

JENNINGS COUNTY SCHOOL CORPORATION
Central Administration Office Building
Work Session
Executive Session
Regular Board Meeting Minutes
May 7, 2026

Work Session: A Board Work Session was held on May 7, 2026, in the Board Room of the Jennings County School Corporation Central Administration Office Building, 34 West Main Street, North Vernon, Indiana 47265. The work session began at 5:00 p.m.

- Strategic Plan

Dr. Pettit called the meeting to order. Strategic Planning for the 2026-2030 school years was discussed. Presenting data and suggested action areas was a group of teachers and administrators involved with planning. Representing the planning group were Mr. Roller, Mrs. Patterson, Ms. Hill, Mr. Boswell, Mr. Ebinger, Mrs. Vaughn, Mrs. Hill, Mrs. Likens, and Mr. Shoultz. They discussed the five overall action areas (Panther Wellbeing, Academic Achievement and Growth, Operational Efficiencies, Positive School Culture and Climate, and Fiscal Responsibility) that were developed in response to the data and information collected from surveys of students, parents, staff and community members and other district data. The next steps will include requesting official approval, forming a new mission and vision statement and creating SMART goal action steps.

The following link was also available to live stream the Special Board Meeting from your home:

<https://youtube.com/live/-LUDfdwmPg>

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, Amanda Sullivan, Todd Ebinger, Lisa Hearne, and Board Executive Secretary Deb Johnson were also in attendance.

The meeting adjourned at 5:56 p.m.

Executive Session: The Jennings County School Corporation Board of School Trustees met in executive session on May 7, 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).

- (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, and Lisa Hearne were also in attendance.

The meeting adjourned at 6:45 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/Gu3GK2E79bQ>

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, 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;
- 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;
- VID6. 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:
VID2. April 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.
Mrs. Miller 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 April 23, 2026.
These minutes were approved without discussion as consent agenda items.
- IV. Community Non-Agenda Items
 - JCMS Presentation
Jennings County Middle School had three groups of students perform. (1) Orchestra members consisting of Brennan Brown, Camila Cuautle Sanchez, Kendall Beeman-Krise, Isabel Quintero Francisco, Alyssa Gosman, and Karen Miranda performed “Fury”. (2) Band member and county spelling bee winner Mason Foist performed “Surprise Symphony”. (3) Una Voce members Christy (Sophia) Ernestes, Reyden Burke, Violet Reecer, Camila Cuautle Sanchez, Haley Collett, Hannah Mahoy, Oakleigh Robinson, and Madison Allen performed “Remember Me”. The Countywide Festival will be on May 9, 2026 at Tripton Mill Park 11:00-5:30 p.m.
 - JCSC 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 (Public Participation at Board Meetings).
 - The President asked if anyone would like to speak on any items on the agenda or any other topic.
Mr. Kendall spoke about being denied coaching privileges with the corporation.
- V. Old Business
 - A. NEOLA, Approval.
 - NEOLA, Policy 6320, Purchasing, 2nd Reading, Approval.
 - NEOLA, Policy 7455, Accounting System for Capital Assets, 2nd Reading, Approval.
 - NEOLA, Policy 8500 (*T.C.*), Food Service Program, 2nd Reading, Approval.
 - NEOLA, Policy 1130, Conflict of Interest, 2nd Reading, Approval.
 - NEOLA, Policy 3113, Conflict of Interest, 2nd Reading, Approval.
 - NEOLA, Policy 4113, Conflict of Interest, 2nd Reading, Approval.
 - NEOLA, Policy 6110, Grant Funds, 2nd Reading, Approval.
 - NEOLA, Policy 6112, Cash Management of Grants, 2nd Reading, Approval.
 - NEOLA, Policy 6114, Cost Principles-Spending Federal Funds, 2nd Reading, Approval.

- NEOLA, Policy 6325, Procurement Federal Grants/Funds, 2nd Reading, Approval.
- NEOLA, Policy 6550, Travel Payment and Reimbursement/Relocation Costs, 2nd Reading, Approval.
- NEOLA, Policy 7450, Property Inventory, 2nd Reading, Approval.
- NEOLA, Admin. Guidelines 3121, Personal Background Check, 2nd Reading, Approval.
- NEOLA, Admin. Guidelines 4121, Personal Background Check, 2nd Reading, Approval.
- NEOLA, Admin. Guidelines 1521, Personal Background Check, 2nd Reading, Approval.
- NEOLA, Admin. Guidelines 8120, Personal Background Check, 2nd Reading, Approval.
- NEOLA, Admin. Guidelines 8121, Personal Background Check, 2nd Reading, Approval.

Mr. Shepherd made a motion to approve. Mr. Nieman 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)

1. BLUEprint 2030 – JCSC Strategic Plan 2026-2030, Approval.

Dr. Johnson requested approval for the updated strategic plan.

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

E. Property (Policy 7000)

None at this time.

VI. New Business

A. NEOLA, Inform.

- NEOLA, Admin. Guidelines 2221, Mandatory Curriculum, 1st Reading, Inform.
- NEOLA, Admin. Guidelines 5320, Immunization of Students in Schools, 1st Reading, Inform.
- NEOLA, Admin. Guidelines 5410, Promotion, Placements, and Retention, 1st Reading, Inform.
- NEOLA, Admin. Guidelines 5517.01, Bullying, 1st Reading, Inform.
- NEOLA, Admin. Guidelines 5540 (*Renumbered/Renamed*), The Schools and Law Enforcement Agencies, 1st Reading, Inform.
- NEOLA, Admin. Guidelines 5540A (*Rescind*), Relationship with Governmental Agencies, 1st Reading, Inform.
- NEOLA, Admin. Guidelines 5540B (*Rescind*), Student Disorder, 1st Reading, Inform.
- NEOLA, Admin. Guidelines 5540.01 (*New*), Investigations by the Department of Child Services (DCS), 1st Reading, Inform.
- NEOLA, Admin. Guidelines 6151 (*New*), Insufficient Funds Checks, 1st Reading, Inform.

- NEOLA, Admin. Guidelines 8500 (*Rescind*), Food Service, 1st Reading, Inform.
 - NEOLA, Admin. Guidelines 8500B (*Rescind*), Meal Charge Accounts, 1st Reading, Inform.
 - NEOLA, Admin. Guidelines 8540 (*Rescind*), Vending Machines, 1st Reading, Inform.
 - NEOLA, Admin. Guidelines 9150, School Visitors, 1st Reading, Inform.
- Dr. Johnson presented NEOLA Policies and Admin. Guidelines for first reading.

B. Programs (Policy 2000)

1. Field Trips

None at this time.

C. Professional Staff (Policy 3000)

1. Leaves

- Angela Roberson, SCE SPED Teacher, Unpaid Leave 5/8/2026, Approval. This leave was approved without discussion as consent agenda item.

2. Resignations/Retirements

- Hannah Alexander, NVE Teacher, resignation effective end of 2025-2026 school year, Approval.
- Callie Garrett, JCMS Social Studies Teacher, resignation effective at the end of the 2025-2026 school year, Approval.
- Bill Green, JCMS Social Studies Teacher, retirement effective end of 2028-2029 school year, Approval.
- Abbigail Van Volkenburgh, NVE SPED Teacher, resignation effective end of the 2025-2026 school year, Approval.
- Marilyn Wathen, JCMS Impact/Alt. Ed. Teacher, 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. Recommendations

- Valerie Bingham, NVE Summer School Teacher, (9 days) effective 5/26/2026-6/5/2026, Approval.
- Morgan Likens, JCSC Asst. District Safety Coordinator, up to 5 additional days / yr., effective 7/1/2026, Approval.
- Career Increment / Master Stipend
2026/2027, 2027/2028, 2028/2029, 2029/2030, 2030/2031
 - Emily Ponsler
- Tricia Skinner, NVE Summer School Teacher, (9 days) effective 5/26/2026-6/5/2026, Approval.
- Chris Thurston, JCSC District Safety Coordinator, up to 5 additional days for a total of 10 days, effective 7/1/2026, 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. Support Staff (Policy 4000)

1. Leaves

None at this time.

2. Resignations/Retirements

- Paige Bateman, JCHS SPED ParaPro, resignation effective 5/21/2026, Approval.
- Crissy Beesley, JCSC Food Service Admin. Asst., retirement effective 5/22/2026, Approval.
- Ashley Boyce, BCE SPED ParaPro, resignation effective 5/21/2026, Approval.
- Jessica Conrad, JCSC Tech Admin. Asst., resignation effective 5/8/2026, Approval.
- Mary Potter, JCMS SPED ParaPro, resignation effective 4/28/2026, Approval.
- Diana Robbins, SCE ParaPro, retirement effective 5/21/2026, Approval.
- Katherine Roberson, SCE ParaPro, resignation effective 4/21/2026, Approval.
- Samantha Smith JCSC Bus Aide, resignation effective 4/24/2026, Approval.

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

3. Transfers

None at this time.

4. Recommendations

- Destiny (Brooke) Gerringer, GCE ParaPro \$14.75/hr. to GCE Admin. Asst., \$16.75/hr. x 8 hrs. per day at 195 days, effective 7/27/2026, Approval.
- Rene Gross, NVE Summer School ParaPro, \$16.00 / hr., effective 5/26/2026-6/5/2026, Approval.
- Austin Grunden, JCHS Volunteer Football Coach, effective 5/8/2026, Approval.
- Janice Heilman, JCSC Cook-Sun Meals to Go (Summer Food Program), \$20.00 / hr., effective 6/1/2026-7/29/2026, Approval.
- Nola Hostetter, JCSC Kitchen Mgr.- Sun Meals to Go (Summer Food Program), \$20.70 / hr., effective 6/1/2026-7/29/2026, Approval.
- Gary Kreutzjans, JCMS Volunteer Boys Golf Coach, effective 5/8/2026, Approval.
- Donna Lewis, JCSC Floating Sub Cook, \$16.50/ hr. x 7 hrs. / day at 184 days per year, effective 4/24/2026, Approval.
- Donna Lewis, JCSC Cook- Sun Meals to Go (Summer Food Program), \$16.50 / hr., effective 6/1/2026-7/29/2026, Approval.
- Sara McClain, JCSC Cook-Sun Meals to Go (Summer Food Program), \$15.00 / hr., effective 6/1/2026-7/29/2026, Approval.
- Meredith Morin, JCMS Volunteer Boys Golf Coach, effective 5/8/2026, Approval.
- Hannah Nugent, NVE Summer School ParaPro, \$17.00 / hr., effective 5/26/2026-6/5/2026, Approval.

- Brittany Mortenson, JCHS Asst. Girls Soccer Coach, \$2,858.00 stipend (redistributed), effective 5/8/2026, Approval.
- Amanda Wells, JCSC Cook-Sun Meals to Go (Summer Food Program), effective 6/1/2026-7/29/2026, Approval.

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

5. Waiver for 4/28/2026 GCE Classified Staff Payment, Approval.

Dr. Johnson requested approval to pay GCE classified staff members for the missed instructional day due to inclement weather causing a power outage on 4/28/2026, instead of making up the time. IDOE has waived the requirement for students and certified staff to make up this day.

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

6. Conference Requests

- Tyler Campbell, Seth Beville, Shawn Minton, Matt Miller, INSROA State Conference, New Buffalo, MI., 6/16/2026-6/19/2026, Approval.

This conference was approved without discussion as consent agenda items.

E. Finances (Policy 6000)

1. Donations/Grants, Approval.

- Hayden Elementary, Approval.
 - Mr. Mike Waskom, \$835.06 for a wireless transmitter with rechargeable battery system.
- JCHS, Approval.
 - Daniel Richardson, \$25.00 for the Key Club Fund.
 - Graham Presbyterian Church, \$300.00 for the Panther Pantry.
 - Super ATV, LLC, \$250.00 for Faculty PBIS.
- JCMS, Approval.
 - Miller's Tavern of North Vernon, IN, \$250.00 for the 8th Grade Celebration.
- JCSC, Approval.
 - HOPE Food Program
 - Graham Presbyterian Church, Inc. - \$300.00
 - JCSC Crescendo Music Dept., Countywide Fine Arts Festival for T-shirts, Sound, and posters.
 - Country Chevrolet - \$250.00
 - Josh Leonard, Indiana Farm Bureau Insurance - \$100.00
 - Mayor Gerkin - \$250.00
 - Staff Appreciation Week
 - Allergic 2 Dirt – (2) \$200.00 gift certificates for a full car detail
 - Autozone – Carwash bucket
 - Big Head Pizza – (12) \$20.00 gift certificates
 - Cheeky Mondays Grill – (4) \$16.00 gift certificates
 - Chick-fil-A – (2) nugget catering tray gift cards
 - Dairy Queen – (5) \$20.00 gift cards
 - Iron Benders – (2) one-month memberships w/key fob and (2) t-shirts
 - Lakeside Pizza – (10) \$10.00 gift cards

- Las Chalupas Mexican Restaurant – (3) \$20.00 gift cards
- Little Red Kitchen – (4) \$25.00 gift cards
- McDonald’s – (5) Medium Extra Value Meals
- O’Reilly’s Auto Parts – Meguiar’s Ultimate Complete Kit
- Papa John’s – (4) two-topping pizzas and (1) one-topping pizza gift cards
- Pizza King - \$25.00 gift card
- Premier Sports – (2) \$50.00 gift cards
- Purty Nails – (1) \$35.00 and (1) \$45.00 gift cards
- Rumors Full Service Salon – (1) \$30.00 and (1) \$50.00 gift cards
- Subway – (6) 6” sub sandwiches
- Sugar Brew Bakery – (2) lunch specials
- Taco Bell – (20) \$5.00 gift cards
- Tailfeather Farm Market – (10) \$7.00 gift cards
- Thoroughbred Express – (5) \$30.00 gift cards
- VIP Nails – (1) \$50.00 gift card
- Walmart – (5) \$20.00 gift cards
- Wendy’s – (34) small Frosty gift cards

JCSC would like to thank the community members who donated to this special week celebrating our staff during Staff Appreciation Week.

Mr. Sullivan made a motion to approve. Mrs. Miller seconded the motion.

7 yes, 0 no. Approved.

2. April Fund Report.

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

F. Property (Policy 7000)

None at this time.

G. Operations (Policy 8000)

1. Classified Handbook, Approval.

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

7 yes, 0 no. Approved.

2. Extra Pay for Short-Term 2025-2026 Contracted Routes, Approval.

- Bus 309, added 44 miles at \$88.00 per day, effective 5/5/2026 through the end of the 2025-2026 school year or the bridge is re-opened.

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

3. Bus Contractor Field Trip Rate, Approval.

Dr. Johnson requested an increase of \$0.25 per mile due to inflation on gas for field trips.

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

7 yes, 0 no. Approved.

H. Relations (Policy 9000)

1. MOU between Beck Speech Therapy, LLC and JCSC, Approval.

Mr. Ebinger requested approval for the online SLP partnership for students in 4th-12th grade.

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

7 yes, 0 no. Approved.

2. MOU between First Steps and JCSC, Approval.

Mr. Ebinger requested approval for the transition MOU for Early Intervention Services through First Steps to service through JCSC at age 3.

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

VII. Claims

The claims were presented for approval in the amount of \$1,720,824.55 (claims 112084 – 112321) and payroll in the amount of \$1,222,714.55 (check date 4/30/2026).

These claims were approved without discussion as consent agenda items.

VIII. Other

A. Updates.

Dr. Johnson expressed her gratitude and thanked all staff for all they do as we celebrated Staff Appreciation Week. A special thank you to Mrs. Hearne for all her hard work coordinating the week. Also, a reminder of the Countywide Music Festival on May 9, 2026.

IX. Adjournment

Mr. Sullivan made a motion to adjourn at 7:36 p.m. Mrs. Miller seconded the motion. 7 yes, 0 no. Adjourned.

Next Regular Meeting: The next Regular Board Meeting will be on May 21, 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