

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

October 14, 2026

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

Absent: Justin Beethe,

Also Present: Jon H. Rother, Superintendent; Laurie Badertscher, Recording Secretary; Justin Damme, 9-12 Principal; Rebecca Robeson PreK-3 Principal; Dr. Laura Rademacher, Director of Student Services/Special Education, Garrett Collin, Activity Director; Russ Waring, Director of Operations

7 visitors were present

The Johnson County School District No. 0050 Board of Education met in regular session at 6:00 p.m. Wednesday, October 14, 2026 in the Tecumseh site 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-absent, 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 September 2026, Regular Board of Education meeting minutes as well as the September 16th and September 30th Special Board of Education meeting minutes. 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

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 Dan Jones to approve the General Fund Claims for payment in the amount of \$886,898.88 the Building Fund expenditures in the amount of \$127,955.74 and Depreciation Fund in the amount of \$103,100 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

PUBLIC COMMENT- None

ADMINISTRATOR REPORTS

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

- SENCA poverty simulation
- Apply to College/Career event
- JCC FFA Chapter received \$100,000 grant for greenhouse project
- Alzheimer's Fundraising Walk -Sunday, Oct. 18th, 1:00 p.m.– Auburn Recreation Complex
- Believers & Achievers award recipient- AJ Rautenbach
- JAG Officers
- JCC Art Club – hay bales Halloween display on Hwy 50
- Parent Teacher Conferences
- Veterans Day Program – Wednesday, November 11th, 10:00 a.m, high school gym
(free lunch for all veterans and spouses)

Middle School Principal, Mrs. Bacon provided a report to include the following:

- Fire Safety presentation by Cook Fire Dept.
- Life Skills Pep Rally at UNL – November 2nd
- Parent-Teacher conferences were well attended
- 6-12 English Language Arts -curriculum alignment to state standards
- Band and Choir “Pie Night” – October 22nd
- MS FFA range judging
- Veterans Day Program – Wednesday, November 11th, 10:00 a.m., middle school gym
(free lunch for all veterans and spouses)

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

- School Safety Summit
- Parent-Teacher conferences – 87% attendance
- Third grade students attended SE Nebraska Ag Literacy Festival
- Title I – Pumpkin Night – October 16th
- First grade to visit fire station – October 15th
- Kindergarten to Roca Berry Farm – October 16th
- Fire Safety Week – October 20th – October 23rd
- Scholastic Book Fair

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

- Nebraska Association of Special Education Supervisors Fall Conference
- High Ability Learners Grant
- Early childhood discussions
- AERO Academy
- Education Department General Administrative Regulations (EDGAR) Academy
- Special Education Financial Reporting

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

- ECNC volleyball tournament – October 12th -15th
- Annual volleyball tournaments hosted by JCC
- ECNC Cross Country – 3rd place
- NSAA District 1 Meeting – November 12th
- Staff vs. Students fundraiser – November 13th
- Winter Sports practices start – November 16th

Director of Technology, Marcus Scheer provided the following information:

- Classroom displays
- Fortigate Firewall/ Filter
- Project Quotes
 - High School Paging/Bell System – 32,555
 - High School Cabling for Security Cameras - \$15, 725
 - High School Gym Audio Sound System - \$41,584
 - Auditorium Sound System- \$41,002.97

Discussion was held regarding the proposed projects. The Board of Education recommended moving forward with the high school paging/bell system, the high school audio sound system and the high school cabling for the security cameras.

SUPERINTENDENT REPORT

Superintendent Rother provided the 2026 Computer Science and Technology Report. This report provides information on the technology curriculum provided to the middle school and elementary (grades 4-8)- In addition to the required curriculum there is a STEM elective that implements some coding. Discussion was held regarding the use of Microsoft Office in the schools. Cursive handwriting instruction was also discussed. Cursive is currently introduced at the 3rd grade level at JCC.

Mr. Rother provided information on the following:

- JCC Rule 10 compliance visit from NDE
- Attended NCSA School Law Update
- Bond initiative meetings with community organizations
- Enrollment data provided
- Mr. Rother was public representative at the Johnson County Hospital Rural Health Clinic Meeting
- Social media accounts

Mr. Rother provided a news release published by the Nebraska Department of Education. The release titled “Nebraska Students Near the Top of Peer States on ACT” stated that “Nebraska students continue to lead the way with one of the highest composite scores nationally compared with states that test all their students on the ACT exam that measures college readiness in English, reading, mathematics and science. All Nebraska public school juniors are required to take the ACT as part of the Nebraska Student-Centered Assessment system (NSCSS).” The national and state ACT press release and reports can be viewed and downloaded on the ACT website at act.org/gradclass2026.

A Maintenance Report was provided by Russ Waring, Director of Operations. Mr. Waring was present to answer questions regarding the current facilities. Discussion was held regarding the proposed track resurfacing project and the high school renovations. Landscaping of the high school was also discussed.

FUTURE DATES

- Tuesday, November 3, 2026- General Election
- Thursday November 18, 2026- NASB 2026 State Education Conference

DISCUSSION

Four members of the Johnson County Central Student Council were present to discuss their experience at JCC. Members inquired as to what their role could be regarding the school bond election in November. Discussion was held regarding the possibility of implementing some form of job shadowing experiences for the students. The use of technology and the bell system were also discussed.

REGULAR AGENDA BUSINESS

Mr. Rother presented policy 6005: Academic Credits and Graduation. The policy was amended to include 5 hours of required Computer Science through the Foundations of Computing course. A motion was made by Dan Jones and second by Gail Hutt to approve policy 6005 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

The following policies were reviewed: 3028- Sex Offenders; 3029- Distribution of Flyers Advertising Non-School Issues; 4028- Substitute Teachers; 4029- Salary Schedule and Certificated Employees; 5028-Initiations and Hazing; 5030-Dating Violence; 6018-Grades; 6020- Multicultural Education.

Discussion was held regarding a potential payment to Clark Enersen for their pre-bond work over the last seven years. The Board of Education appreciates the continued partnership, investment and work with the JCC district as provided by Clark Enersen. No action was taken.

Discussion was held regarding the resurfacing of the track in the summer of 2027. Bids from Fisher Track, Pro Track and Tennis and Midwest Tennis & Track Co.were reviewed. Discussion was held. A motion was made by Sarah Weber and second by Dan Jones to accept the bid from Midwest Tennis & Track Co. in the amount of \$88,400 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

Superintendent Rother facilitated a discussion regarding the East Central Nebraska Conference (ECNC) members. Currently Cedar Bluffs, Brownell Talbot and / or Omaha Christian are considering membership. No action was needed.

A letter from the Johnson County Central Education Association (JCCEA) was provided. Discussion was held. A motion was made by Dan Jones and second by Sarah Weber to recognize the JCC Education Association as the exclusive bargaining agent for the district's non-supervisory certificated staff to begin bargaining in the fall of 2027 for the 2028-2029 contract year. Roll call vote: Justin Beethe – absent, Gail Hutt – yes, Dan Jones – yes, Jon Schmid – yes, Sarah Weber – yes, Kim Wellensiek – yes. Carried 5-0

President Wellensiek facilitated a discussion regarding the possible closure of Johnson County Central Elementary building in Tecumseh. Jon Schmid shared his disappointment in local support for a building bond initiative. Mr. Rother shared that approximately 250 students would need to be bused to the Cook site if the Tecumseh Elementary closed. Should there not be a successful bond passed the Board of Education will have some very difficult decisions to make. It was suggested that this issue be tabled until the November 2026 meeting. No action was taken.

The next regular meeting will be held Wednesday November 11, 2026 at 6:00 p.m. at the high school room 204 Tecumseh, Nebraska. 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.