

JOHNSON COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 0050
JOHNSON COUNTY CENTRAL PUBLIC SCHOOLS
BOARD OF EDUCATION
REGULAR MEETING
January 14, 2026

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

Also Present: Jon H. Rother, Superintendent; Laurie Badertscher, Recording Secretary; Justin Damme, High School Principal; Marsha Bacon, Middle School Principal; Rebecca Robeson, PreK-3 Principal; Dr. Laura Rademacher, Director of Student Services/Special Education Director; Garret Collin, Activity Director; Marcus Scheer, Director of Technology; and Russ Waring, Director of Operations

One visitor was present

The Johnson County School District No. 0050 Board of Education met in regular session at 6:00 p.m., Wednesday, January 14, 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.

President Kim Wellensiek 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-present.

ELECTION OF BOARD OFFICERS AND COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS

Superintendent Rother requested nominations for President. A motion was made by Jon Schmid and second by Gail Hutt to nominate Kim Wellensiek as Board President. A motion was made by Dan Jones and second by Sarah Weber to cease nominations. Roll call vote: Justin Beethe-yes, Gail Hutt- yes, Dan Jones-yes, Jon Schmid-yes, Sarah Weber-yes, Kim Wellensiek-abstain. Carried 5-0-1.

Kim Wellensiek assumed the leadership role as Board President and requested nominations for Vice-President. Jon Schmid made a motion to nominate Dan Jones for Vice-President. A motion was made by Sarah Weber and second by Gail Hutt to cease nominations. Roll call vote: Justin Beethe-yes, Gail Hutt-yes, Dan Jones-abstain, Jon Schmid-yes, Sarah Weber-yes, Kim Wellensiek-yes. Carried 5-0-1

A motion was made by Sarah Weber and second by Dan Jones to nominate Gail Hutt for Treasurer. Dan Jones made a motion to cease nominations and second by Justin Beethe. Roll call vote: Justin Beethe-yes, Gail Hutt-abstain, Dan Jones-yes, Jon Schmid-yes, Sarah Weber-yes, Kim Wellensiek-yes. Carried 5-0-1.

President Kim Wellensiek appointed Superintendent Jon Rother as the Board Secretary and Laurie Badertscher as the Recording Secretary.

President, Kim Wellensiek made the following Board Committee appointments:

- **AMERICANISM:** Gail Hutt, Jon Schmid, Kim Wellensiek
- **BUDGET REVIEW:** Gail Hutt, Dan Jones, Sarah Weber
- **BUILDING AND GROUNDS:** Justin Beethe, Dan Jones, Jon Schmid

- **NEGOTIATIONS:** Justin Beethe, Sarah Weber, Kim Wellensiek
- **POLICY REVIEW:** Gail Hutt, Jon Schmid, Sarah Weber
- **TRANSPORTATION:** Justin Beethe, Dan Jones, Kim Wellensiek

APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES

A motion was made by Sarah Weber and second by Dan Jones to approve the December 2025, Regular Board of Education Meeting Minutes as presented. Roll call vote: Justin Beethe-yes, Gail Hutt-yes, Dan Jones-yes, Jon Schmid-yes, Sarah Weber-yes, Kim Wellensiek-yes. Carried 6-0

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 \$802,331.51, Building Fund expenditures in the amount of \$9,200.00 and the January 2026 Financial Report as presented. Roll call vote: Justin Beethe-yes, Gail Hutt-yes, Dan Jones-yes, Jon Schmid-yes, Sarah Weber-yes, Kim Wellensiek-yes. Carried 6-0

PUBLIC COMMENT- None

ADMINISTRATOR REPORTS

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

- Class schedules
- College credit classes
- Honor Roll
- Report cards
- JCC Foundation Senior Breakfast and scholarship information
- Power Scheduler Workshop – January 26th - 27th
- Engaging Educators Conference- February 2nd

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

- Honor Roll
- Jr. High Girls basketball
- Boys Jr. High wrestling
- Johnson County Spelling Bee finals -January 24th
- Teacher Inservice
- Standard based learning
- Elementary teachers – Aimes Pathway to Proficient Reading classes
- Golden Sowers competition
- Jr. High Quiz Bowl

Elementary Principal, Mrs. Robeson reported on the following:

- Report Cards
- Second quarter Thunderbirds recognized
- AIM Pathways to Proficient Reading class
- English Language Arts (ELA) curriculum
- K-5 Standard-Based Grading
- Preschool enrollment starts February 1, 2026

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

- Activities completed in December 2025

- CPI re-certification training
- ESU 4 paraprofessional training
- BIST consultant collaboration
- BIST Leadership Conference January 28th – 30th
- JCC to host a SUBMIT AND SHINE day- March 26th

Activities Director, Mr. Collin reported on the following:

- MUDECAS Basketball Tournament – January 12th-17th
- Holiday Tournament- JCC champions in boys and girls division
- ECNC Basketball Tournament- February 2-7
- JCC Wrestling Invite – December 19th- 389 matches
- ECNC Wrestling Tournament- Girls January 27th
- ECNC Wrestling Tournament- Boys February 6th
- NSAA updates

SUPERINTENDENT REPORT

- Hosting district wrestling pros and cons
- Ayars & Ayars – design/build construction firm
- Coop agreement between JCC and Nebraska City High School for soccer approved by Mr. Rother
- Snow removal bid options
- ESU4 Engaging Educators Conference- February 2, 2026
- Clark-Enersen on site to review renovations for high school
- Legislative update
- Maintenance and custodial services update provided

Superintendent Rother provided the following information regarding Board of Education candidates filing to be placed on the election ballot.

- February 17, 2026- Deadline for incumbents to file
- March 2, 2026- Deadline for non-incumbents to file

Nebraska's 2026 Primary Election will be on May 12, 2026 and the General Election will be on Tuesday, November 3, 2026

As per Policy 2016, Participation in Insurance Program by Board Members, Superintendent Rother reported that Kim Wellensiek currently elects to obtain BCBS health and dental insurance through the JCC group plan. Kim pays the entire premium.

FUTURE DATES

- High School renovation update from Clark-Enersen- February 4, 2026
- NRCSA Legislative Forum- February 26th
- NRCSA Spring Conference- March 18-20

REGULAR AGENDA-BUSINESS

Discussion was held regarding the financial institutions where Johnson County Central Public Schools funds are deposited. Currently funds are deposited at American National Bank, Western National Bank and Tecumseh Federal Bank. Jon Schmid asked about the possibility of the General Fund assets being split and deposited in more than one bank in an effort to have adequate security coverage of the funds. Laurie Badertscher informed the board of education that funds are secured beyond the \$250,000 FDIC

coverage as the funds are public funds and financial institutions are required to provide collateral coverage through bonds or securities beyond the \$250,000 FDIC insurance. Mr. Rother will provide additional information to the Board of Education regarding protection of public fund investments.

A motion was made by Gail Hutt and second by Dan Jones to retain American National Bank as the financial institution for Johnson County Centrals' General Fund, Building Fund, Depreciation Fund, QCPUF Fund, Bond Fund, Contingency Fund and Imprest accounts. Western National Bank will be the financial institution for the Lunch Fund, Activity Fund and safety deposit box. Roll call vote: Justin Beethe-yes, Gail Hutt-yes, Dan Jones-yes, Jon Schmid-yes, Sarah Weber-yes, Kim Wellensiek-yes, Carried 6-0

A motion was made by Sarah Weber and second by Jon Schmid to identify KSB School Law as the legal counsel for Johnson County Central Public Schools for the year 2026. Roll call vote: Justin Beethe-yes, Gail Hutt-yes, Dan Jones-yes, Jon Schmid-yes, Sarah Weber-yes, Kim Wellensiek-yes. Carried 6-0

A motion was made by Sarah Weber and second by Jon Schmid to accept the letter of resignation from Mr. Braden Hawley effective at the conclusion of the 2025-2026 school year. Roll call vote: Justin Beethe-yes, Gail Hutt-yes, Dan Jones-yes, Jon Schmid-yes, Sarah Weber-yes, Kim Wellensiek-yes. Carried 6-0

A motion was made by Gail Hutt and second by Dan Jones to accept the letter of resignation from Mrs. Skye Grafton effective at the conclusion of the 2025-2026 school year. Roll call vote: Justin Beethe-yes, Gail Hutt-yes, Dan Jones-yes, Jon Schmid-yes, Sarah Weber-yes, Kim Wellensiek-yes. Carried 6-0

A motion was made by Justin Beethe and second by Sarah Weber to accept the letter of resignation from Mrs. Shirly Schwartzkopf effective at the conclusion of the 2025-2026 school year. Roll call vote: Justin Beethe-yes, Gail Hutt-yes, Dan Jones-yes, Jon Schmid-yes, Sarah Weber-yes, Kim Wellensiek-yes. Carried 6-0

Superintendent Rother reviewed the following policies: **Policy 2015** - Student Member of the Board; **Policy 2016** - Participation in Insurance Program by Board Members; **Policy 3012**- School Meal Program; **Policy 3013** - Emergency Closings; **Policy 4010** - Inclement Weather; **Policy 4011**- Family Medical and Military Leave; **Policy 5009**- Adult Education; **Policy 5010**-Immunizations; **Policy 6004**- Curriculum Development; **Policy 6005** -Academic Credits and Graduation. Discussion was held. Jon Schmid recommended that the district apply for grants available for the Nutrition Services Department. No changes were made to the policies as presented.

Superintendent Rother provided a copy of the Cook site appraisal as prepared by Great Plains Appraisal, Inc. The final opinions of the value developed in this appraisal are as follows: As-Is Market Value-\$290,000. The As-If Vacant Market Value -\$90,000. Discussion was held and the Board of Education was pleased with the appraisal work completed by Great Plains Appraisal Inc.

Superintendent Rother provided information from DA Davidson (bond underwriter) regarding the projected numbers for the tax impact on property owners for bonds valued at \$30, \$35, and \$40 million dollars. Each projection was for a 20, 25 and 30-year term. No action was taken.

Mr. Rother led a discussion in regards to giving Clark-Enersen direction on renovations to the cafeteria and gym spaces in the high school. The board is considering the pros and cons of demolition of some of the cafeteria walls to make the main floor more open. The board is also looking at the possibility of removing the stage from the high school gym. No action was taken.

Superintendent Rother provided three options of how the 2026-2027 School Calendar could be configured. Discussion was held. A motion was made by Gail Hutt and second by Justin Beethe to approve the 2026-2027 Johnson County Central School Calendar that starts school on August 10, 2026 and ends on May 21, 2027 with one change made as discussed. Roll call vote: Justin Beethe-yes, Gail Hutt-yes, Dan Jones-yes, Jon Schmid-no, Sarah Weber-yes, Kim Wellensiek-yes. Carried 5-1

President Kim Wellensiek declared a recess at 7:54 p.m.

Meeting reconvened at 8:00 p.m.

A motion was made by Jon Schmid and second by Sarah Weber to enter executive session for the purpose of discussing administrators' compensation 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-yes.

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

Executive session ended at 8:40 p.m.

Classified staff compensation was tabled until the February Regular Board of Education Meeting

Superintendent Rother presented the opportunity to make the Activity Director position a full-time position. This position is currently half-time K-3 Physical Education and half-time Activity Director. Mr. Rother stated that, due to the number of activity offerings and the number of activities the district hosts and participates in, the position requires full-time attention. The board questioned how the Activity Director position would be enhanced by making it a full-time position. Superintendent Rother stated that, currently Activity Director work is being accomplished thoroughly and with great detail. This is due to Mr. Collin's organizational skills. He noted that Mr. Collin is well organized and has great professional relations with coaches, staff, officials and activity directors from other districts. However, it is elementary Physical Education classes that can be improved on, as Mr. Collin often has to go to Activity Director meetings outside the district. This causes classes to either be canceled, combined or there is a substitute teacher. Dan Jones commented that he would like to see the Activity Director receive more specific education for the position and that the position should include some teaching elements for students in activities.

It was discussed that Mr. Collin could also serve as Assistant Principal for all the buildings; a duty which he currently helps with when available. Mr. Rother noted that moving the position to full-time would not be adding personnel, as the administration looks to absorb a position through attrition for the 2026-2027 school year. The discussion was tabled to be discussed again at the February board meeting as board members wanted more time to think about the position.

A motion was made by Jon Schmid 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-yes. Carried 6-0

Meeting adjourned at 9:24 p.m

The next Regular Board of Education Meeting will be held Wednesday, February 11, 2026 at 6:00 p.m. in the high school room 204 in Tecumseh, Nebraska. The notice of the meeting 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.