

Board Minutes
February 26, 2024

The regular meeting of the Greater Jasper Consolidated Schools Board of Trustees was held at the Jasper High School Community Room on February 26, at 7:00 p.m. President Greg Eckerle called the meeting to order. Sara Schmidt was absent.

The Pledge of Allegiance was said by everyone in attendance.

Public Comment:
None

Consent Agenda:

Mr. Eckerle asked members if any of the consent agenda items needed to be discussed. No other items were asked to be discussed.

A motion by Steve Lukemeyer, second by Arlet Jackle, to approve the consent agenda, was unanimously approved by the Board.

Consent Agenda

- Minutes, claims and bank reconciliations
- Consideration of Request for Leave
 - As presented to the Board of Trustees
- Resignations/Retirements
 - Elizabeth Ahlbrand-English Teacher-JHS-Effective March 22, 2024
 - Amber Hoffman-Elementary Teacher-IRE-Effective August 1, 2024
 - Lori Kunkel-Elementary Teacher-JES-Retirement effective August 1, 2024
 - Karen Stenftenagel-Math Teacher-JHS-Retirement effective August 1, 2024
 - Josh Dahmer-Head Girls' Golf Coach-JHS
 - Gillian Blessinger-Assistants Girls' Golf Coach-JHS
- Staff Recommendations
 - Britni Erny-Associate Little Wildcats Teacher-JHS
 - Kaylee Schmitt-Part-time Little Wildcats Assistant-JHS
 - This will be a full-time assistant position starting in the 2024-2025 school year
 - Alex Lee-Head Girls' Wrestling Coach-JHS
 - Nathan Schitter-Varsity Asst Girls' Wrestling Coach-JHS
 - Dylan Mattingly-JV Girls' Wrestling Coach-JHS
 - Gillian Blessinger-Head Girls' Golf Coach-JHS
 - Josh Dahmer-Assistant Girls' Golf Coach-JHS
- Incentive Program Completion/Increase-adds \$3,000 to Base Salary
 - None
- Field Trip Requests
 - Education Professions students to the Educators Rising State Competition-February 27-28, 2024-Indianapolis
 - JHS Robotics Team-March 8-10, 2024-Columbus East High School
 - JHS Marching Band to Music in the Parks-May 18, 2024—Kings Island
 - World Language Trip-May 27-June 4, 2025-France and Spain

- Other
 - None

Wildcat Spotlight-Elementary School Report-Kent Taylor, Ryan Erny, Shannon Bauer
The main focus was on Literacy Initiatives.

Jasper Elementary School performed well ranking 5 out of 900 Indiana Schools for Title I. Ireland Elementary achieved a 100% passing scores on IRead. The schools are focusing on the Science of Reading. They are looking at five things which are Dibels Assessment, Science of Reading Curriculum & Professional Development, Literacy coaches in each building, get you Teach on Collaboration site and high school interns. The Science of Reading the teachers go online and do 30 hours of training. The Get Your Teach On Program gives teachers support as simple as email questions. Amelia Capotosta is the school's person for contact for Get Your Teach On. The principals said the corporation has brought on two great literacy coaches Christine Shafer and Jenny Hanneman and they are doing a terrific job. Another new area is High School Interns that provide support in PK, Special Ed and Title I students. The interns are getting experiences that will help them make a decision for their future. At Jasper Elementary they have implemented Language Lead which is helping students with different languages get the support they need.

The principals attributed the success to hard-working teachers and literacy coaches, and grown data that allow schools to quickly and accurately gauge students' needs and achievements. The principals shared commitment to literacy growth and student recognition, regardless of reading level.

Dr. Englert asked what the pass rate is at the schools for the IREAD Testing. Ireland is 100% and JES is 88%.

Building & Maintenance Update—Mr. Stenftenagel

Mr. Stenftenagel asked the Board to approve the bid from South Central Roofing for the JMS/JHS roof replacement. The cost of both projects is \$708,846. The projects will start May 27, 2024 and the finish date is August 2, 2024.

A motion by Steve Lukemeyer, second by Dr. Englert, to approve the bid from South Central Roofing for the JMS/JHS roof replacement, was unanimously approved by the Board.

Mr. Stenftenagel asked the Board to approve Tennis Technology for the JMS track resurfacing project. The cost of the project is \$150,000.

A motion by Dr. Englert, second by Steve Lukemeyer, to approve Tennis Technology for the JMS track resurfacing project, was unanimously approved by the Board.

Dr. Lorey informed the Board they received 3 quotes for the annual fertilizer and chemical purchases. She asked the Board to approve a bid from Tenbarge for \$30,880.15. They provide free delivery to each location and organize the order by plan application. In addition, they provide free expert consultation on any ground/sports field questions, concerns or issues.

A motion by Arlet Jackle, second by Dr. Englert, to approve the bid form Tenbarge for the fertilizer and chemicals, was unanimously approved by the Board.

Dr. Lorey asked the board to approve the quote from Tenbarge for \$48,540.00 to grade and sprig the high school practice soccer field. The service includes additional scope of work including marking and removing the irrigation heads prior to the grading, as well as reinstalling and/or replacing these heads as needed. In addition, including fertilizer.

A motion by Steve Lukemeyer, second by Dr. Englert, to approve the quote from Tenbarge, was unanimously approved by the Board.

Curriculum Update—Mrs. Fawks

Mrs. Fawks asked the Board to approve the Summer Enrichment Programs.

A motion by Arlet Jackle, second by Dr. Englert, to approve the Summer Enrichment Programs, was unanimously approved by the Board.

Mrs. Fawks asked the Board to approve the summer school courses and dates. The corporation is offering IREAD Remediation, English Academy Level 1, 2 and 3, and PE.

A motion by Arlet Jackle, second by Steve Lukemeyer, to approve the summer school courses and dates, was unanimously approved by the Board.

Student Support Services and Transportation Update—Mr. Buechlein

None

Other Business:

Dr. Lorey made the following announcements:

Determine status of the request from the City of Jasper to purchase 10 acres adjoining the Parklands for the Regional Wellness Center. The City of Jasper has approached GJCS with a desire to purchase 10 acres of property adjoining the Parklands for the future Regional Wellness Center project. At this time, she asked the Board to consider the request.

Greg Eckerle stated the corporation was originally interested in the acreage as a future site for a new elementary school. The new school has been built north of the middle school and that turned out to be a great location. He added that he always considered the 10 acres between the high school and The Parklands an insurance policy in case the high school needed to expand. However, in speaking to the Clerk of the Works, Scott Stenftenagel, he learned the current building could be expanded in several areas. In addition, Me. Eckerle stated the enrollment has gone down over the years in 1978 the enrollment was about 1,300 and now the enrollment is about 1,100 students.

Mr. Eckerle stated the impact the proposed 90,000 square foot multi-use facility could bring to the community and the school corporation is great. He stated it could attract more people to the area. He stated he always thought what is good for the city is good for the school. If more people come to the city that could mean more students for the schools.

Steve Lukemeyer stated he supported the sale of the property. He said any decision he makes is through the lens of what is the best interest of the students. He stated he thinks the students will have a lot of great opportunities with the activities, exercise and group meetings. The pros outweigh the cons.

Dr. Englert also agreed with selling the property, noting it is a much-needed avenue for increasing healthiness in the community.

A motion by Arlet Jackle to sell the 10 acres to the city and being able to discuss and negotiate the details of the sale in the future, second by Steve Lukemeyer, the vote was 4-0 with Sara Schmidt absent.

Mayor Dean Vonderheide thanked the Board and Dr. Lorey for agreeing to sell the property.

Dr. Lorey asked the Board to approve the Indiana Learning Grant Distribution. The Indiana Early Learning Grant was established through HEA 1001 in 2023. The purpose is to reward schools and teachers for improving students' foundational reading skills as evidenced by IREAD-3 data. The funds may only be used to pay cash stipends to teachers who are responsible for implementation and delivery of literacy and reading instruction through grade 3 during the 2022-2023 school year and maintained employment with the district during this academic year. GJCS has received \$15,363.66 of the \$10

million dollar budget allocation. GJCS is seeking approval to distribute the award to all PREK-3, special education, EL and Title I teachers. This equates to a \$296.46 stipend per person. All TRF and payroll taxes will be deducted prior to the final distribution. This will expand the total amount plus we will need to use approximately \$0.26 from the Rainy Day Fund.

A motion by Arlet Jackle, second by Dr. Englert, to approve the distribution of the Indiana Learning Grant, was unanimously approved by the Board.

Dr. Lorey asked the Board to approve the RTI quote to upgrade network servers. The Board received 3 quotes for an upgrade to the current servers. RTI was the low bid of \$50,204.28.

A motion by Dr. Englert, second by Arlet Jackle, to approve the RTI quote to upgrade network servers, was unanimously approved by the Board.

Dr. Lorey introduced the updated Wellness Policy and asked the Board to review for consideration of approval at the March Board Meeting.

Announcements:

The regular March Board Meeting will be held on Monday, March 18, 2024 at the Jasper High School Community Room at 7:00 p.m.

School will be in session on Monday, April 1, 2024. School will not be in session on Monday, April 8, 2024. This change is to accommodate the anticipated eclipse.

Adjourn:

There being no further business to conduct and upon a motion by Steve Lukemeyer, second by Dr. Englert, the Board voted to adjourn at 7:53 p.m.

An Executive Session was held before the regular meeting to discuss the following:
IC. 5-14-1.5-6.1(b)(3) Discussed Assessment, Design, Implementation of School Safety Measures, Plans, and Systems

Trig Eskola President

Arlet Jackle Vice-President

Judy Eiler Secretary

Steve Lukemeyer Member

Jana Schmitt Member