

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

March 11, 2026

Members Present: 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, 4-8 Principal; Rebecca Robeson, PreK-3 Principal; Dr. Laura Rademacher, Director of Student Services/Special Education; Garret Collin, Activity Director; Russ Waring, Director of Operations

Absent: Justin Beethe

Thirteen visitors were present

The Johnson County School District No. 0050 Board of Education met in regular session at 6:00 p.m., Wednesday, March 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-absent, Gail Hutt-present, Dan Jones-present, Jon Schmid-present, Sarah Weber-present, Kim Wellensiek-present.

President Wellensiek moved item 7.1 (FFA Presentation) and item 8.2 (JCC Student Council) to items 2.1 and 2.2

PRESENTATION:

Future Farmers of America (FFA) advisors Connor Bartels and Christy Hodges were present with seven FFA members to present the projects they have prepared for the State of Nebraska competition. Members of the Board of Education helped facilitate a learning opportunity by asking questions and providing feedback to the students.

DISCUSSION:

Student Council representatives were present. Items of discussion included the following:

1. Pest control
2. Cell phone policy
3. Improvements needed to the lift
4. Restroom air quality
5. Continuing education registration process

APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES

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

FINANCIAL REPORT

Mr. Rother presented the Financial Report to the Board of Education. Discussion was held regarding the team meals for state qualifiers. Board member Jon Schmid questioned the purchasing and payment for PreK snacks. Discussion was held regarding the requirements and funding source for such snacks. Mr. Schmid will not give his approval for the General Fund to pay for snacks for the PreK program. Mrs. Robeson will look into other options regarding funding snacks for the PreK program.

Discussion was held regarding the HVAC project at the Cook site. Mr. Waring indicated that he believes Grunwald Mechanical Corporation is currently waiting on parts to complete the project. A balance, including retainage is still in place for the financial payment on the project.

Superintendent Rother led a discussion regarding the claims for payment and financial report. Mr. Schmid questioned the payment requested for the preschool snacks and asked if there were other options available for funding the snacks. Mr. Rother indicated that other options could be considered. Jon Schmid approved all claims for payment and the financial report as presented excluding the payment to the Johnson County Central School Lunch Fund for preschool snacks in the amount of \$629.20.

A motion was made by Sarah Weber and second by Dan Jones to approve the General Fund claims for payment in the amount of \$910,603.20, Building Fund expenditures in the amount of \$136,731.49 and the financial report as presented. Roll call vote: Justin Beethe-absent, Gail Hutt-yes, Dan Jones-yes, Jon Schmid-no, Sarah Weber-yes, Kim Wellensiek-yes. Carried 4-1

PUBLIC COMMENT- None

ADMINISTRATOR REPORTS

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

- Nebraska Wesleyan University Honor Band – Josie McDonald
- Winter sports and activities success
- Parent-teacher conferences attendance – 22%
- Career Day at SCC Milford
- 33rd Annual Freshmore Vocal Clinic
- 2026-2027 students' pre-registration
- JCC STRIV- Girls and Boys State Basketball Tournament
- JCC Prom- March 21, 2026
- ACT testing for Juniors and pre-ACT 8/9 test for freshmen – March 24, 2026
- Senior meeting- April 2, 2026
- NSAA Believers and Achievers recipient – Saige Rother

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

- Regional Middle School SkillsUSA Leadership Conf.
- Amplify ELA Curriculum selected

- BIST support
- Staffing for 2026-2027 update
- Read Across America activities
- Middle School Wrestling
- Instructional Practice Guides
- ECNC Quiz Bowl Champions – 8th Grade
- Perkins Grant
- Middle School Dist. Music contest – March 19th at HTRS
- Middle School Dance- March 20th
- Wesleyan Honor Band
- Meridian Honor Band and Choir

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

- Johnson County Deputy and K-9 unit visited students
- Parent Teacher Conference- participation increased from fall of 2025
- ESU 4 – Peer observations/instructional practice guides
- FFA sponsored petting zoo
- FFA Chapter read to elementary students
- Read Across America activities
- DIBELS (Dynamic Indicators of Basic Early Literacy Skills) required under Nebraska Reading Improvement Act.

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

- ESU 4 – IEP Academy
- BIST program
- NDE TIP (Targeted Improvement Plan) training
- Transition Conference
- SUBMIT and SHINE- March 26, 2026
- Special Education Handbooks
- Maintenance of Effort Compliance

Activities Director, Mr. Collin reported on the following:

- Spring sports participation numbers
- Winter activities results provided
- NSAA Believers and Achievers recipient – Saige Rother
- Scoreboards at Cook site discussed
- ECNC (East Central Nebraska Conference)

SUPERINTENDENT REPORT

Superintendent Rother reported on the following:

- Communication platform “Remind” to “ParentSquare”
- Perkins Grant
- CTE Grant
- Candidates filed for JCC School Board:
 - Don Gadeken
 - Elisa Prado

Scott Straka
Kim Wellensiek

- NASB Budget and Finance Workshop
- NCSA GRIT (Government Relations Information Teams) Conference
- iPads need to be updated
- NASB Legislative update provided
- Fairness-for-Girls petition
- Private school vouchers in state budget

FUTURE DATES

- High School Renovations Pre-Bid Meeting- March 12th, 2:00 PM, HS- Room 204
- NRCSA Spring Conference – March 18th -20th
- High School Renovations Bid Opening- March 24th, 2:00 PM, HS-Room 204
- Board Workshop for New Facility Planning- March 26th, 2:00 PM, Clark Enersen offices in Lincoln, Nebraska (1010 Lincoln Mall, Suite 200)

DISCUSSION

Casey Fricke, director of janitorial services and Emily Fricke, vocal music teacher were present to discuss lighting for the performing arts facility/elementary auditorium. Options were discussed. Mrs. Fricke indicated that items they would like to upgrade would be portable. The Board of Education recommended that the upgrades be pursued with the budget to be approximately \$16,000.

Elementary principal Rebecca Robeson, PreK teachers Cheryl Panko and Jacy Pollard were present to provide information and answer questions regarding the Johnson County Central preschool program. A program overview was provided. The overview highlighted the investment that is made to ensure that all children have an equal opportunity to succeed. Discussion was held regarding the funding sources, expenses, personnel and the need for such programming.

Board of Education member Jon Schmid recommended that the Preschool Program define a mission statement. Numbers highlighting the important role preschool plays in preparing students for kindergarten while supporting every family in our district were provided. Currently there are 34 students being served in the preschool program at Johnson County Central Public Schools.

REGULAR AGENDA-BUSINESS

A motion was made by Sarah Weber and second by Jon Schmid to accept the letter of resignation from Mary Robison to take effect March 31, 2026. Roll call vote: Justin Beethe-absent, Gail Hutt-yes, Jon Schmid-yes, Sarah Weber-yes, Kim Wellensiek-yes. Carried 5-0.

A motion was made by Gail Hutt and second by Dan Jones to accept the letter of resignation from Brittney Teeman effective at the conclusion of the 2025-2026 contracted school year. Roll call vote: Justin Beethe-absent, Gail Hutt-yes, Jon Schmid-yes, Sarah Weber-yes, Kim Wellensiek-yes. Carried 5-0.

A motion was made by Gail Hutt and second by Sarah Weber to approve the 2026-2027 Teaching Contract for Ms. Cheyenne Bishop for the 5-12 Instrumental Music teacher. Roll call vote: Justin Beethe-absent, Gail Hutt-yes, Jon Schmid-yes, Sarah Weber-yes, Kim Wellensiek-yes. Carried 5-0.

A motion was made by Sarah Weber and second by Dan Jones to approve the 2026-2027 Teaching Contract for Mr. Macully Coffey for the position of K-3 PE and Technology teacher. Roll call vote: Justin Beethe-absent, Gail Hutt-yes, Jon Schmid-yes, Sarah Weber-yes, Kim Wellensiek-yes. Carried 5-0.

Superintendent Rother reviewed the following policies: **3017**-Press Releases, **3018**-Denial of Access to School Premises, **3019**-Sale of School Property, **4016**-Jury Duty and Witness in Court, **4017**-Relations with Collective Bargaining Associations, **5014**-Homeless Students, **5015**-Protection of Pupil Rights, **6008**- Class Rank, **6009**-Grade Placement of Transfer Students.

No changes were needed

A discussion was held regarding the purchase of the K-12 English Language Arts Curriculum purchase. The district administration recommended the “Amplify/Core Knowledge Language Arts (CKLA) Curriculum.” for grades K-8 English Language Arts Curriculum. The estimated cost associated with the purchase would be \$150,000 for a six-year subscription. This curriculum includes digital and consumable materials.

The 9-12 curriculum recommended by the administration is “HMH Into Literature”. Johnson County Central Schools has been awarded a \$65,000 CLSD (Comprehensive Literacy State Development) Grant funded by the federal government that will help fund the purchase of a new curriculum for grades 6-12.

A motion was made by Jon Schmid and second by Gail Hutt to authorize the purchase of the “Amplify/Core Knowledge Language Arts (CKLA)” curriculum as well as the “HMH Into Literature” ELA curriculum as presented. Roll call vote: Justin Beethe-absent, Gail Hutt-yes, Dan Jones-yes, Jon Schmid-yes, Sarah Weber-yes, Kim Wellensiek-yes. Carried 5-0

A motion was made by Dan Jones and second by Jon Schmid to approve the contracts for Mrs. Marsha Bacon (4-8 Principal; Annual Salary -\$114,000) Mr. Justin Damme (High School Principal; Annual Salary-\$104,000) Dr. Laura Rademacher (SPED/Student Services Director; Annual Salary-\$104,000), Mrs. Rebecca Robeson (PK-3 Principal; Annual Salary-\$104,000) as presented. Roll call vote: Justin Beethe-absent, Gail Hutt-yes, Dan Jones-yes, Jon Schmid-yes, Kim Wellensiek-yes. Carried 5-0

President Wellensiek called for a recess at 8:01 p.m.

Meeting resumed at 8:14 p.m.

A motion was made by Dan Jones and second by Sarah Weber to enter Executive Session for the purpose of discussing the 2026-2027 Superintendent Contract. Roll call vote: Justin Beethe-absent, Gail Hutt-yes, Dan Jones-yes, Jon Schmid-yes, Kim Wellensiek-yes. Carried 5-0

Entered executive session at 8:15 p.m.

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

Executive session ended at 8:30 p.m.

President Wellensiek called the meeting back to order at 8:31 p.m

A discussion was held in regards to the 2026-2027 Superintendent Contract compensation.

A motion was made by Sarah Weber and second by Gail Hutt to approve the 2026-2027 Superintendent Contract for Jon H. Rother as presented with an addendum of salary. The 2026-2027 annual salary will be \$152,000. Roll call vote: Justin Beethe-absent, Gail Hutt-yes, Dan Jones-yes, Jon Schmid-yes, Kim Wellensiek-yes. Carried 5-0

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

Meeting adjourned at 8:31 p.m.

The next Board of Education Meetings are as follows:

- Special Meeting -Tuesday, March 24, 2026 - 2:00 p.m.- Johnson County Central High School room #204
- Special Meeting- Thursday, March 26, 2026 – 2:00 p.m. Clark & Enersen office, 1010 Lincoln Mall, Suite 200 in Lincoln NE.
- Regular Meeting – Wednesday, April 8, 2026 – 6:00 p.m.-Johnson County High School room #204.

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.