

- III. Minutes;
- VIB1. 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 were 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. Nieman made a motion to approve consent agenda items. Mrs. Miller seconded the motion. 6 yes, 0 no. Approved.
- III. Minutes of the Executive Session and the Regular Board Meeting of January 8, 2026.
These minutes were approved without discussion as consent agenda items.
- IV. Community Non-Agenda Items
 - JCSC Board Information Statement.
Dr. Pettit, Board President presented Guidelines for Public Participation and the importance of public comment on educational issues and the importance of allowing members of the public to express themselves on Corporation matters. This policy can be located on our District Website: [jcsc.org/Board of Trustee/Board Reports/Board Policies/Bylaws/po0167.3](https://www.jcsc.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.

Ellen Geringer spoke about staffing changes, professionalism in the workplace and classroom disruption.

V. Old Business

A. NEOLA, Approval.

- NEOLA, Policy 1422 (*Replacement*), Nondiscrimination, Equal Employment Opportunity, and Anti-Harassment, 2nd Reading.
- NEOLA, Policy 2260, Nondiscrimination and Access to Equal Educational Opportunity, 2nd Reading.
- NEOLA, Policy 2260.01, Nondiscrimination Section 504/ADA Prohibition Against Discrimination Based on Disability, 2nd Reading.
- NEOLA, Policy 2266, Nondiscrimination on the Basis of Sex in Education Programs or Activities, 2nd Reading.
- NEOLA, Policy 3122 (*Replacement*), Nondiscrimination, Equal Employment Opportunity, and Anti-Harassment, 2nd Reading.
- NEOLA, Policy 4122 (*Replacement*), Nondiscrimination and Equal Employment Opportunity, 2nd Reading.

Ms. Whitcomb made a motion to approve. Mr. Shepherd seconded the motion. 6 yes, 0 no. Approved.

B. Programs (Policy 2000)

1. 7th & 8th Grade – Computer Foundations for a Digital Age (4565) Course Addition for 2026-2027, Approval.

Mrs. Miller made a motion to approve. Ms. Morrison seconded the motion. 6 yes, 0 no. Approved.

C. Finances (Policy 6000)

None at this time.

D. Operations (Policy 8000)

None at this time.

E. Property (Policy 7000)

None at this time.

VI. New Business

A. NEOLA, Inform.

- NEOLA, Policy 1422.02 (*rescind*), Nondiscrimination Based on Genetic Information of the Employee, 1st Reading.
 - NEOLA, Policy 1662 (*rescind*), Nondiscrimination Anti-Harassment, 1st Reading.
 - NEOLA, Policy 3362 (*rescind*), Nondiscrimination Anti-Harassment, 1st Reading.
 - NEOLA, Policy 4362 (*rescind*), Nondiscrimination Anti-Harassment, 1st Reading.
 - NEOLA, Policy 0142, Election and Eligibility to Serve, 1st Reading.
 - NEOLA, Policy 5462 (*T.C.*), Retaking a Class, 1st Reading.
 - NEOLA, Policy 7540.02, Digital Content and Accessibility, 1st Reading.
 - NEOLA, Policy 8462, Child Abuse and Neglect, 1st Reading.
- Dr. Johnson presented NEOLA policies for first reading.

B. Programs (Policy 2000)

1. Pre-K 2026-2027 Programming, Approval.

Due to legislation changes concerning Pre-K funding, Mr. Ebinger recommended a one site location for the 2026-2027 Pre-K Program at North Vernon Elementary. The tuition will be set to \$150.00 weekly.

Mr. Nieman made a motion to approve. Mrs. Miller seconded the motion. 6 yes, 0 no. Approved.

2. Field Trips

None at this time.

C. Professional Staff (Policy 3000)

1. Leaves

▪ None at this time.

2. Resignations/Retirements

▪ Jill Stoner, JCMS Language Arts Teacher, resignation effective End of 2025-2026 School Year. Approval.

This resignation was approved without discussion as consent agenda item.

3. Transfers

None at this time.

4. Recommendations

▪ Career Increment / Master Teacher Stipend

2026/2027, 2027/2028, 2028/2029, 2029/2030, 2030/2031

➤ Angie Burton

➤ Molly Crouch

▪ Toby Harrell, Interim Food Service Director, \$69,500/yr. x 8 hrs./day x 260 days per year, effective 2/27/2026. Approval.

▪ Ashley Heindel, JCMS Girls Track Coach, \$2,336.00 stipend, effective 2/26/2026. Approval.

▪ Courtney Mansfield, JCMS Asst. Girls Track Coach, \$1,652.00 stipend, effective 2/26/2026. Approval.

Ms. Whitcomb made a motion to approve. Mr. Shepherd seconded the motion. 6 yes, 0 no. Approved.

5. Conference Requests

▪ Amanda Sullivan, COABE National Conference, JW Marriott, Indianapolis, IN, 4/13/2026-4/15/2026. Approval.

This conference was approved without discussion as consent agenda item.

D. Support Staff (Policy 4000)

1. Leaves

▪ Abigayle Chasteen, JCHS Para Pro, Unpaid Leave 3/17/2026-3/18/2026. Approval.

▪ Katherine McPeek, SCE Para Pro, Unpaid Leave 3/9/2026-3/11/2026. Approval.

▪ Paula Rockey, JCMS Custodian, Unpaid Leave on 2/20/2026. Approval.

These leaves were approved without discussion as consent agenda items.

2. Resignations/Retirements

▪ Isabella DeVore, NVE SPED Para Pro, resignation effective 2/6/2026. Approval.

▪ Resa Dixon, JCHS Custodian, resignation effective 1/23/2026. Approval.

▪ Vicky Elliot, SCE SPED Para Pro, resignation effective End of the 2025-2026 School Year. Approval.

- Shantell Ruddick, JCHS SPED Para Pro, resignation effective 2/23/2026. Approval.
- Bradley Wagoner, JCSC Bus Aide, resignation effective 3/3/2026. Approval.
- Lisa Wilson, JCHS SPED Para Pro, retirement effective 2/24/2026. Approval.

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

3. Transfers

- Stephanie Boswell, JCHS Administrative Asst. to BCE Administrative Asst./Treasurer, \$21.45/hr. to \$21.20/hr. x 8 hrs. /day x 205 days/yr., effective 6/1/2026. Approval.
- Dragon Mouser, SCE Part-time Custodian to JCHS Part-time Custodian, effective 2/20/2026. Approval.

These transfers were approved without discussion as consent agenda items.

4. Recommendations

- Shannon Walker, JCSC Floating Cook, \$15.50/hr. x 7 hrs./day x 184 days/yr., effective 2/12/2026. Approval.

Mrs. Miller made a motion to approve. Mr. Nieman seconded the motion. 6 yes, 0 no. Approved.

- Matt Ross, Facility Usage Feeder Program Coach (middle school travel baseball program), effective 2/27/2026. Approval.

Mr. Shepherd made a motion to approve. Mr. Nieman seconded the motion. 6 yes, 0 no. Approved.

5. Conference Requests

None at this time.

E. Finances (Policy 6000)

1. Donations/Grants, Approval.

- Brush Creek Elementary, Approval.
 - Anonymous, \$45.00 for student activities.
- JCSC, Approval.
 - Jennings County Retired Teachers, Active Teacher Grant recipients.
 - Anita Boggs – JCMS - \$225.00
 - Molly Crouch – BCE - \$150.00
 - Angie Grills – NVE - \$200.00
 - Leslie Hill – NVE - \$136.45
 - Kiana Johnson – GCE - \$249.00
 - Tara Kelley – JCMS - \$125.00
 - Angie Sloan – GCE - \$300.00
- JCHS, Approval.
 - Decatur Mold, \$200.00 to Boys Volleyball Club.
 - Elite Meals, \$180.00 to Student PBIS.
 - Las Chalupas Restaurant, \$242.07 for Staff PBIS.
 - New Bethel Baptist Church, donated a large amount of food for the Food Pantry.

- North Vernon Abstract Co., Inc., \$175.00 to the Boys Volleyball Club.

Ms. Whitcomb made a motion to approve. Ms. Morrison seconded the motion. 6 yes, 0 no. Approved.

2. Resolution, Approval.

1. *Resolution BUS2026-004*- Resolution Authorizing the Treasurer or Deputy Treasurer to invest available monies per I.C 5-13-9-5.

Mr. Shepherd made a motion to approve. Mrs. Miller seconded the motion. 6 yes, 0 no. Approved.

2. *Resolution BUS2026-005*- Resolution to allow the Treasurer or Deputy Treasurer to make transfers of appropriations within Major Funds (Education, Operations, and Rainy Day) to establish the 2026 Budget for the current year for the State Approved Budget Order by Major Accounts Classification.

Ms. Morrison made a motion to approve. Ms. Whitcomb seconded the motion. 6 yes, 0 no. Approved.

F. Property (Policy 7000)

None at this time.

G. Operations (Policy 8000)

1. Cost Containment Update, Inform.

Dr. Johnson stated because of declining enrollment, we have been addressing cost containment. JCSC has been working hard to right-size staff to the number of students in the corporation. JCSC will be absorbing thirteen certified positions. Of these thirteen positions, we have identified seven instructional coach positions that will be absorbed. We will be moving from a building instructional coach model to three district-wide instructional coaches. Dr. Johnson stated that there have been eight early retirement incentives requested, and there are twelve more available until March 20th. JCSC does not anticipate a reduction in force (RIF) for certified staff due to resignations and retirements. JCSC classified staff positions will be reduced by five positions.

In addition to staffing, JCSC will be looking at other cost containment ideas, including Pre-K programming, adult education, how substitute teachers are utilized, and long-term transportation costs. JCSC will also be conducting a study of redistricting and a school capacity study. Currently, JCSC will not be looking at a school closure for the next school year; however, if school enrollment numbers continue to decline, it would be a possibility in the future. The recommended study is to gather data so that we are well prepared.

H. Relations (Policy 9000)

None at this time.

VII. Claims

The claims were presented for approval in the amount of \$1,408,177.72 (claims 111050 – 111274) and payroll in the amount of \$1,208,785.29 (check date 2/13/2025). These claims were approved without discussion as consent agenda items.

VIII. Other

A. Updates.

None at this time.

IX. Adjournment

Mr. Shepherd made a motion to adjourn at 7:26 p.m. Ms. Whitcomb seconded the motion. 6 yes, 0 no. Adjourned.

Next Regular Meeting: The next Regular Board Meeting will be on March 12, 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