

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

August 12, 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, 9-12 Principal; Marsha Bacon, 4-8 Principal; Rebecca Robeson, PreK-3 Principal; Dr. Laura Rademacher, Director of Student Services/Special Education; Russ Waring, Director of Operations.

The Johnson County School District No. 0050 Board of Education met in regular session at 6:00 p.m., Wednesday, August 12, 2026 in the Tecumseh site Elementary Building room 106, 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.

APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES

A motion was made by Dan Jones and second by Sarah Weber to approve the July 2026, Regular Board of Education meeting minutes as well as the July 28, 2026 Board Retreat 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

Superintendent Rother reviewed the financial report and answered questions regarding the claims for payment listings. A motion was made by Jon Schmid and second by Justin Beethe to approve the General Fund Claims for payment in the amount of \$1,057,181.34, Building Fund in the amount of \$341,647.51 and Qualified Capital Purpose Undertaking Fund in the amount of \$67,228.00 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

PRESENTATION TO THE BOARD

Johnson County Central FFA Chapter Advisor Connor Bartels, and four students were in attendance to present to the Board of Education. Chapter members shared a slide show with the board highlighting the farming operations involved in managing the 52 acres of land owned by the district. The organization is estimating their net profit to be approximately \$8,000. The organization will continue to look at marketing options, plans for future use of the land as well as use of revenue with the option of funding a scholarship being considered.

PUBLIC COMMENT- None

ADMINISTRATOR REPORTS

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

- Summer school
- Student handbooks
- Open House – August 7th 6:00 p.m
- Student packets
- Securly Digital Hall Pass System
- Picture Day – September 11, 2026

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

- Science of Reading training
- Scheduling
- Discipline Training at KSB Law
- Student handbooks
- DIEBELS/mClass Training
- Band camp
- New teacher orientation – August 4th
- Open House – August 6th 6:00 p.m.

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

- Enrollment
- Shared spaces due to construction
- Reading/ELA curriculum training
- 3-year-old preschool requirements
- MAP testing

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

- IDEA Grant
- Fall SPED Institute
- School Psychologist
- Level 3 Services

Activities Director, Mr. Collin provided a report on the following:

- “Gold Standard” strength training – 35 days
- Fall sports – participation numbers
- New Wall of Honor criteria
- NSAA Legislative changes

SUPERINTENDENT REPORT

Superintendent Jon Rother shared a technology report as presented by Marcus Scheer. This report included the following:

- Summer 2026 work completed
- 2026-2027 implementations and updates

- Technology related items needed to be addressed in Summer 2027

Mr. Rother reviewed a report as provided by Director of Operations, Russ Waring. This report included the following:

- HVAC repairs
- Long jump pits
- Cook site repairs
- High school projects
- High school science lab

Mr. Rother is continuing work on the Nebraska Game and Parks Recreational Trails Grant. He is collaborating with Economic Development Director, Doug Goracke, on this project as well. Mr. Rother reported that Coady Pruett is leaving KSB School Law. Johnson County Central will have a new legal contact within KSB School Law moving forward.

Superintendent Rother and Activity Director, Garrett Collin, are continuing work with activity sponsors to update the Wall of Honor. Work is also being completed with the new communication platform ParentSquare.

REGULAR AGENDA BUSINESS

Superintendent Rother reviewed Policy 6025–Student Cell Phone and Other Electronic Devices. A motion was made by Dan Jones and second by Gail Hutt to approve the changes to the cell phone policy 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

The following policies were reviewed: Policy 3024–Booster Clubs and Parent Teacher Organizations; Policy 3025-Returned and Outstanding Checks; Policy 4023-Professional Ethics; Policy 4024-Teachers’ Rights, Responsibilities & Duties; Policy 5022-Investigations and Arrests by Police and Other Law Enforcement Officers; Policy 5023-Student Illness; Policy 6014-School Attendance on Days of Scheduled Activities; Policy 6015-Summer School. No changes were needed.

A motion was made by Justin Beethe and second by Sarah Weber to renew Johnson County Central’s membership with NRCSA (Nebraska Rural Communities School Association) for 2026-2027. Roll call vote: Justin Beethe-yes, Gail Hutt-yes, Dan Jones-yes, Jon Schmid-yes, Sarah Weber-yes, Kim Wellensiek-yes. Carried 6-0

Discussion was held regarding the 2026-2027 budget and tax requests. Meetings will be as follows:

- JCC 2026-2027 Budget Hearing- September 28, 2026 6:00 p.m. - HS Rm. 204
- JCC Hearing to Set the Final Tax Request- September 28, 2026- 6:10 p.m. – HS Rm. 204
- JCC Meeting to approve the 2026-2027 Budget and Setting the Final Tax Request - 6:20 p.m. -HS Rm. 204

The Board of Education discussed renovations being considered for the high school in the summer of 2027. These renovations may include the following:

- Remodeling of science labs

- Adding dual entry secure doors to the entrances
- Elevator
- Replacing exterior windows

The JCC FFA Chapter has applied for a grant to install a greenhouse. There are several things to consider when deciding on the placement of the structure. Discussion was held.

Following a discussion regarding a future building project for Johnson County Central Schools, the Board of Education would like to pursue a bond for the November 2026 General Election. Mr. Rother and the Board will work with Clark Enerson (Architects & Engineers), DA Davidson (Bond Underwriter) and KSB School Law. The Board of Education will work to define the scope of the project. A special meeting will be held to discuss the project and financing options. The Board of Education will discuss, consider and may act to pass a resolution calling a special bond election and authorizing the issuance of general obligation bonds for additions and improvements of facilities.

A motion was made by Dan Jones and second by Sarah Weber 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

The next Board of Education meeting will be a Board of Education meeting will be a Special Meeting August 26, 2026 at 6:00 p.m. in the high school room 204. The next Regular Board of Education Meeting will be September 9, 2026 at 6:00 p.m. in the high school room 204.

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 agendas will be available for inspection in the office of the Superintendent prior to the meeting.