

JOHNSON COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 0050
JOHNSON COUNTY CENTRAL PUBLIC SCHOOLS
BOARD OF EDUCATION
REGULAR MEETING

February 11, 2026

Members Present: Justin Beethe, Gail Hutt, Dan Jones, Jon Schmid, Sarah Weber,

Also Present: Jon H. Rother, Superintendent; Laurie Badertscher, Recording Secretary; Justin Damme, High School Principal; Marsha Bacon, Dr. Laura Rademacher, Director of Student Services/Special Education Director; Garret Collin, Activity Director; Russ Waring, Director of Operations

Absent: Kim Wellensiek

One visitor was present

The Johnson County School District No. 0050 Board of Education met in regular session at 6:00 p.m., Wednesday, February 11, 2026 in the high school room 204, Tecumseh, Nebraska. A current copy of the agenda was available for inspection in the office of the Superintendent prior to the meeting. The notice of the meeting and agenda was posted at the three main school buildings as well as the Tecumseh and Cook Post Offices. Notice of the meeting was also published in the Nemaha Valley Observer and on the school district website.

Vice-President Dan Jones called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. and opened the meeting by announcing that the Open Meetings Act rules were posted. Roll call was taken. Justin Beethe-present, Gail Hutt-present, Dan Jones-present, Jon Schmid-present, Sarah Weber-present, Kim Wellensiek-absent.

APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES

A motion was made by Sarah Weber and second by Jon Schmid to approve the January 2026, regular Board of Education Meeting Minutes as well as the February 2, 2026 Special Meeting Minutes as presented. Roll call vote: Justin Beethe-yes, Gail Hutt-yes, Dan Jones-yes, Jon Schmid-yes, Sarah Weber-yes, Kim Wellensiek-absent. Carried 5-0

FINANCIAL REPORT

A motion was made by Justin Beethe and second by Gail Hutt to approve the General Fund claims for payment in the amount of \$867,049.86, the Building Fund expenditures in the amount of \$127,303.69 and the financial report as presented. Roll call vote: Justin Beethe-yes, Gail Hutt-yes, Dan Jones-yes, Jon Schmid-yes, Sarah Weber-yes, Kim Wellensiek-absent. Carried 5-0

PUBLIC COMMENT- None

ADMINISTRATOR REPORTS

High School Principal, Mr. Damme reported on the following:

- JCC Foundation Senior Breakfast / Scholarship Information
- Academic Decathlon Team- State qualifiers
- JCC Choir attended performance at the Lied Center

- Singing Youth of Nebraska
- Engaging Educators Conference
- Prom – March 21, 2026
- 2026-2027 Pre-registration
- Parent Teacher Conferences-February 16, 2026
- Mrs. Hodges named a finalist for the Golden Owl Award

Middle School Principal, Mrs. Bacon reported on the following:

- Johnson County Spelling Bee
- Engaging Educators Conference
- Cheerleaders visit middle school
- Skills USA attend Leadership Conference
- English Language Proficiency Assessments
- Teacher- peer observations
- BIST (Behavior Intervention Support Team) observations
- Instructional Practice Guides/Literacy training
- Job skills opportunity provided
- Parent Teacher Conferences – February 16, 2026
- Education Quest Grant – college visit

Elementary Principal, Mrs. Robeson provided information on the following:

- English Language Arts Curriculum
- Instructional Practice Guides (IPG)
- Standards-Based Grading
- Engaging Educators Conference
- Preschool 2026-2027 registration
- Johnson County law enforcement to visit classrooms
- Peer Math observations
- Title I Bingo Family Night- February 26, 2026

Special Education Director / Student Services Director, Dr. Laura Rademacher reported on the following:

- Health Care Plans
- Community Agencies for transition plan development
- ESU 4 -IEP Academy
- Behavior Education Solution Team facility tour
- Nebraska Dept. of Education IEP with Heart
- Consultation work
- BIST Leadership Conference
- ESU 4 Planning Region Team Meeting
- Medicaid in Public Schools
- Special Education Handbooks
- SUBMIT and SHINE – March 26, 2026

Activities Director, Mr. Collin reported on the following:

- District Wrestling- Alejandra Reyes, Haylee Trew- district champions

- Girls State Wrestling- February 17th, 18th
- Boys District Wrestling – February 13th, 14th
- Boys State Wrestling- February 19th-21st
- ECNC Basketball results
- Girls and Boys Track- C1 classification
- 2026 Football two-year schedule provided

Discussion was held regarding the East Central Nebraska Conference (ECNC).

SUPERINTENDENT REPORT

Superintendent Rother reported on the following:

- Chevy Traverse purchase
- Federal lunch reimbursement
- Lunch prices
- NASB Legislative Lunch
- JCC Staffing for 2026-2027
- Nebraska Department of Education Teacher Vacancy Survey results
- 2026-2027 Drafts of State Aid and Budget Authority provided

FUTURE DATES

- NRCSA Legislative Forum- February 26th
- NASB Budget and finance Workshop – March 10th
- NRCSA Spring Conference – March 18th -20th
- School Masters Spring Event- March 18th

DISCUSSION

REGULAR AGENDA-BUSINESS

Superintendent Rother led a discussion regarding the Activities Director Contract. By making the position a full-time contracted administrative position, the position would include additional administrative duties. Members of the Board of Education recommended the position be an Activities Director position without the administrative piece at this time.

A motion was made by Sarah Weber and second by Justin Beethe to recognize the Johnson County Central Education Association (JCCEA) as the exclusive bargaining agent for the district's non-supervisory certificated staff to begin bargaining next fall for the 2027-2028 contract year. Roll call vote: Justin Beethe-yes, Gail Hutt-yes, Dan Jones-yes, Jon Schmid-yes, Sarah Weber-yes, Kim Wellensiek-absent. Carried 5-0

Discussion was held regarding the 2025-2026 Board of Education Goals. Superintendent Rother provided information regarding the financial status of the lunch fund. The current Board of Education goals are as follows:

- Maintain a healthy cash reserve.
- Make progress toward improving the high school facilities.
- Monitor the four-day school week.

- Planning for future construction bond.
- Successful bond initiative.
- Work toward making the lunch program financially solvent.

A motion was made by Jon Schmid and second by Justin Beethe to retain and support the current goals with the addition of the following goal: Continue working toward improving teacher compensation. Roll call vote: Justin Beethe-yes, Gail Hutt-yes, Dan Jone-yes, Jon Schmid-yes, Sarah Weber-yes, Kim Wellensiek-absent. Carried 5-0.

Superintendent Rother reviewed the following policies: **2017**-Indemnification and Liability Insurance; **3014**-Use of School Property; **3015**-Time Away from School Activities; **3016**-Smoking; **4012**-Staff Internet Use; **4013**-Grievance Policy; **5011**-Physical Examination and Visual Evaluation of Students; **5012**-Testing and Assessment Program; **6006**-Commencement Ceremony; **6007**-Senior Recognition.

No changes were needed

A motion was made by Gail Hutt and second by Sarah Weber to renew Johnson County Central Public School's membership with the Nebraska Association of School Boards for the 2026 year. Roll call vote: Justin Beethe-yes, Gail Hutt-yes, Dan Jones-yes, Jon Schmid-yes, Sarah Weber-yes, Kim Wellensiek-absent. Carried 5-0

Superintendent, Jon Rother and Director of Operations, Russ Waring provided a preventative maintenance agreement as prepared by Prairie Mechanical for the preventative maintenance of the HVAC system at the Tecumseh site. Mr. Waring informed the Board of Education that the boilers have to be opened up every two years for the inspection. The fees associated with the proposed agreement include a biannual inspection and will include opening the boilers. Waring would like the Board of Education to consider the agreement for a year in order to evaluate the benefits of such a program.

A motion was made by Jon Schmid and second by Justin Beethe to approve the 2026 HVAC Preventative Maintenance Agreement for the term of one year in the amount of \$5,860 from Prairie Mechanical as presented. Roll call vote: Justin Beethe-yes, Gail Hutt-yes, Dan Jones-yes, Jon Schmid-yes, Sarah Weber-yes, Kim Wellensiek-absent. Carried 6-0.

Mr. Rother informed the Board of Education that the Building Committee met with the Clark Enersen team to discuss upcoming repairs and updates to the high school facility. Architectural firm Clark Enersen provided information to include the following:

- Architectural Scope
- Mechanical Scope
- Electrical Scope
- Cost Scoreboard
- Project Schedule

The scope of work to be completed includes an upgrade to the HVAC system, replace interior doors and address Fire Marshall codes. Work may begin prior to the end of the 2025-2026 school year. Requests for bids for the projects will be let in March of 2026. The estimated cost associated with the projects presented is \$2,485,230 to include a 10% contingency.

The Board of Education reviewed the latest iteration of plans for a bond for new construction as provided by Clark Enersen. The Board would like to present a bond for a PK-8 building but is still considering project cost, gym size, music and performing arts spaces and wrestling practice spaces. Patrons are

encouraged to contact Board of Education Members with thoughts regarding the project. The Board of Education and members of the JCC staff will meet with Clark Enersen to discuss the design.

Vice-President Dan Jones called a recess at 7:26 p.m.

Meeting resumed at 7:30 p.m.

A motion was made by Sarah Weber and second by Gail Hutt to enter executive session for the purpose of discussing compensation for classified staff and administration for the 2026-2027 school year. Roll call vote: Justin Beethe-yes, Gail Hutt-yes, Dan Jones-yes, Jon Schmid-yes, Sarah Weber-yes, Kim Wellensiek-absent. Carried 5-0

A motion was made by Sarah Weber and second by Jon Schmid to leave executive session. Roll call vote: Justin Beethe-yes, Gail Hutt-yes, Dan Jones-yes, Jon Schmid-yes, Sarah Weber-yes, Kim Wellensiek-absent. Carried 5-0

Executive session ended at 8:06 p.m

A motion was made by Jon Schmid and second by Justin Beethe to approve the classified staff compensation for the 2026-2027 school year as follows:

Business Manager--\$77,000

Director of Operations--\$75,100

Director of Janitorial Services--\$68,000

Director of Nutrition Services--\$60,000

Director of Technology--\$75,000

Paraprofessionals--Base \$15.50/hour

Kitchen Staff--Base \$16.50/hour

Office Staff-- Base \$16.00/hour

Office Nurse--Base \$25.75/hour

Registered Nurse--Base \$35.50/hour

Custodial/Maintenance Staff-- Base \$17.25/hour

Asst. Business Manager-Base \$19.75/hour

Bus Route - \$38/route

Bus Shuttle - \$38/shuttle

Roll call vote: Justin Beethe-yes, Gail Hutt-yes, Dan Jones-yes, Jon Schmid-yes, Sarah Weber-yes, Kim Wellensiek-absent. Carried 5-0

Superintendent Rother recommended the administrative compensation be tabled until the March 2026 Regular Board of Education Meeting at which time the Superintendent compensation will be addressed as well.

A motion was made by Justin Beethe and second by Gail Hutt to adjourn the meeting. Roll call vote: Justin Beethe-yes, Gail Hutt-yes, Dan Jones-yes, Jon Schmid-yes, Sarah Weber-yes, Kim Wellensiek-absent. Carried 5-0.

Meeting adjourned at 8:10 p.m.

The next Regular Board of Education Meeting will be held Wednesday, March 11, 2026 at 6:00 p.m. in the high school room 204 in Tecumseh, Nebraska. The notices of the meetings will be published in the Nemaha Valley Observer as well as on the school website. The agenda will be posted at the three main school buildings as well as at the Tecumseh and Cook Post Offices. A current copy of the agenda will be available for inspection in the office of the Superintendent prior to the meeting.