

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

September 10, 2025

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, Middle School Principal; Dr. Laura Rademacher, Director of Student Services/Special Education Director; Garret Collin, Activity Director; Marcus Scheer, Director of Technology;

Absent: Justin Beethe,

Seven visitors were present

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The Johnson County School District No. 0050 Board of Education met in regular session at 6:00 p.m., Wednesday, September 10, 2025 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 Tecumseh Chieftain 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-absent, Gail Hutt-present, Dan Jones-absent, Jon Schmid-present, Sarah Weber-present, Kim Wellensiek-present.

President Wellensiek moved Item 7.1 – JCC Student Council to item 2.1

## **DISCUSSION**

Student Council sponsor, Nick Weber was present with three Student Council representatives. Items discussed included dual credit classes and endzone football seating. Council members shared thoughts regarding their educational experiences at Johnson County Central. Discussion was held.

## **APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES**

A motion was made by Jon Schmid and second by Gail Hutt to approve the August Regular Board of Education Meeting Minutes as well as the August 27, 2025 Special Board of Education Meeting Minutes as presented. Roll call vote: Justin Beethe-absent, Gail Hutt-yes, Dan Jones-absent, Jon Schmid-yes, Sarah Weber-yes, Kim Wellensiek-yes. Carried 4-0

Dan Jones arrived at 6:33 p.m.

## **FINANCIAL REPORT**

A motion was made by Jon Schmid and second by Sarah Weber to approve the General Fund claims for payment in the amount of \$958,248.77 and Building Fund expenditures in the amount of \$18,270.00. Roll

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

**PUBLIC COMMENT-** None

## **ADMINISTRATOR REPORTS**

High School Principal, Justin Damme reported on the following:

- MAP testing
- College and Career Day
- SENCA poverty simulation
- ACT Testing
- Cell Phone Policy
- Homecoming – September 19, 2025
- Parent Teacher Conferences Monday October 6, 2025 11:00 a.m. – 7:00 p.m.

Middle School/ 4-5 Principal, Marsha Bacon reported on the following:

- Instructional Practice Guide walk-throughs during math instruction
- MAP testing
- Bus evacuation, fire and lock-down drills practiced
- High Ability Learning Grant
- Middle School Future Farmers of America (FFA)
- School Improvement visitation- November 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup>

Elementary Principal, Beckie Robeson reported on the following:

- Safety drills completed
- MAP testing
- Parent Teacher Conferences Monday October 6, 2025 11:00 a.m. – 7:00 p.m.
- Jobs for America's Graduates (JAG) students supply birthday kits to elementary students
- High School art students will collaborate with elementary students

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

- Multi-Tier System of Support (MTSS)
- BIST Training
- Medicaid in Public Schools
- High Ability Learning (HAL) Grant
- Student Observations
- Vocation Rehabilitation
- Individualized Education Plans
- 504 Plans
- ACT Accommodations webinar
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## **ACTIVITY DIRECTOR REPORT**

Activity Director Garrett Collin provided information on the following:

- ECNC Cross Country meet JCC host - October 7<sup>th</sup>
- MUDECAS Volleyball – Beatrice, September 15<sup>th</sup>-19<sup>th</sup>
- JCC Volleyball Invite – October 4<sup>th</sup>
- Homecoming – September 19<sup>th</sup>
- Volleyball Parents Night – October 2<sup>nd</sup>
- Football, Girls Golf, and Cross-Country Parents Night – October 3<sup>rd</sup>
- Considerations with former Nemaha Valley and Tecumseh school awards
- 8-man and 11-man football classifications
- 8-man football field considerations

## **SUPERINTENDENT REPORT**

- Superintendent Rother reported on the following:
- Nebraska Comprehensive Literacy State Development Grant awarded
- Great Plains Appraisal will complete an appraisal of the Cook site building

## **FUTURE DATES**

- Community Tailgate/Pep Rally/Bonfire – September 14, 2025
- Thunderbird Golf Classic - September 28, 2025
- Joint Public Hearing- September 23, 6:05 p.m. at Johnson County Courthouse, Courtroom
- 2025-2026 Budget Hearing – September 24, 2025- 6:00 p.m. JCC HS Computer Lab
- 2025-2026 Hearing to Set the Final Tax Request – September 24, 2025-6:15 p.m. JCC HS Computer Lab
- Special Board of Education Meeting- September 24, 2025-6:20 p.m.- HS Computer Lab

## **DISCUSSION**

Superintendent Rother provided a preview of the 2025-2026 budget documents. The tax levy was discussed. The board members believe it is important to levy 14 cents in the Building Fund and 3 cents in the Qualified Capital Purpose Undertaking Fund. The necessary cash reserve was also discussed. It was the consensus of the board members that taxes need to continue to be levied for these funds as repairs and maintenance continue to be in issue with the current facilities.

Discussion was held pertaining to taking bids for the purpose of farming Johnson County Central Public Schools property in the future. The purchase of the Wilson property was approved at the August 2025 meeting and the transaction will likely take place in January 2026. A discussion was held to include, types of crops to be farmed, the legal aspects of letting bids as well as the amount of ground that would be disturbed if a building project occurred. Superintendent Rother will have additional information available after discussing with the school legal counsel.

The Committee on American Civics will meet prior to the October 8, 2025 Regular Board of Education Meeting. Members include; Gail Hutt, Jon Schmid and Kim Wellensiek.

Mr. Rother led a discussion regarding a school resource officer in the district. Jon Schmid questioned if an interlocal agreement could be considered with Johnson County. The board members and administration appreciate the presence of the local law enforcement at games and other activities in the district. Mr. Rother will gather more information regarding a resource officer.

The 2026-2027 school calendar was discussed. Superintendent Rother provided several scenarios to consider. The pros and cons of starting prior to the county fair were discussed. No calendar has been approved at this time.

## **REGULAR AGENDA-BUSINESS**

Timm Ripp and Adam Kent of Clark Enerson Architectural Firm were present to discuss renovations and repairs to the current high school in relation to the future facility needs of the district. The board of education believes the current high school will need to be utilized for at least the next 20 years. Timm Ripp provided a document outlining recommended projects, as well as estimated costs and prioritization of such projects.

Questions to consider for projects to the current high school facility include; what amount of work could be completed in the summer months? Should the renovation take place in phases? A discussion was held regarding how much of the recommended projects could be funded through the Building Fund and Qualified Capital Purpose Undertaking Fund. Dan Jones would like to know what a Lease Purchase Agreement would look like if not all funding is available through the Building and QCAP funds. Jon Schmid would not recommend a Lease Purchase Agreement if we have funds available for agreed upon projects. Mr. Schmid also questioned some of the projects listed and if they were necessary.

President Wellensiek recommended a time-line be developed to show what work could be completed during the summer months and the order recommended for such projects. Timm Ripp discussed the possibility of doing some projects in phases and work would continue during the school year. Space accommodations would need to be made while projects were completed. Mr. Damme expressed this is an option that could be worked out as needed. No action taken

A motion was made by Sarah Weber and second by Gail Hutt to amend Dr. Lara Rademacher's 2025-2026 Special Education / Student Services Director Contract to include language that 70% of her time will be spent as Special Education Director and 30% of time will be spent as Student Services Director. Roll call vote: Justin Beethe-absent, Gail Hutt-yes, Dan Jones-yes, Jon Schmid-yes, Sarah Weber-yes, Kim Wellensiek-yes. Carried 5-0

Superintendent Rother reviewed the following policies: **2004**-Oath of Office; **2005**-Conflict of Interest; **2007**- Reimbursement and Miscellaneous Expenditures; **3001**-Budget and Property Tax Request; **3002**-Deposits; **4002**-Drug Free Workplace; **4003**-Drug Policy Regarding Drivers. No changes needed.

Clark Enersen mechanical engineer, Adam Kent was available to answer questions regarding the bids submitted for the replacement of the chiller at the Cook site. Mr. Kent recommended the Board of Education accept the bid from Grunwald Mechanical as presented.

A motion was made by Dan Jones and second by Jon Schmid to accept the bid from Grunwald Mechanical in the amount of \$247,738 to replace the chiller at the Cook site as presented. Roll call: Justin Beethe-absent, Gail Hutt-yes, Dan Jones-yes, Jon Schmid-yes, Sarah Weber-yes, Kim Wellensiek-yes. Carried 5-0.

Discussion was held regarding the possibility of closing the Tecumseh Elementary School at the conclusion of any upcoming school bond election pertaining to the construction of new facilities. It was requested that Mr. Rother find out the dimensions of the Weeping Water gym. The importance of getting the message out associated to what taxpayers would pay on a building bond vs. maxing out the Building Fund was discussed.

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

Meeting adjourned at 8:45 p.m.

The next Board of Education Hearing will be held Wednesday, September 24, 2025 at 6:00 p.m. in the high school cafeteria in Tecumseh, Nebraska. This meeting will be a 2025-2026 Budget Hearing followed by the 2025-2026 Hearing to Set the Final Tax Request at 6:15p.m. followed by a Special Board of Education Meeting at 6:20 p.m. 2025. The next Regular Board of Education Meeting will be Wednesday, October 8, 2025. The notices of the meetings will be published in the Nemaha Valley Observer as well as on the school website. The agendas 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.