

**JENNINGS COUNTY SCHOOL CORPORATION**  
**Central Administration Office Building**  
**Executive Session**  
**Regular Board Meeting Agenda**  
**May 8, 2025**

**Executive Session:** The Jennings County School Corporation Board of School Trustees met in executive session on May 8, 2025 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).*
- (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).*
- (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, Administrative Assistant Carrie Manowitz and Lisa Hearne were also in attendance. Philip Marsh was not in attendance.

The Executive Session 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 will begin at 7:00 p.m.

The following link was available to live stream the Regular Board meeting from your home:

<https://youtube.com/live/v-A7gfyWtLQ?feature=share>

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, Administrative Assistants Carrie Manowitz, Todd Ebinger, Amanda Sullivan, Lisa Hearne and

Board Executive Secretary Deb Johnson were also in attendance. Philip Marsh was not 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;
- VIA1. Field Trips;
- VIB1. Professional Staff: Leaves;
- VIB2. Professional Staff: Resignations, Retirements;
- VIB3. Professional Staff: Transfers;
- VIB5. Conference Requests;
- VIC1. Support Staff: Leaves;
- VIC2. Support Staff: Resignations, Retirements;
- VIC3. Support Staff: Transfers;
- VIC6. 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 will be 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  
Mr. Taggart made a motion to approve consent agenda items. Mrs. Sullivan seconded the motion. 7 yes, 0 no. Approved.
- III. Minutes of the Executive Session and the Regular Board Meeting of April 24, 2025.  
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: [jpsc.org/Board of Trustee/Board Reports/Board Policies/Bylaws/po0167.3](https://jpsc.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. We would also ask that you state your name, address and if applicable your group affiliation.

Speaker 1 - Nikki Rosbottom with Tabitha Brock Foundation and an advocate against domestic and sexual violence. We are concerned parents about what's happening in our community and the school system right now. I would like to ask if anyone is aware of Erin's Law which was passed in 2018 that requires every public schools to teach children and employees about sexual abuse awareness. What I would like to know is what policies and training has the Jennings County Schools offered since the law established in 2018? Dr. Pettit commented that this is not a time of discussion, it is really a time for comment and what I would like to suggest is that if you have those questions, that we can get you in contact with Dr. Johnson and we can follow up with you and make sure that you get all that information. Ms. Rosbottom said, as a parent I feel it is the schools job as well as a parent's job to discuss sexual abuse with our students/children. We as a community need to help our kids. In closing, she offered her services to come into the schools to speak with the students about sexual abuse as a victim herself, in hopes of letting our students know it is okay to open up to an adult if this is happening to them or someone they know.

Speaker 2 - Gleeda Hadley, Substance Abuse Coordinator for Jennings County and parent. Her student started showing signs of homicidal ideation and also showing signs of suicidal ideations, so the school requested that she bring him to school the next day. The parent and the student spoke with the SRO and the student was honest with the SRO. The student was put on remote learning and we 100% isolated him for nine weeks which further worsened his mental health. Her second student watched her friend struggle with mental health with self-harm. The parent feels like the school tried to work with them but the student left feeling defeated because of comments that were made. The parent felt that the SRO was not trained and should not have asked the questions. How can we help, how can we help kids talk to us and not feel like they are betraying their friends?

Speaker 3 - Alexa Boyd part of the mental health matters initiative, she takes deep pride in Jennings County. She is interested in helping to fill in the gaps that she feels are missing for this generation of kids. There will be a summer event, summer support system set up. She would like to see more partnering with different affiliations within the community. One way she suggested was to have same aged ambassadors so the students would feel like they can talk to them.

Speaker 4 - Jedadiah McCorry who has withdrawn his kids from public schools. Parent would like to see us teaching the history of our nation in an accurate manner. He understands that people throw up separation of church and state. We understand that religion is a regulating factor for the base of morals and values in society and that would force the hand of bringing God back into the conversation. He concluded that kids seem to be more incompetent, anxious and depressed more than I could ever imagine.

Speaker 5 – Anonymous speaker asked for two minutes of silence. It was explained that this is what it feels like for the children that has no voice but we can do better and we need to learn from mistakes. He wants to know what the schools are going to do better.

Speaker 6 - Sara Thomas former student of Jennings County and a parent of students in Jennings County Schools. We need to have a better line of communication from the school to the parents, whether is a big incident or a small one. She feels that a personal phone call needs to take place instead of a mass email. It takes a community and we are all to blame. We as parents need to start at home and we need to teach them better, we have to do better. School is a big part of our children's lives. If there is anything as a parent that I can do to help other kids, the schools or whatever to help, I am all for it. I am open to suggestions.

Dr. Pettit stated, thank you for stepping up and we love our community and we want to help. I would be remiss if I did not remind you all on how to report bullying events and communication are keys to succeed. Let our students know to talk with adults, counselors, principals, and communicate through email, Parent Square, anonymous reporting, but communicate. Ask for help. We need everybody's help to speak up to help our students. If you feel like you have not received the resolution that you feel is adequate, please reach out to Dr. Johnson, Mrs. Manowitz, Mrs. Sullivan, and Mr. Ebinger at 812-346-4483 for additional help and communicate your concerns for any student. Any students that are suspected of bullying behavior in our schools may be placed on a bullying agreement or safety plan. We do have processes in place to address these things. These plans involve decisive monitoring, actions to ensure the behavior is stopped, actions could also include a variety of options (Options included are increased supervision, change of schedule, up to and including suspension or expulsion from the school). Please know and help your student know, that we will take disciplinary steps as appropriate. We want all of our students to be successful.

V. Old Business

A. NEOLA, Approval.

- NEOLA, Policy 5500, Student Conduct, 2<sup>nd</sup> Reading.
- NEOLA, Policy 7540.03, Student Technology Acceptable Use and Safety, 2<sup>nd</sup> Reading.
- NEOLA, Policy 7540.04, Staff Technology Acceptable Use and Safety, 2<sup>nd</sup> Reading.
- NEOLA, Policy 7540.09, Artificial Intelligence ("AI"), 2<sup>nd</sup> Reading.

Dr. Johnson asked for approval NEOLA policies.

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

B. Programs (Policy 2000)

- Summer School Update, Inform.

Mrs. Manowitz informed of summer school finalized plans for the IDOE required summer school reading for students retaking the IREAD testing for elementary 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> graders. Mrs. Manowitz also stated there will be a high school summer school to increase or make up credits needed for graduation.

C. Property (Policy 7000)

- Halo Smart Sensors, Inform.

Dr. Johnson informed on the installation of the Halo Smart Sensors that is being funded by the class action suit settlement against vape manufacturers. These detectors are being installed at JCHS, JCMS and JCEC that will alert administrators on vaping, large gatherings in the restrooms, fights, requests for help, and multiple other embedded safety features.

## VI. New Business

### A. Programs (Policy 2000)

#### 1. Field Trips

- JCHS Music Dept., Mr. Brooks, Walt Disney World, Orlando, FL., 3/23/2026-3/28/2026.

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

### B. Professional Staff (Policy 3000)

#### 1. Leaves

- Pam Kelley, Teacher, Administrative Leave, effective 4/9/2025-5/1/2025, Approval.

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

#### 2. Resignations/Retirements

- Resignation—Pam Kelley, effective 5/2/2025, Approval.
- Michael McBride, JCHS Teacher (Impact), resignation effective end of 2024-2025 school year, Approval.
- Michael McBride, JCHS Varsity Boys Basketball Head Coach, resignation effective 5/23/2025, Approval.

These resignations were approved without discussion as a consent agenda item.

#### 3. Transfers

None at this time.

#### 4. Recommendations

- Casey Ernstes, Scipio Elem. Summer School Teacher, (9 days), effective 5/27/2025-6/6/2025, Approval.
- Erin Green, Hayden Elem. Summer School Teacher, (9 days), effective 5/27/2025-6/6/2025, Approval.
- Chrystal Hammond, JCHS Summer School Teacher, \$52.50 /hr. x 24 days x 8 hrs. / day, effective 5/27/2025, Approval.
- Toby Harrell, JCHS Summer School Teacher, \$39.08/hr. x 24 days x 8 hrs. / day, effective 5/27/2025, Approval.
- Ashley Heindel, Hayden Elem. Summer Custodial Support, \$14.00/hr. x 8 hrs. / day, effective 5/27/2025, Approval.
- Kristin Jahn, GCE Summer School Teacher, (9 days), effective 5/27/2025-6/6/2025, Approval.
- John Kelley, JCHS Volunteer Girls Golf Coach, effective 5/9/2025, Approval.
- Paige Kelley, BCE Summer School Teacher (Part-time), (9 days), effective 5/27/2025-6/6/2025, Approval.
- Jennifer Laman, SCE Summer School Teacher, (9 days), effective 5/27/2025-6/6/2025, Approval.
- Stephanie Puckett, BCE Summer School Teacher (Part-time), (9 days), effective 5/27/2025-6/6/2025, Approval.
- Derek Stewart, JCHS Summer School Teacher, \$37.73/hr. x 24 days x 8 hrs. / day, effective 5/27/2025, Approval.
- Dawn Turner, SCE Summer School Teacher, (9 days), effective 5/27/2025-6/6/2025, Approval.
- Colby Vogel, JCHS Summer School Teacher, \$40.42/hr. x 24 days x 8 hrs./day, effective 5/27/2025, Approval.

Mrs. Hearne requested approval. Ms. Whitcomb made a motion to approve all recommendations. Mrs. Miller seconded the motion. 7 yes, 0 no. Approved.

5. Conference Requests

None at this time.

C. Support Staff (Policy 4000)

1. Leaves

- Cheryl Birge, GCE Cook, Unpaid Sick Leave, effective 5/2/2025, Approval.
- Alyssa Noblitt, SCE Para Pro, Unpaid Sick Leave, effective 4/24/2025-5/5/2025, Approval.
- Ginger Reitman, SCE Cook, Unpaid Sick Leave, effective 4/24/2025, Approval.

These leaves were approved without discussion as a consent agenda item.

2. Resignations/Retirements

- Desire Burdine, GCE Para Pro, resignation effective end of 2024-2025 school year, Approval.
- Barbara Cooper, JCSC Bus Aide, retirement effective end of 2024-2025 school year, Approval.
- Mandy Davis, JCHS Administrative Asst., resignation effective 5/30/2025, Approval.

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

3. Transfers

None at this time.

4. Permission to post a Transportation Administrative Asst. position, Approval.

Mrs. Hearne request to post a Transportation Administrative Asst. position.

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

5. Recommendations

- Scott Alcorn, JSCS Bus Driver, Administrative Leave, effective 4/17/2025-4/28/2025, Approval
- Scott Alcorn, JCSC Bus Driver, termination effective 4/29/2025, Approval.
- Christina Alexander, JCHS Summer Meal Program Cook, \$16.50 / hr. x 6 hrs. / day, effective 6/2/2025, Approval.
- Emily Cave, JCHS Summer Meal Program Cook, \$16.50 / hr. x 6 hrs. / day, Approval.
- Shelly Driver, BCE Summer School Para Pro, (9 days), effective 5/27/2025-6/6/2025, Approval.
- Kenneth Eaton, JCHS Summer Custodial Support (Part-time), \$12.00 / hr. x 20 hrs. / week, Approval.
- Ellie Gerringer, JCHS Summer School Para Pro, \$18.95 / hr. x 24 days x 8 hrs. / day, effective 5/27/2025, Approval.
- Makenna Hooten, JCHS Summer Custodial Support, \$14.00 / hr. x 8 hrs. / day, effective 5/27/2025, Approval.
- Nola Hostetler, JCHS Summer Meal Program – Kitchen Manager, \$20.70 / hr. x 7 hrs. / day, effective 6/2/2025, Approval.

- Shyann Lovitt, NVE Summer Custodial Support, \$14.00 / hr., effective 5/27/2025, Approval.
- Dragon Mouser, JCHS Summer Custodial Support (Part-time), \$12.00 / hr. x 20 hrs. per week, effective 5/27/2025, Approval.
- Tanya Perry, JCSC Bus Aide, Administrative Leave, effective 4/17/2025-4/28/2025, Approval.
- Tanya Perry, JCSC Bus Aide, termination effective 4/29/2025, Approval.
- Sarah Pyatt, SCE Summer Custodial Support, \$14.00 / hr. x 8 hrs. / day, effective 5/27/2025, Approval.
- Julia Robertson, SCE Summer School Para Pro, (9 days), effective 5/27/2025-6/6/2025, Approval.
- Melanie Smith, GCE Summer School Para Pro, (9 days), effective 5/27/2025-6/6/2025, Approval.

Mrs. Hearne requested approval for all recommendations as read. Mr. Taggart made a motion to approve. Ms. Whitcomb seconded the motion. 7 yes, 0 no. Approved.

#### 6. Conference Requests

None at this time.

#### Finances (Policy 6000)

##### 1. Donations, Approval.

- Brush Creek Elementary, Approval.
  - Student Snacks
    - Butlerville Grocery - \$100.00
    - Candy Miller - \$100.00
    - Cheryl & Dave Miller - \$100.00
    - Linda Anglin - \$100.00
    - Lowe's Indiana Regional Distribution - \$300.00
  - First United Methodist Church, \$100.00 for student needs.
- Hayden Elementary, Approval.
  - School Library in Memory of Becky Boggs
    - Pat & Michele Sullivan - \$100.00
    - Rodney & Heida Garrett - \$30.00
    - Ron & Kay Bloemer - \$50.00
    - Lori Kendrick - \$40.00
    - Tom & Sandy Smith – \$20.00
    - Wanda Maschino - \$20.00
  - Mike Waskom, \$1,204.64 for Sound Desk Tables and DJ Facades used for our musicals.
  - NVIC - \$250.00 grant money to the 4<sup>th</sup> grade classes for STEM Day on May 6, 2025.
- JCHS donations, Approval.
  - City of North Vernon, \$1,000.00 to the Music Department's Countywide Arts Festival.
  - ETC Systems, \$300.00 to Junior Class for Prom/After Prom supplies.
- JCMS donations, Approval.
  - Layman Humme Insurance of North Vernon, \$50.00 to be used for VIP Recognition Breakfast.
- JCSC donations, Approval.

- Giving Grace, \$5,000.00 to all Jennings County Schools for unpaid school lunch balances.
- Jennifer Hughes, 6 children's books that she wrote, to each elementary school (approximate value \$120.00).
- North Vernon Elementary, Approval.
  - NVIC grant, \$250.00 for the Donors Choose Funding.

Mr. Ebinger requested approval for all donations as read. Mr. Sullivan made a motion to approve. Ms. Morrison seconded the motion. 7 yes, 0 no. Approved.

2. April Fund Report

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

D. Relations (Policy 9000)

- Grateful Care ABA Agreement and JCSC, Approval.

Mr. Ebinger requested approval for an outside agency to provide one on one support for one or more students per parent request during the school day.

Ms. Whitcomb 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 \$1,314,940.61 (claims 106191 – 106411) and payroll in the amount of \$1,279,367.39 (check date 4/30/2025).

These claims were approved without discussion as a consent agenda items.

VIII. Other

A. Updates.

IX. Adjournment

Mr. Shepherd made a motion to adjourn at 7:38 p.m. Mr. Sullivan seconded the motion. Adjourned. 7 yes, 0 no. Approved.

**Next Regular Meeting:** The next Regular Board Meeting will be May 22, 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