

**JENNINGS COUNTY SCHOOL CORPORATION**  
**Central Administration Office Building**  
**Executive Session**  
**Regular Board Meeting Agenda**  
**January 9, 2025**

**Executive Session:** The Jennings County School Corporation Board of School Trustees met in executive session on January 9, 2025 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.
- (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, Pat Sullivan, Earl Taggart, Chelsea Morrison, Travis Shepherd and Mary Lynn Whitcomb. Superintendent Dr. Nicole Johnson and Administrative Assistants Carrie Manowitz and Philip Marsh were also in attendance.

The executive session adjourned at 6:51 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/iwGT1pgNTt8?feature>

Board members present were Dr. Amy Pettit, Cheryl Miller, Pat Sullivan, Earl Taggart, Mary Lynn Whitcomb, Chelsea Morrison and Travis Shepherd. Superintendent Dr. Nicole Johnson, Administrative Assistants Carrie Manowitz, Philip Marsh, Todd Ebinger, Mandy Sullivan, 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 was 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:

- IV. Minutes;
- VIIA1. 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:

- VIID2. December Fund Report

## **Agenda**

### **I. Pledge**

The Superintendent 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. Dr. Johnson stated that this is our annual reorganization meeting and would be presiding over the meeting until a board president is elected.

### **II. Bylaws (Policy 0000)**

#### **1. Membership (Policy 0142)**

##### **1. Oath of Office**

Dr. Johnson noted that Philip Marsh, as a Notary, administered the Oath of Office earlier this day to Pat Sullivan, Earl Taggart and Chelsea Morrison.

##### **2. Conflict of Interest Forms, Approval.**

###### **➤ *Travis & Laurie Shepherd***

Dr. Johnson requested approval of these Conflict of Interest Forms for Travis and Laurie Shepherd.

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

Mr. Taggart second the motion. 6 yes, 0 no, 1 abstain (Shepherd).

Approved.

3. Compensation Review, Approval.  
Dr. Johnson recommended that the Board will 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.  
Mr. Shepherd made a motion to approve the amounts recommended.  
Mr. Sullivan 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.  
Mr. Shepherd nominated Dr. Amy Pettit. Mr. Taggart seconded the motion. 6 yes, 0 no, 1 abstain (Pettit). Approved.  
Dr. Pettit asked for a nomination for Vice President.  
Mr. Sullivan nominated Mrs. Miller. Mr. Shepherd seconded the motion. 6 yes, 0 no, 1 abstain (Miller). Approved.  
Dr. Pettit asked for a nomination for Secretary.  
Mrs. Miller nominated Mr. Sullivan. Ms. Whitcomb seconded the motion. 6 yes, 0 no, 1 abstain (Sullivan). 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.  
Mrs. Miller made a motion to approve these recommendations.  
Mr. Sullivan 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 this recommendation.  
Ms. Morrison seconded the motion. 7 yes, 0 no. Approved.
  2. Motions
    - a. 7/2025 – 6/2026 Board Meeting Schedule – date, time & location, Approval.  
Mr. Taggart made a motion to approve the 2025-2026 Board Meeting Schedule. Ms. Morrison seconded the motion.  
7 yes, 0 no. Approved.
    - b. Legal Counsel  
Dr. Johnson recommended Jason Judd as legal counsel.  
Mrs. Miller made a motion to nominate Jason Judd as Legal Counsel. Mr. Sullivan seconded the motion. 7 yes, 0 no. Approved.
    - c. ISBA Legislative Liaison  
Dr. Pettit, President of the School Board, appointed Mary Lynn Whitcomb as the ISBA Legislative Liaison.
    - d. ISBA Policy Liaison  
Dr. Pettit, President of the School Board, appointed Mr. Sullivan as the ISBA Liaison.

- e. Authorize the President to Appoint Individual Board Members to Committees or Representatives to Various Organizations. Dr. Pettit requested approval for the President to appoint Board Members.

Mr. Shepherd made a motion to approve the President to appoint Board members to positions. Ms. Morrison 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. Taggart made a motion to approve the consent agenda items. Mr. Sullivan seconded the motion. 7 yes, 0 no. Approved.

IV. Minutes of the Board Work Session, December 9, 2024, Executive Session and the Regular Board Meeting of December 12, 2024.

The minutes were approved without discussion as consent agenda items.

V. Community Non-Agenda Items

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

None at this time

VI. Old Business

A. NEOLA, Approval.

- NEOLA, Policy 7540.02, Web Content and Services, 2nd Reading.
- NEOLA, Policy 8455, Coach Training, References, and IHSAA Reporting, 2nd Reading.
- NEOLA, Policy 9130, Public Complaints and Concerns, 2nd Reading.

Dr. Johnson stated that these NEOLA Policies are a second reading and asked to take them as a group for approval.

Mrs. Miller made a motion to approve the NEOLA Policies as read. Ms. Whitcomb seconded the motion. 7 yes, 0 no. Approved.

B. Property (Policy 7000)

1. Sand Creek Roofing Project Contract, Approval.

Mr. Marsh requested to table the bidding presentation until further information can be gathered and reviewed before presenting to the Board. Tabled.

VII. New Business

A. Programs (Policy 2000)

1. Field Trips

None at this time

B. Professional Staff (Policy 3000)

1. Leaves

- Brooke Musser, HE Teacher, Maternity Leave effective 2/1/2025-3/29/2025, Approval.

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

2. Resignations/Retirements

- Machel Hines, SCE Teacher, retirement effective end of 2024-2025 school year, Approval.

This resignation was approved without discussion as consent agenda items.

3. Transfers

None at this time.

4. Recommendations

None at this time.

5. Conference Requests

- Aaron Brooks, IMEA Conference, Fort Wayne, IN 1/17/2025-1/18/2025, Approval.
- Chris Billings, IMEA Conference, Fort Wayne, IN 1/17/2025-1/18/2025, Approval.
- Paige Chadwick, IMEA Conference, Fort Wayne, IN 1/17/2025-1/18/2025, Approval.
- Lauryn Miller, IMEA Conference, Fort Wayne, IN 1/17/2025-1/18/2025, Approval.
- Lainey Warren, IMEA Conference, Fort Wayne, IN 1/17/2025-1/18/2025, 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

- Luke Inman, JCHS Boys Cross Country Coach, resignation effective 12/17/2024, Approval.
- Julie James, SCE Custodian, resignation effective 12/19/2024, Approval.
- Rhonda Morgan, BCE Para Pro, resignation effective 1/6/2025, Approval.
- Misty Proctor, Scipio Elementary Custodian, resignation effective 12/23/2024, Approval.
- Madison Voss, HE Para Pro, resignation effective 1/6/2025, Approval.

These resignations were approved without discussion as consent agenda items.

3. Transfers

- Lori McClain, Transportation Drive \$17.00 / hr. to NVE Cook \$16.00 / hr., effective 1/13/2025, Approval.

This transfer was approved without discussion as consent agenda items.

4. Recommendations

- Susan Back, JCSC Nurse (LPN), \$22.50 / hr. x 8 hrs. / day (185 days), effective 1/6/2025, Approval.
- Lori Euler, JCSC Nurse (RN), \$29.00 / hr. x 7.5 hrs. / day (4 days / week), effective 1/27/2025, Approval.
- Laynie Woolf, JCSC Nurse (RN), \$26.00 / hr. x 8 hrs. / day (185 days), effective 1/6/2025, Approval.

Mrs. Hearne requested to approve recommendations as read.

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

5. Conference Requests

None at this time.

D. Finances (Policy 6000)

1. Donations, Approval.

- Brush Creek Elementary, donations, Approval.
    - Anonymous, \$1,000.00 for Archery program.
    - Anonymous, \$100.00 for student snacks.
    - Shane Boswell and Donna Smith, donated bus and bus driver (estimated value \$50.00) for National Honor Society visit to Autumn Trace.
  - Jennings County Community Foundation, \$370.00 total Classroom Grants to BCE teachers, Approval.
    - Stephanie Puckett (\$150.00)
    - Jennifer George (\$150.00)
    - Molly Crouch (\$70.00)
  - Anonymous, \$300.00 donation to Hayden Elementary for student lunch assistance, Approval.
  - Jennings County Food Security Coalition, INC., \$99.30 donation to HOPE Food Program, Approval
  - JCHS, donations, Approval.
    - Bomgaars, \$200.00 for FFA.
    - Dave O'Mara Contractor, Inc., \$250.00 to the Junior Class Prom.
    - Jennings County Pallets, Inc., \$1,000.00 to the Winter Formal.
    - Premier Sports Group, LLC, \$250.00 to Hurley's Hooligans.
    - Joe and Kim Ammerman, \$75.00 to PBIS.
  - Jennings County Community Foundation, \$480.00 total Classroom Grants to Scipio Elementary teachers, Approval.
    - Viola Davis (\$180.00 for Magnetic Alphabet Trays Phonics)
    - Casey Ernestes (\$300.00 for Virtual Field Trip)
- Mr. Marsh requested approval of all donations as read.  
Mr. Sullivan made a motion to approve all donations as read. Mr. Shepherd seconded the motion. 7 yes, 0 no. Approved.

2. December Fund Report

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

E. Relations (Policy 9000)

1. Agreement for Inclusive Options, LLC., Approval.

Mrs. Miller made a motion to approve the agreement with Inclusive Options, LLC. Ms. Morrison seconded the motion. 7 yes, 0 no. Approved.

VIII. Claims

The claims were presented for approval in the amount of \$3,947,975.49 (claims 104054 – 104326) and payrolls in the amount of \$1,316,166.37 (check dates 12/31/2024). These claims were approved without discussion as consent agenda items.

IX. Other

A. Updates.

Dr. Johnson shared that our graduation rate is above state average at 93.6% and credited the growth to hard work and dedication to staff, students and community.

X. Adjournment

Ms. Morrison made a motion to adjourn at 7:13 p.m. Mr. Sullivan seconded the motion.  
7 yes, 0 no. Approved.

**Next Regular Meeting:** The next Regular Board Meeting will be January 23, 2025 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

\_\_\_\_\_  
Travis Shepherd

\_\_\_\_\_  
Cheryl Miller - Vice President

\_\_\_\_\_  
Earl Taggart

\_\_\_\_\_  
Pat Sullivan - Secretary

\_\_\_\_\_  
Mary Lynn Whitcomb

\_\_\_\_\_  
Chelsea Morrison