

Board Minutes
March 19, 2024

The Johnson County Board of Education met in regular session on Tuesday, March 19, 2024 in the board office at 6:00 p.m. Donald Smith, Kevin Brantley, Chris Fields, Alvin P. Moorman, and Marty Thompson were present. Chairman Smith called the meeting to order and welcomed everyone. Mr. Moorman gave the invocation and Mr. Fields led the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag.

The following business was transacted:

1. The proposed agenda was approved on a motion by Mr. Brantley, second by Mr. Thompson; unanimous approval.
2. The February 20, 2024 regular meeting minutes were approved on a motion by Mr. Fields, second by Mr. Thompson; unanimous approval.
3. The February 2024 financial report was approved on a motion by Mr. Moorman, second by Mr. Brantley; unanimous approval.
4. Mrs. Ivey Caneega, 4-H Extension Agent, introduced several of the 4-H students who recently competed in District Project Achievement (DPA). Present were:
 - Emmalee Brantley, 5th grade, - 1st place
 - Zach Dixon, 5th grade - 1st place
 - Aaliyah Horton, 5th grade - 1st place
 - Lilly Thigpen, 5th grade - 1st place
 - Ambree White, 5th grade - Honorable Mention
 - Ali Jackson, 8th grade - 1st place in Performing Arts Dance
 - Anna-Elease Jackson, 7th grade - 1st place in Public Speaking
 - Grayson Jackson, 7th grade - 1st place in Cat Care
 - Ansley Powell, 8th grade - 2nd place in History
 - Trojan Stapleton, 11th grade - 2nd place in Swine
5. Superintendent Watkins presented Policy IHF (6) Graduation Requirements Regarding Special Education for second reading. This policy was approved on a motion by Mr. Fields, second by Mr. Thompson; unanimous approval.
6. Superintendent Watkins presented FY25 budget workshop and budget hearing dates. The following dates were approved on a motion by Mr. Brantley, second by Mr. Fields; unanimous approval:
 - Tuesday, April 23, 2024, 6:00 P.M., Workshop
 - Tuesday, May 14, 2024, 6:00 P.M., Workshop/Public Hearing
 - Tuesday, May 21, 2024, 5:30 P.M., Workshop/Public Hearing
 - Tuesday, May 21, 2024, 6:00 P.M., adopt Tentative Budget
 - Tuesday, June 18, 2024, 6:00 P.M. adopt Final Budget

7. Superintendent Watkins presented the Strategic Waiver Contract – New Application for approval. After discussion, this application was approved on a motion by Mr. Moorman, second by Mr. Fields, unanimous approval.
8. Superintendent Watkins recognized and presented the board members with a certificate and gift for School Board Appreciation Week. He thanked them for their service to the students, staff, and community.
9. The following fund-raising requests were approved on a motion by Mr. Thompson, second by Mr. Fields; unanimous approval:
 - JCHS Athletics, Annual Coke Sale, April 29 – May 13, 2024
 - JCHS FFA, Calendar, April 1 – 12, 2024
10. Mr. Charles Howard, JCES Principal, updated the board on the discipline data from his school. He congratulated the JCES students that were recognized for their 4-H achievements. He was excited to announce that the reading scores were at 51% proficient for students in second through fifth grade. This is the highest score for this time of year since 2019 which was before the pandemic. He is very proud of the growth of these students. He also shared several upcoming events: March 26, 2024 Math Competition, March 28, 2024 Petting Zoo at JCHS, and March 28, 2024 PTO with a focus on assessments.
11. Superintendent Watkins presented a report from Mr. Reid Betha, JCMHS Principal. He updated the board on the school's discipline data. He also announced several activities taking place at both schools including: Middle School - PBIS Incentive, APTT, STEM Day, PAC recognition, and Milestone Prep. High School - PBIS Incentive, STEM Day, Blood Drive, PAC recognition, Pilot Club Puppet Show at JCES, Sports Physicals, Safe Driving Seminar, and Prom. He commended student James Skelly for his new job with Easter Seals. He congratulated Ma'Kaysia Devero and Mr. Vernon Skelly for being named the March Rotary Student and Teacher of the month. Finally, he applauded Trojan Stapleton and Chloe Bray for being chosen as the delegates for the Washington Youth Tour sponsored by Washington EMC.
12. Mrs. Tecia McKay, Associate Superintendent, shared artifacts of a glimpse in the schools:
 - School Improvement - District wide study of data as the BOE and Dr. Watkins get ready to lead the district and community through our GSBA Strategic Plan process. JCES Principal Mr. Charles Howard is enthusiastic about his new reading data. 3rd Grade growth is higher than it was prior to the pandemic.
 - Curriculum - JCMS 6th Grade Science led by Ms. Jade Johnson explores earth science by creating volcanoes and their research. (Mt. Fuji was featured; created by Desiah Dardy.) JCES ELA Writing sample including a rubric with feedback for students. The ending of the writing sample by 2nd Grade student McKenlee Bolden included a classic ending, "And it was finally done." JCMS displayed analyzed student work with learning the standard posted and directly aligning. Samples were shared from Ms. Dani Josey's ELA class.
 - Federal Funds - ESSER III funded Reading Endorsement cohort #2 implementation samples were shared highlighting Ms. Jennifer Moon's

Phonemic Awareness and Word Recognition reading brochure and Ms. Danielle Ivey's infographic expressing how students need varied access to reading.

13. Mr. Charlie Lindsey, Associate Superintendent presented a Facility Use Request from Mrs. Sherry Rowland and Mrs. Lisa Clark for the Miss Independence and Miss HOPE pageants on June 6, 2024 at JCMHS. He reminded the board that the fee for this event is normally waived due to community involvement. He thanked all public safety personnel for all the hard work and due diligence during the recent fire at the Athletic Complex. He then updated the board on the following:
 - Elementary School Renovation still has punch list items
 - New 2024 bus scheduled to arrive in approximately 4 weeks
 - High School water damage claim is still in progress
 - Recent fire at the Athletic Complex. The baseball concession/RR/press box was a total loss. State Fire Marshall initial visit is complete and insurance adjuster meeting is scheduled for Thursday, March 21, 2024.
 - New surveillance equipment, wireless access points, and network switching equipment has been purchased and being installed. All of this was possible by two grants awarded.
 - FTE, Student Class, and CPI are in progress with sign off on March 28, 2024
14. Superintendent Watkins recommended the Facility Use Request for June 6, 2024 for approval. This recommendation was unanimously approved on a motion by Mr. Fields, second by Mr. Thompson.
15. Dr. Hanna Kiser, Director of Special Education, CTAE, and Assessments, also commended student James Skelly for his new position at Easter Seals through Vocational Rehab. This is the first student to be placed since prior to the pandemic. Next, she invited the board members to attend the Petting Zoo Plus to be held on March 28, 2024. She is excited about this day as there will be a variety of new things on hand. She also commended the CTAE staff and the community for all the hard work and donations to make Agriculture Awareness possible.
16. Superintendent Watkins thanked Mrs. Caneega and her students for all the hard work that goes into these projects and representing Johnson County well. He then thanked the parents and grandparents of these students for helping make events like DPA successful. He updated the board on the GSBA Strategic Planning. There will be a community stakeholder meeting on April 8, 2024 at the JCMHS Cafeteria. Everyone is invited to attend and give input. He also thanked the public safety personnel for their work during the fire at the Athletic Complex. He thanked the community for the support that has poured in. He has met with several media sources covering this issue. He revisited the issue of seating capacity at the high school gym. He gave a rough estimate of the costs of a renovation project verses building a new gym.
17. Mr. Anthony Norris addressed the board with his concerns with the basketball program and related issues.
18. On a motion by Mr. Fields, second by Mr. Brantley; unanimous approval was given to go into executive session to discuss or deliberate upon the appointment, employment, compensation, hiring, disciplinary action or dismissal or periodic evaluation or rating of a

public officer or employee. After discussion, a motion was made to come out of executive session by Mr. Fields, second by Mr. Thompson; unanimous approval.

19. Superintendent Watkins presented personnel recommendations. The following recommendations were approved on a motion by Mr. Fields, second by Mr. Brantley; Four YES votes with Mr. Thompson abstaining. unanimous approval:

Resignations:

MaryBeth Thompson, Retirement, effective at end of current contract
Kent Foskey, Agriculture Teacher, effective at end of current contract
Rebecca Frost, Teacher, effective at end of current contract

Hires:

Erin Nuñez, Teacher
Kent Foskey, Young Farmer Teacher/Advisor
Rebecca Frost, Literacy/STEM

Transfers:

Rachel Clark, Rotation Paraprofessional to Pre-K Paraprofessional

20. The meeting was then adjourned at 7:15 p.m.

**JOHNSON COUNTY BOARD
OF EDUCATION**

By: _____
Chairman

Attest: _____
Superintendent