

## **Board Minutes August 20, 2024**

The Johnson County Board of Education met in regular session on Tuesday, August 20, 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. Thompson gave the invocation and Mr. Brantley led the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag.

The following business was transacted:

1. The proposed agenda was approved on a motion by Mr. Thompson, second by Mr. Moorman; unanimous approval.
2. The July 9, 2024 called meeting and the July 16, 2024 regular meeting minutes were approved on a motion by Mr. Moorman, second by Mr. Brantley; unanimous approval.
3. The July 2024 financial report was approved on a motion by Mr. Brantley, second by Mr. Thompson; unanimous approval.
4. Mrs. Hallie Fenton and Ms. Gina Bright introduced some of the students who participated and won or placed in State and National BETA Convention competitions. These students included: Ali Jackson, Jake Rogers, Ashton Griffin, Rob Bethea, Jersi Carswell, Jacob Peeples, Jeremiah Taylor, Makayla Thigpen, Aidon Claxton, Will Peters, Colton Scott, Brantley Martin, Barrett Wombles, and Nicolas Jackson.
5. Superintendent Watkins and board members discussed the millage rate for 2024 in detail. After discussion, unanimous approval was made to adopt the preliminary rollback rate of 14.483 on a motion by Mr. Brantley, second by Mr. Fields. This will result in not having a rate increase. The final millage rate will be set at the regular board meeting on September 17, 2024.
6. The following fund-raising requests were approved on a motion by Mr. Brantley, second by Mr. Fields; unanimous approval:
  - JCMHS FFA, Mums, August 15 – 29, 2024
  - JCMHS FFA, Fruit, October 1 – 30, 2024
  - JCMS PBIS, Spirit Favors, August – May 2024
  - JCHS BETA, Homecoming T-Shirts, August – September, 2024
  - JCHS Youth Assembly, Sponsor Cards, August – October, 2024
7. The following fund-raising request was approved on a motion by Mr. Fields, second by Mr. Thompson; unanimous approval:
  - JCHS BETA, Meat Sticks, August – October, 2024
8. Mr. Charles Howard, JCES Principal, gave a brief update from his school. The school year has gotten off to a great start. His staff was very prepared and gave them all the credit for this successful start of the year. He also commended the students that were recognized earlier in the meeting and noted that ‘excellence’ was happening in our schools. He updated the board on the discipline data and various professional learning opportunities. He also discussed the new STEM program being led by Mrs. Becky Frost.

9. Superintendent Watkins gave a report from Mr. Reid Bethea, JCMHS Principal. He updated the board on the beginning of school, lesson plans, APTT, Whole Child Supports, various sports in progress, teacher incentive program, upcoming events, and discipline data.
10. Mrs. Tecia McKay, Associate Superintendent, congratulated the principals and staff for a smooth opening to the school year. She updated the board on new staff/mentors, new math standards, new literacy programs, budgets for Federal Programs, Cross Functional Monitoring, and Parent Engagement.
11. Superintendent Watkins presented a quote from Mr. Lindsey for 4 new buses from Yancey. This quote was for \$140,082.96 each. The allotment from the Department of Education is \$88,110 each. The system cost per bus is \$51,972.96. On a motion by Mr. Thompson, second by Mr. Fields, unanimous approval was given to purchase these buses.
12. Dr. Hanna Kiser, Director of Special Education, CTAE, and assessments, updated the board on her programs. She applied for and received a \$35,000 grant to provide Literacy Instruction and Intervention for special education students. There are currently 5 high school special needs students working at Easter Seals. Special Education instruction and/or support is now provided K-12 in core classes. She applied for and received a \$50,000 grant to support the CTAE Agriculture program. Johnson County was chosen by GaDOE to be in the pilot program for the Go504 program. She also announced the mock interviews day on October 29, 2024. Finally, she presented the Comprehensive Local Needs Assessment. This assessment lists the overarching needs that is tied to our Perkins Funding.
13. Superintendent Watkins presented the Comprehensive Local Needs Assessment Plan for approval. The CLNA was unanimously approved on a motion by Mr. Moorman, second by Mr. Thompson.
14. Superintendent Watkins discussed the new HB 581 concerning Homestead Exemptions. More information will follow in the coming months. Next, he updated the board on the Middle/High Gym Renovation project. After much discussion, Superintendent Watkins recommended that the restroom and concession stand areas be renovated at this time. This is an approximate cost of \$225,000. On a motion by Mr. Moorman, second by Mr. Thompson, unanimous approval was given to move forward with these two areas of renovation.
15. 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, dismissal, periodic evaluation, or rating of a public officer or employee. After discussion, a motion was made to come out of executive session by Mr. Moorman, second by Mr. Brantley; unanimous approval.
16. Superintendent Watkins presented personnel recommendations. The following recommendations were approved, on a motion by Mr. Fields, second by Mr. Thompson; unanimous approval:

New Hires:

Carol Williams, JCES Intervention Teacher 49%

Theda Yawn, Substitute Teacher

17. The meeting was then adjourned at 7:35 p.m.

**JOHNSON COUNTY BOARD  
OF EDUCATION**

**By:** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Chairman**

**Attest:** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Superintendent**