

**JENNINGS COUNTY SCHOOL CORPORATION**  
**Central Administration Office Building**  
**Executive Session**  
**Regular Board Meeting Agenda**  
**April 24, 2025**

**Executive Session:** The Jennings County School Corporation Board of School Trustees met in executive session on April 24, 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):

(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*.

(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, Philip Marsh, Lisa Hearne were also in attendance.

The Executive Session adjourned at 6:50 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/SbX4P4s5DG4?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, Philip Marsh, Todd Ebinger, Amanda 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 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;
- VIC1. Professional Staff: Leaves;
- VIC2. Professional Staff: Resignations, Retirements;
- VID1. Support Staff: Leaves;
- VID2. Support Staff: Resignations, Retirements;
- 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:

### **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. Mr. Sullivan seconded the motion. 7 yes, 0 no. Approved.
- III. Minutes of the Executive Session and the Regular Board Meeting of April 10, 2025.  
These minutes were approved without discussion as consent agenda items.
- IV. Community Non-Agenda Items
  - Hayden presentation on musical "Disney Dreamland".  
Mr. Hartwell spoke about Hayden musical "Disney Dreamland" coming up on May 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> located at Hayden Elementary at 7:00 p.m. Mr. Stoner who wrote the musical "Disney Dreamland" introduced Oakley Robinson to sing a song from Pete's Dragon.
  - The President asked if anyone would like to speak on any items on the agenda or any other topic.  
Mrs. Kim Sears spoke about bullying and she feels like the kids aren't getting the help they need. She stated, kids need support from peer figures and then if needed parents/guardians need to be contacted immediately so they can be helped at home. She said, as a community we need to work together to help the kids.

Mrs. Kim Sears feels that bullies are getting away with bullying and have no recourse to their actions. Mrs. Kim Sears feels that the bullies need to be suspended so they learn their lesson. Dr. Pettit stated we're sorry that you don't feel like things are being addressed. As a corporation we are following appropriate processes and procedures. Dr. Pettit went over the methods of reporting. We encourage students, parents, grandparents and community members to, if you see something say something. JCSC is committed to doing the investigation and making sure to follow up on any items, so we encourage students to ask an adult for help. Dr. Pettit stated, she believes that we have very dedicated teachers, counselors, and school administrators that want to help do the right thing. If you feel like it's not been resolved, then those problems need to be escalated to the next level. To make a report there is a functionality on Parent Square that those reports can be sent in. If you feel that it is not being corrected then the community is invited to contact Dr. Johnson, Mrs. Manowitz, Mrs. Sullivan and Mr. Ebinger. You may also contact Central Office at 812-346-4483. JCSC wants to make ourselves available because again, we are committed to making this a safe environment. Dr. Pettit continued, as far as social media, I think we would be remiss if we didn't say that it is extremely difficult to monitor social media, things that are put on there disappears quickly and they cannot be found, they are also hidden in different apps. Dr. Pettit reminded that different resources have been shared out (Rimby pamphlet) and can be redistributed upon request. She stated, as a corporation, we can't monitor social media personal accounts for your children, that's where we, as a corporation, need your help and that's where it truly becomes a team. Again, if you do have any questions please reach out to Dr. Johnson and our team. We appreciate you being here tonight and thank you for speaking and please encourage other parents to come in, we want you to know that this is on our minds and it is important to us. Dr. Pettit finished, Dr. Johnson and others welcome engagement from concerned parents and community members.

## V. Old Business

### A. Programs (Policy 2000)

#### 1. Say Something Program-Sandy Hook Promise, Approval.

Dr. Johnson stated the next step in the process in the Say Something App would be the Board approval for the MOU. This is the free app. This program offers anonymous and non-anonymous reporting and also includes self-harm, suicide ideation, bullying and school safe safety reporting. The added feature to the app it is 24/7 reporting and also connects to local law enforcement if there is an immediate concern and a student reaches out on the app. Dr. Johnson asked for the approval so we can begin onboarding in hopes of starting the app by the 2025-2026 school year.

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

7 yes, 0 no. Approved.

### B. Property (Policy 7000)

#### a. *Resolution BUS2025-008* – Resolution to Purchase Real Estate Adjacent to Hayden Elementary, Approval.

Mr. Marsh asked for approval for this resolution to purchase property.

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

## VI. New Business

### A. NEOLA, Inform.

- NEOLA, Policy 5500, Student Conduct, 1<sup>st</sup> Reading.
- NEOLA, Policy 7540.03, Student Technology Acceptable Use and Safety, 1<sup>st</sup> Reading.
- NEOLA, Policy 7540.04, Staff Technology Acceptable Use and Safety, 1<sup>st</sup> Reading.
- NEOLA, Policy 7540.09, Artificial Intelligence (“AI”), 1<sup>st</sup> Reading.

Dr. Johnson informed us about the policies for 1st reading. The policies will be brought back for 2<sup>nd</sup> reading on May 8, 2025.

### B. Programs (Policy 2000)

1. Purdue University Indiana “IN-MaC Design & Innovation Studio” Grant, Approval.

Mrs. Manowitz requested approval for the IN-MaC award. JCSC was selected as one of the very few schools in our region to receive an Innovation/STEM studio award from Purdue Polytechnic Institute. We are appreciative of Cummin’s recommendation of JCSC for our recent work in STEM. The new lab will be housed at JCMS and available to all of our K-8 students if approved.

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

2. Results Driven Accountability (RDA) Data, Inform.

Mr. Ebinger informed us on the special education annual RDA data concerning growth and increased achievements in a variety of areas in special education.

### C. Professional Staff (Policy 3000)

1. Leaves

- Madalyn Hovious Cardinal, JCMS Guidance Counselor, Maternity Leave effective 5/12/2025-5/23/2025, Approval.
- Hannah Whitaker, GCE Teacher, Maternity Leave effective 8/1/2025-10/13/2025, Approval.

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

2. Resignations/Retirements

- Lauren Hagedorn, JCMS Teacher, resignation effective end of 2024-2025 school year, Approval.
- Eric Kelley, JCMS 7<sup>th</sup> Grade Boys Basketball Coach, resignation effective 4/10/2025, Approval.
- Dana Lawson, JCHS Teacher, resignation effective end of 2024-2025 school year, Approval.
- Lora Pollert, Scipio Teacher, resignation effective end of 2024-2025 school year, Approval.

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

3. Recommendations

- Rebecca Driver, Unified Assistant Track Coach, \$940.00 stipend, effective 4/25/2025, Approval.

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

D. Support Staff (Policy 4000)

1. Leaves

- Shantell Campbell Ruddick, JCHS Para Pro, Unpaid Leave effective 4/8/2025-4/10/2025, Approval.

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

2. Resignations/Retirements

- Laila Chandler, BCE Para Pro, resignation effective 4/28/2025, Approval.
- Laynie Woolf, JCSC Nurse, resignation effective 5/23/2025, Approval.

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

3. Permission to Post 1 Kitchen Manager Position, Summer Food Program, Approval.

Mrs. Hearne requested approval to post this position.

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

4. Permission to Post up to 4 Cook Positions, Summer Food Program, Approval.

Mrs. Hearne requested approval to post these positions.

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

5. Recommendations

- Camiel Phillips, JCHS Custodian (2<sup>nd</sup> shift), \$14.00 / hr. x 8 hrs./day, effective 4/15/2025, Approval.
- Andrew Vojkufka, JCHS Grounds Keeper/Custodian, \$14.50 / hr. x 8 hrs./day, effective 4/23/2025, Approval.

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

E. Finances (Policy 6000)

1. Donations, Approval.

- Brush Creek Elementary, Approval.
  - Dave O'Mara Contractor, \$100.00 to Pizza-6<sup>th</sup> Grade Celebration..
- JCHS donations, Approval.
  - Columbus City Band, \$300.00 to the National Art Honor Society.
  - North Vernon Beverage Co., \$150.00 to HR Pathway Class Field Trip.
  - Vernon Clionian Society, \$100.00 to the Orchestra Department.
- North Vernon Elementary, Approval.
  - NVIC, \$200.00 Teacher Grant to Jennifer Sanders 1<sup>st</sup> Grade Classroom for Scholastic Magazines.

Mr. Marsh requested approval. Mr. Taggart made a motion to approve.

Ms. Whitcomb seconded the motion. 7 yes, 0 no. Approved.

VII. Claims

The claims were presented for approval in the amount of \$1,432,751.54 (claims 105944 – 106190) and payroll in the amount of \$1,269,669.33 (check date 4/15/2025).

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

VIII. Other

A. Updates.

Dr. Johnson invited the community to join us for the JCHS CTE Open House on May 13<sup>th</sup> from 6:00-7:00 p.m. located at Jennings County High School, 800 W. Walnut, North Vernon, IN 47265.

Dr. Pettit would also like to remind everyone of the Hayden Musical on May 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> at 7:00 p.m. located at Hayden Elementary.

IX. Adjournment

**Next Regular Meeting:** The next Regular Board Meeting will be May 08, 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.

Mr. Morrison made a motion to adjourn at 7:43 p.m. Mr. Sullivan seconded the motion. Adjourned. 7 yes, 0 no. Approved.

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

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Travis Shepherd

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

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

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

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

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Chelsea Morrison