

JENNINGS COUNTY SCHOOL CORPORATION
Central Administration Office Building
Executive Session
Regular Board Meeting
March 12, 2026

Executive Session: The Jennings County School Corporation Board of School Trustees met in executive session on March 12, 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.
- (2D) A real property transaction including:
- (i.) a purchase;
 - (ii.) a lease as lessor;
 - (iii.) a lease as lessee;
 - (iv.) a transfer;
 - (v.) an exchange; or
 - (vi.) a sale;

By the governing body up to the time a contract or option is executed by the parties. This clause does not affect a political subdivision’s duty to comply with any other statute that governs the conduct of the real property transaction, including *IC 36-1-10* or *36-1-11*.

- (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, Administrative Assistant Carrie Manowitz, Philip Marsh, and Lisa Hearne were also in attendance.

The meeting adjourned at 6:56 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/80eqNRDayMU>

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 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:

- III. Minutes;
- VIA1. Field Trips;
- VIB1. Professional Staff: Leaves;
- VIB2. Professional Staff: Resignations, Retirements;
- VIB3. Professional Staff: Transfers;
- VIB8. Conference Requests;
- VIC1. Support Staff: Leaves;
- VIC2. Support Staff: Resignations, Retirements;
- VIC3. Support Staff: Transfers;
- VIC7. 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:

- VIE2. February Fund Report.
- VIIIA1. Area Planning Commission, January 5, 2026 Meeting Minutes.

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 February 26, 2026.
These minutes were approved without discussion as consent agenda items.

IV. Community Non-Agenda Items

- JCHS 2025 Fall Sports Recognition.
Mr. Hartwell, JCHS Athletic Director, recognized student athletes Parker Bales (Boys' Tennis), Cristian Gomez (Football) and Adistyn Long (Cross Country) on their accomplishments during the 2025 Fall sports season.
- JCSC Information Statement.
Dr. Johnson shared an information statement that had recently been sent via Parent Square to families about concerns that had recently been discussed in online community forums and social media.
- 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. NEOLA, Approval.

- NEOLA, Policy 1422.02 (*rescind*), Nondiscrimination Based on Genetic Information of the Employee, 2nd Reading.
- NEOLA, Policy 1662 (*rescind*), Nondiscrimination Anti-Harassment, 2nd Reading.
- NEOLA, Policy 3362 (*rescind*), Nondiscrimination Anti-Harassment, 2nd Reading.
- NEOLA, Policy 4362 (*rescind*), Nondiscrimination Anti-Harassment, 2nd Reading.
- NEOLA, Policy 0142, Election and Eligibility to Serve, 2nd Reading.
- NEOLA, Policy 5462 (*T.C.*), Retaking a Class, 2nd Reading.
- NEOLA, Policy 7540.02, Digital Content and Accessibility, 2nd Reading.
- NEOLA, Policy 8462, Child Abuse and Neglect, 2nd Reading.

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

B. Programs (Policy 2000)

None at this time.

C. Finances (Policy 6000)

None at this time.

D. Operations (Policy 8000)

None at this time.

E. Property (Policy 7000)

1. Permission to advertise Notice to Bidders for the Secured Entrance Project, Approval.

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

VI. New Business

A. Programs (Policy 2000)

1. Field Trips

- Class of 2026 Senior Trip, Poore, Harrell and Driver, Top Golf, West Chester, OH, 5/15/2026-5/16/2026.

This field trip was approved without discussion as consent agenda item.

B. Professional Staff (Policy 3000)

1. Leaves

- Hannah Cooper, GCE Teacher, Unpaid Leave (1/2 day), 3/5/2026. Approval.

This leave was approved without discussion as consent agenda items.

2. Resignations/Retirements

- Ed Ertel, JCHS Director of Guidance, retirement effective at the end of 2025-2026 school year. Approval.
- Karen Field, JCMS Instructional Coach, retirement effective at the end of 2025-2026 school year. Approval.
- Gina Galyen, JCMS Remediation Teacher, retirement effective at the end of the 2025-2026 school year. Approval.
- Lisa LuAnn Gant, Hayden Elem. Instructional Coach, retirement effective at the end of the 2025-2026 school year. Approval.
- Todd Hearne, GCE Principal, retirement effective at the end of the 2025-2026 school year. Approval.
- Pamela Lovegrove, JCHS MTSS Coordinator, retirement effective at the end of the 2025-2026 school year. Approval.
- Elizabeth McGuire, JCMS Spanish Teacher, retirement effective at the end of the 2025-2026 school year. Approval.
- Roxanne Norton, JCHS SPED Teacher, retirement effective at the end of the 2025-2026 school year. Approval.
- Jennifer Posey, Hayden Elem. Guidance Counselor, retirement effective at the end of the 2025-2026 school year. Approval.
- Laurie Shepherd, JCMS Language Arts Teacher, retirement effective at the end of the 2025-2026 school year. Approval.
- Susan Webster, SCE Principal, retirement effective at the end of the 2025-2026 school year. Approval.

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

3. Transfers

None at this time.

4. Permission to post HR Administrative Assistant Position, Approval.

Ms. Morrison made a motion to approve. Mr. Nieman seconded the motion. 6 yes, 1 no (Mr. Shepherd). Approved.

5. Permission to Post 4 JCHS Summer School Teacher Positions, Approval. Ms.

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

6. Permission to Post 8 Elementary Summer School Teacher Positions, Approval.

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

7. Recommendations

- Eric Kelley, JCMS Boys Asst. Track & Field Coach, \$1,652.00 stipend, effective 3/13/2026. Approval.

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

8. Conference Requests
None at this time.
- C. Support Staff (Policy 4000)
1. Leaves
 - Jennifer Campbell, JCMS Cook, Unpaid Leave effective 3/20/2026. Approval.
This leave was approved without discussion as consent agenda items.
 2. Resignations/Retirements
 - Camiel Phillips, JCHS Custodian (2nd shift), resignation effective 3/16/2026. Approval.
 - Emilie Robinette, JCSC Nurse, resignation effective 3/6/2026. Approval.
 - Paula Rockey, JCMS Custodian, retirement effective 3/31/2026. Approval.
 - Vanessa Shepherd, JCHS Girls Golf Coach, resignation effective 3/5/2026. Approval.
 - Shannon Walker, JCSC Floating Cook, resignation effective 3/2/2026. Approval.

These resignations/retirements were approved without discussion as consent agenda items.
 3. Transfers
 - Tasha Lanning, BCE Para Pro \$14.70/hr. to BCE Administrative Assistant \$16.70/hr. x 8 hrs. / day x 205 days /yr., effective 5/22/2026. Approval.
This transfer was approved without discussion as consent agenda items.
 4. Permission to Post 1 JCHS Summer School Para Pro Position, Approval. Mr. Nieman made a motion to approve. Mr. Sullivan seconded the motion. 7 yes, 0 no. Approved.
 5. Permission to Post 8 Elementary Summer School Para Pro Positions, Approval.
Ms. Morrison made a motion to approve. Mrs. Miller seconded the motion. 7 yes, 0 no. Approved.
 6. Recommendations
 - Rae Jean Auterson, JCHS/JCMS Music Accompanist Para Pro (part-time), \$17.20 / hr. x 25 hrs. /week, effective 3/13/2026. Approval.
 - Ellen Geringer, JCHS SPED Para Pro, termination effective 3/3/2026. Approval.
 - Jonathan Kipper, JCHS Asst. Boys Track Coach, \$2,889.00 stipend effective 3/13/2026. Approval.
 - Samantha Smith, JCSC Bus Aide, \$14.50 / hr. x 8 hrs. / day x 180 days, effective 3/13/2026. Approval.
 - Scotty Willis, JCHS Volunteer Asst. Softball Coach, effective 3/13/2026. Approval.
Ms. Whitcomb made a motion to approve. Ms. Morrison seconded the motion. 7 yes, 0 no. Approved.
 7. Conference Requests
None at this time.

D. Finances (Policy 6000)

1. Donations/Grants, Approval.

- JCHS, Approval.
 - Greg Hicks State Farm, \$100.00 to the Junior Class Prom.
 - Jump Family Insurance, \$200.00 to the Junior Class Prom.
 - Outbound Technologies, \$500.00 to ESports.
- JCMS, Approval.
 - Alisha Roberts Insurance of Columbus, IN, \$500.00 for the 8th grade celebration.
- JCSC, Approval.
 - Kindergarten Round-up donations.
 - Biehle Family Dentistry- 300 toothbrushes.
 - Expert Eye Care – 300 coloring books.
- North Vernon Elementary, Approval.
 - Hayden Methodist Church, estimated value of \$150.00 of shoes, socks and food to help students in need.

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

2. IDOE Rural Non-Congregate Summer Meal Food Program, Approval.

Mr. Marsh requested approval for the summer meal program that supplies free summer meals for children 18 years and under, offering five days of meals, one time per week. This would be on Wednesdays during the months of June and July for curbside pickup at JCHS.

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

3. Resolution, Approval.

- a. *Resolution* – **BUS2026-006** - Resolution Authorizing the Treasurer or Deputy Treasurer of Jennings County Schools to make payments of claims without board action prior to April 9, 2026, and to allow the Treasurer or Deputy Treasurer to make transfers of Appropriations within the Education, Debt Service, and Operations Funds in order to Balance Major Account Classifications, Approval.

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

- b. *Resolution*—**BUS2026-007** – The Superintendent of Schools is specifically authorized to pay the Early Retirement Incentive payments to the teachers specified in the attached document titled “JCSC 2026 Early Retirement Payment” in the amounts specified in the attached document. The attached document is incorporated into the Resolution by reference. These are one-time payments.

- Ed Ertel
- Karen Field
- Gina Galyen
- LuAnn Gant
- Todd Hearne
- Pamela Lovegrove
- Elizabeth McGuire
- Roxanne Norton

- Jennifer Posey
- Laurie Shepherd
- Susie Webster

Ms. Whitcomb made a motion to approve. Mr. Sullivan seconded the motion. 6 yes, 1 abstain (Mr. Shepherd). Approved.

4. February 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)

1. Application for Annual 1003 Flexibility Waiver, Inform.

Dr. Johnson introduced a proposal to apply for an Annual 1003 Flexibility Waiver that would allow JCSC teachers two designated eLearning Days to participate in professional development. These two days would be in addition to the three eLearning Days allowed by the state for inclement weather. Dr. Johnson will bring this request back for approval as a resolution. If approved, JCSC will apply to the state for approval.

2. 2025-2026 Calendar Update – Waiver Approved, Inform.

JCSC has been granted a waiver by IDOE and will not have to make up February 26, 2026. Graham Creek Elementary has also been granted a waiver for February 16, 2026 and will not have to make that day up.

G. Relations (Policy 9000)

None at this time.

VII. Claims

The claims were presented for approval in the amount of \$1,446,109.15 (claims 111275 – 111521) and payroll in the amount of \$1,243,438.82 (check date 2/27/2025).

These claims were approved without discussion as consent agenda items.

VIII. Other

A. Updates.

1. Area Planning Commission Meeting Minutes, January 5, 2026.

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

IX. Adjournment

Ms. Morrison made a motion to adjourn at 7:31 p.m. Mr. Shepherd seconded the motion. 7 yes, 0 no. Adjourned.

Next Regular Meeting: The next Regular Board Meeting will be on April 9, 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