

JENNINGS COUNTY SCHOOL CORPORATION
Central Administration Office Building
Executive Session
Regular Board Meeting
January 8, 2026

Executive Session: The Jennings County School Corporation Board of School Trustees met in executive session on January 8, 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):

- (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)*.
- (8) To discuss before a placement decision an individual student's abilities, past performance, behavior, and needs. *IC 5-14-1.5-6.1 (b)(8)*.

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, and Administrative Assistant Lisa Hearne were also in attendance.

The meeting adjourned at 6:58 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 began 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/KDvA7uHT4HE>

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 Assistants Carrie Manowitz, Amanda Sullivan, Todd Ebinger, Lisa Hearne, and Board Executive Secretary Deb Johnson was 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;

VIIA2. Field Trips;

VIIB1. Professional Staff: Leaves;

VIIB2. Professional Staff: Resignations, Retirements;

VIIB3. Professional Staff: Transfers;

VIIB5. Conference Requests;

VIIC1. Support Staff: Leaves;

VIIC2. Support Staff: Resignations, Retirements;

VIIC3. Support Staff: Transfers;

VIIC5. Conference Requests;

VIII. 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:

VID2. December Fund Report.

IXA1. Essential Service Committee Meeting Minutes, 11/18/2025.

Agenda

I. Pledge

The Superintendent, Dr. Nicole Johnson opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance and served as the presiding officer until the Board President was elected.

Dr. Johnson welcomed everyone that were in attendance both online and in person and noted that we are live streaming this meeting tonight.

II. Bylaws (Policy 0000)

1. Membership (Policy 0142)

1. Oath of Office

None at this time.

2. Conflict of Interest Forms, Approval.

➤ *Travis & Laurie Shepherd*

➤ *Kristi & BJ Sigler*

Dr. Johnson requested approval of these Conflict of Interest Forms for Travis Shepherd, Laurie Shepherd, Kristi Sigler, and BJ Sigler.

Mr. Sullivan made a motion to approve the Conflict of Interest Forms.

Ms. Morrison seconded the motion. 6 yes, 0 no, 1 abstain (Mr. Shepherd). Approved.

3. Compensation Review, Approval.

Dr. Johnson recommended that the Board receive \$2000 per year for their service plus a per diem of \$130/ regular meetings and \$70/ other meetings, which is below the state allowable amounts and no change.

Ms. Whitcomb made a motion to approve the amounts recommended.

Mr. Shepherd seconded the motion. 7 yes, 0 no. Approved.

2. Organization (Policy 0151)

1. Officers

a. Elect: President, Vice-President & Secretary

Dr. Johnson asked for a nomination for President. Ms. Whitcomb nominated Dr. Amy Pettit. Mr. Sullivan seconded the motion. Mr. Nieman made a motion to approve. Mr. Shepherd seconded the motion. 7 yes, 0 no. Approved.

Dr. Pettit asked for a nomination for Vice President. Mr. Sullivan nominated Mrs. Miller. Mr. Shepherd made a motion to approve. Ms. Whitcomb seconded the motion. 7 yes, 0 no. Approved.

Dr. Pettit asked for nominations for Secretary. Mrs. Miller nominated Mr. Sullivan. Mr. Nieman made a motion to approve. Ms. Morrison seconded the motion. 7 yes, 0 no. Approved.

- b. Appoint: Treasurer & Deputy Treasurer
Dr. Pettit asked for appointments for Treasurer & Deputy Treasurer.
Dr. Johnson recommended Philip Marsh as Treasurer and Myra Fischvogt as Deputy Treasurer.
Mr. Sullivan made a motion to approve. Ms. Whitcomb seconded the motion. 7 yes, 0 no. Approved.
- c. Appoint: Executive Secretary
Dr. Johnson recommended Deb Johnson as Executive Secretary.
Mr. Sullivan made a motion to approve. Mrs. Miller seconded the motion. 7 yes, 0 no. Approved.

2. Motions

- a. 7/2026 – 6/2027 Board Meeting Schedule – date, time & location, Approval.
Dr. Johnson requested approval. Mrs. Miller made a motion to approve. Mr. Nieman seconded the motion. 7 yes, 0 no. Approved.
- b. Legal Counsel
Dr. Johnson recommended Jason Judd as legal counsel. Mr. Shepherd made a motion to approve. Mrs. Miller seconded the motion. 7 yes, 0 no. Approved.
- c. ISBA Legislative Liaison
Dr. Johnson recommended Ms. Whitcomb. Mr. Sullivan made a motion to approve. Mr. Shepherd seconded the motion. 6 yes, 1 abstain (Ms. Whitcomb). Approved.
- d. ISBA Policy Liaison
Dr. Johnson recommended Mr. Sullivan as the ISBA Liaison. Mr. Shepherd made a motion to approve. Ms. Whitcomb seconded the motion. 7 yes, 0 no. Approved.
- e. Authorize the President to Appoint Individual Board Members to Committees or Representatives to Various Organizations
Mr. Sullivan made a motion to approve. Mrs. Miller seconded the motion. 7 yes, 0 no. Approved.

3. Committees – (Appointees)

Dr. Pettit, President of the School Board, appointed Board Members as follows:

- a. Essential Services Committee Representative (1)
Cheryl Miller
- b. Area Plan Commission Appointment (1)
Travis Shepherd
- c. North Vernon Redevelopment Commission Representative (1)
Pat Sullivan
- d. Jennings County Redevelopment Commission Representative (1)
Cheryl Miller

III. Consent Agenda Items.

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

IV. Minutes of the Board Work Session, December 9, 2025, Executive Session and the Regular Board Meeting of December 11, 2025.

These minutes were approved without discussion as consent agenda items.

V. Community Non-Agenda Items

- JCSC Board Information Statement.

This policy can be located on our District Website: jesc.org/Board of Trustee/Board Reports/Board Policies/Bylaws/po0167.3 (Public Participation at Board Meetings).

- The President will ask if anyone would like to speak on any items on the agenda or any other topic.

Mr. George Mantz from Royalty Roofing attended the board meeting to represent Royalty Roofing pertaining to the bid for the Sand Creek Elementary Roofing project.

VI. Old Business

A. Programs (Policy 2000)

None at this time.

B. Finances (Policy 6000)

None at this time.

C. Operations (Policy 8000)

None at this time.

D. Property (Policy 7000)

1. 2026 Sand Creek Roofing Contract, Approval.

Dr. Johnson requested approval for Royalty Roofing as it was the lowest bid.

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

VII. New Business

A. Programs (Policy 2000)

1. False Reporting K-12 Student Handbooks Addendum, Approval.

Mrs. Manowitz requested approval to update all students' handbooks as previously discussed in the December work session. A notification will be sent out through Parent Square and will take effect immediately. Mrs.

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

2. Field Trips

None at this time.

B. Professional Staff (Policy 3000)

1. Leaves

None at this time.

2. Resignations/Retirements

- Joseph Kelley, JCHS English Teacher, resignation effective 1/2/2026, 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
 - Casey Ernsts
 - Sara Prince
- David Shuffitt III, JCHS FACS/Culinary Arts Teacher, \$46,100 / yr. x 7.25 hrs. per day x 185 days, Approval.

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

5. Conference Requests

- Aaron Brooks, Indiana Music Ed. Assoc., Fort Wayne, IN 1/15/2026-1/17/2026, Approval.
- Lauryn Miller, Indiana Music Ed. Assoc., Fort Wayne, IN 1/15/2026-1/17/2026, Approval.

These conferences were approved without discussion as consent agenda items.

C. Support Staff (Policy 4000)

1. Leaves

None at this time.

2. Resignations/Retirements

- Jennifer Herr, JCEC Instructor, resignation effective 1/1/2026, Approval.
- Alexis Willey, JCMS SPED Para Pro, resignation effective 12/19/2025, Approval.

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

3. Transfers

- Lori McClain, NVE Cook to JCMS SPED Para Pro, 7 hrs. per day x 180 days, Approval.

This transfer was approved without discussion as a consent agenda item.

4. Recommendations

- Kendall Wildey, JCHS Asst. Softball Coach, stipend \$3,301.00 effective 1/9/2026, 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.

D. Finances (Policy 6000)

1. Donations/Grants, Approval.

- Hayden Elementary, Approval.

- Ed & Lisa Biehle, \$4,000.00 for student lunches or any kind of student assistance.
- Cynthia Chambers, \$200.00 for student lunch debt.
- Jennings County Community Foundation, \$200.00 for student snacks in the student care closet.
- Jason Skaggs, \$300.00 to use for any student assistance.
- JCSC, Approval.
 - Hope Food Program
 - Wesley D. Jones - \$150.00
- JCHS, Approval.
 - Jennings County Pallets, Inc., \$1,000.00 for the winter formal.
 - Keenan Castetter & Family, a large box of food items for the food pantry.
 - Las Chalupas Restaurant, \$797.00 to the JCHS Faculty PBIS
 - Mother Bear's Pizza to the Boys Volleyball Club - \$175.00
 - Panther Pantry, Approval.
 - Jennings Church of Christ, Inc. - \$200.00
 - Sherida Burgmeier Moore Fund-Avenue of Flags-Through the Jennings County Community Foundation- \$200.00
 - Texas Roadhouse, \$103.00 to JCHS Faculty PBIS.
- North Vernon Elementary, Approval.
 - Sherida Burgmeier Moore Fund-Jennings County Community Foundation, \$200.00 for student snacks.

Mr. Ebinger requested approval. Mr. Nieman made a motion to approve. Mr. Sullivan seconded the motion. 7 yes, 0 no. Approved.

2. December 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)

- *Resolution* – Southeastern Career Center Adopting a New Operating Agreement, Approval.
Dr. Johnson requested approval as read. Ms. Whitcomb made a motion to approve. Mrs. Miller seconded the motion. 7 yes, 0 no. Approved.
- *Resolution* – Southeastern Career Center adding MCSC as a member, Approval.
Dr. Johnson requested approval as read. Mr. Sullivan made a motion to approve. Ms. Morrison seconded the motion. Mr. Shepherd asked if any schools pull out of membership to the Southeastern Career Center, is there always a buy back of this amount? Dr. Johnson stated that there are many factors to the consideration as to what buy back is necessary and are considered.

7 yes, 0 no. Approved.

G. Relations (Policy 9000)

1. MOU between the University of Indianapolis and JCSC, Internship in Special Education, Approval.
Mr. Shepherd made a motion to approve. Mr. Nieman seconded the motion. 7 yes, 0 no. Approved.

2. MOU Indiana Wesleyan University and JCSC, Division of Counseling, Approval.
Ms. Morrison made a motion to approve. Mr. Sullivan seconded the motion.
7 yes, 0 no. Approved.
3. MOU Indiana State University and JCSC, Affiliation Agreement, Approval.
Mrs. Miller made a motion to approve. Ms. Whitcomb seconded the motion.
7 yes, 0 no. Approved.

VIII. Claims

The claims were presented for approval in the amount of \$4,658,334.37 (claims 110194 – 110658) and payroll in the amount of \$1,230,411.53 (check date 12/15/2025).

These claims were approved without discussion as consent agenda items.

IX. Other

Dr. Johnson would like to celebrate all of our staff, students, parents for all the hard work and dedication. Especially celebrating our high school staff, students, and parents of JCSC having an increased graduation rate to 95.93%. Thank you for all the hard work on getting our students engaged and keeping them engaged.

A. Updates.

1. Essential Service Committee Meeting Minutes, 11/18/2025.
A copy of this report was included in the board packet.

X. Adjournment

Mr. Sullivan made a motion to adjourn at 7:21 p.m. Mrs. Miller seconded the motion. 7 yes, 0 no. Adjourned.

Next Regular Meeting: The next Regular Board Meeting will be on January 22, 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