

Board Minutes April 28, 2025

The regular meeting of the Greater Jasper Consolidated Schools Board of Trustees was held at the Jasper High School Community Room on April 28, 7:00 p.m. President Greg Eckerle called the meeting to order.

Board Members and School Corporation personnel in attendance:

Greg Eckerle-Board President-Present
 Arlet Jackle-Vice President-Present
 Dr. Judy Englert-Secretary-Present
 Steve Lukemeyer-Member-Present
 Sara Schmidt-Member-Present
 Tim DeMotte-School Attorney-Present
 Dr. Tracy Lorey-Superintendent-Present
 Glenn Buechlein-Assistant Superintendent Support Services and Transportation-Present
 Tina Fawks-Assistant Superintendent Curriculum, Instruction, and Assessment-Present
 Monica Young-Corporation Treasurer-Present

The Pledge of Allegiance was said by everyone in attendance.

Public Comment:

None

The Board took a moment to thank Mary Roberson for serving as interim school superintendent. Ms. Roberson said the experience was a true joy.

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 Mr. 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
 - Andrea Ackerman-Art Teacher-IRE-Retirement Effective August 1, 2025
 - Katy Deel-Teacher-JES-Effective End of 2024-2025 School Year
 - Kendra Schuck-Teacher-IRE-Effective End of 2024-2025 School Year
 - Ryan Wilkerson-Teacher-JHS-Effective End of 2024-2025 School Year
 - Danielle Hulsman-28 Hour/Week Instructional Assistant-IRE-Effective End of the 2024-2025 School Year
 - Mike Hochgesang-Custodian-Retirement Effective June 27, 2025
 - Eric Schuetter-JMS Wrestling Coach
 - Audra Jahn-1/2 Stipend High Ability Coordinator-JES
 - Audra Jahn-Elementary Grade Coordinator-JES

- Staff Recommendations
 - Danielle Hulsman-Art Teacher (80%)-IRE-Effective 2025-2026 School Year
 - Jordan Beach-Special Education Teacher-Transfer from JES to JMS-Effective 2025-2026 School Year
 - Olivia Pride-Language Arts Teacher-JMS-Effective 2025-2026 School Year
 - Ashton Rohleder-Teacher-JES-Effective 2025-2026 School Year
 - Rahman Smiley-Preschool Teacher-JES-Effective 2025-2026 School Year
 - Janelle Hasenour-1/2 Elementary Grade Coordinator Stipend-JES-Effective 2025-2026 School Year
 - Kirsten Prectel-1/2 Elementary Grade Coordinator Stipend-JES-Effective 2025-2026 School Year
 - Thomas Gilbert-Summer Technology Intern (\$13 /Hour)-GJCS-Effective May 27-August 5, 2025
 - Alicia Clark-1/2 Stipend Prom Sponsor-JHS-Effective 2025-2026 School Year
 - Abby Schmitt-1/2 Stipend Prom Sponsor-JHS-Effective 2025-2026 School Year
 - Amy Rasche-Dual Credit Course Stipend-JHS-Payable 2024-2025
 - Gina Schuetter-1/2 Dual Credit Course Stipend-JHS-payable 2024-2025
 - Sara Kasprzak-28-Hour Instructional Assistant-JHS
 - Andrea Hulsman-Middle School Girls' Assistant Soccer Coach-JMS
 - Kevin Schipp-Middle Schools Girls' Head Cross Country Coach-JMS
 - Brynn Schwartz-Middle School Cheer Coach-JMS
 - Summer School Teachers
 - Brianna Lammer-Summer Ag Experience
 - Nick Eckert-Health
 - Sean Jochum-JHS Credit Recovery
 - Chad Gayso-Marching Band
 - Ben Werne-Marching Band
- Approve Master's Incentive Program Completion Base Salary Increases
 - Megan Johnson-\$3,000 Base Salary Increase
- Field Trip Requests
 - Boys' Golf to Bedford Invitational on May 2-3, 2025, and Brownsburg Invitational on May 16-17, 2025
 - JHS Band Students to Compete in "Music in the Parks" at Kings Island in Mason, Ohio on May 17, 2025
 - Modification to the JHS World Languages trip June 2-11, 2025. Students will travel to France and Italy instead of Spain and Italy
 - JHS FFA to Indiana State FFA Convention at Purdue University-June 16-19, 2025
 - Boys' Basketball to Charlie Hughes Shootout in Indianapolis on June 20-21, 2025
 - Volleyball to Purdue University on July 18-20, 2025
- Other
 - Approve Summer Refresh for JHS/JMS Student Devices for \$21,000 by RTI
 - Approve Independent Speech Contract with Caitlyn Klem for SLP Services During the 2025-2026 School Year
 - JMS Surplus Furniture Declaration
 - Strassenfest Committee to use Alumni Stadium Parking Lot July 30-31, 2025, for the Antique Farm Machinery Show
 - Strassenfest Committee to use the JHS Tennis Parking Lot on August 2, 2025, for the Strassenfest Bicycle Riding Staging

Date 4-15-2025

To: THE BOARD OF SCHOOL TRUSTEES OF THE GREATER JASPER CONSOLIDATED SCHOOLS

I, Kurt R. Lechner, Bus Driver, Respectfully request that I
be permitted to sell or assign my school bus contract to Heller Unlimited Inc

Tim Nordhoffs
Bus Driver

Following a request from Kurt R. Lechner, contracted school bus

driver, that he be permitted to assign or sell his school bus contract to

Heller Unlimited Inc.; The School Board of Trustees of the Greater

Jasper Consolidated Schools hereby gives approval to this request.

Kurt R. Lechner
Former Contract Driver

Heller's Unlimited Inc
Assignee or Purchaser of Contract

Charles A. Heller v.p.

Dmy Ebele
Board President

Robert Jankle
Vice-President

Julie E. Lent
Secretary

St. Chmaza
Member

Susan Schmidt
Member

BUS OWNERSHIP; conditions: It is also mutually agreed to between the parties hereto:

1. That said School Corporation is to furnish and provide

Two-Way Radio DVR and camera system Geotab system

Escalation clause is to be part of the contract

2. That the Driver is to furnish

Everything

Said work is to be governed by the following conditions:



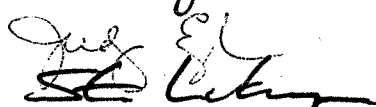
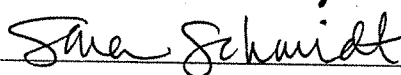
1. The Driver is to drive the bus along the designated route each day during the school term or terms above enumerated, unless the school be dismissed for a holiday or by order of the School Corporation. That the Driver shall operate the bus over the route upon the schedule fixed by the School Corporation.
2. The Driver to have control of all school children so conveyed between the homes of the children and the school(s). The Driver shall keep order and maintain discipline in the bus, being firm but polite, impartial and fair, and see that no child is imposed upon or mistreated while in their charge, and shall use every care for the safety of the children under their charge.
3. The Driver is to perform personally all of the said work set out in this agreement, and shall not sell or assign this contract to any other person nor substitute any other person as driver, except with the approval of the School Corporation.
4. That the School Corporation may at any time alter and/ or extend the route herein covered. In the event that the route as changed, altered or extended is longer than the route as described in this contract, the Driver shall be paid as additional compensation for each mile or fraction thereof in excess of the mileage of the originally contracted route, a sum equal to the average rate per mile as provided in this contract.
5. The Driver shall give a surety bond in such sum as fixed by the School Corporation, such bond to be conditioned upon the faithful performance of the full term of the contract. The Driver shall carry public liability and property damage insurance in a company authorized to do business in the State of Indiana in such amount as the School Corporation may deem necessary to afford adequate protection in the operation of the bus involved. Copies of all insurance policies shall be furnished to the School Corporation by the Driver.
6. The provisions of all Indiana statutes, rules and regulations of the State School Bus Committee, as same may be amended, pertaining to safety in the operation of school buses and the transportation of school children, are made a part of this contract by reference and Driver agrees to abide thereto.
7. The Driver hereby agrees that said school bus will be used to transport school children to and from school under the terms of this contract, and only for such additional permitted uses which are in accord with the provisions of IC 20-27-9 et seq., as same may be amended.
8. It is agreed that the provisions of IC 20-27-1 et seq. and IC 9-21-1 et seq., and as same may be amended, are hereby made a part of this contract, and that it is the intention of the parties thereto to enter into a binding contract subject to the School Transportation Code (IC 20-27-1 et seq.), and the Motor Vehicles Traffic Regulation Code, IC 9-21-1 et seq., the provisions of which shall prevail over any part of this contract determined to be in conflict therewith.

9. This contract incorporates by reference all present policies of the School Corporation with respect to the transportation of students and passengers and are hereby made a part of this contract.
10. This contract incorporates by reference applicable United States Department of Transportation regulations as same are amended and are hereby made a part of this contract.
11. The School Corporation shall pay the Driver the sum of three-hundred twenty dollars Dollars (\$ 320.00) per day for the number of days (a) on which the calendar of the school corporation provides that students are to be in attendance at school, (b) the driver is required by the School Corporation to operate the bus on school related activities, and (c) days of inservice training which is either requested by statute or authorized by the School Corporation including, but not limited to, the safety meeting workshops.
12. Failure of Driver to comply with the terms of this contract, including all terms and conditions incorporated by reference, shall be deemed cause for cancellation of contract at the option of School Corporation Governing Body, or its authorized agent. In the event of such breach by Driver, School Corporation's authorized agent shall first recommend cancellation of the contract to School Corporation's Governing Body, which may act upon such recommendation without notification or opportunity for Driver to be heard, but such cancellation shall not be effective until the Governing Body takes action on such recommendation. Notwithstanding the above, School Corporation, acting by its authorized agent, may suspend the Driver immediately, for any conduct or omission that may constitute good and sufficient cause for cancellation of the contract, pending actual cancellation of the contract.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the parties have hereunto signed their names this 6th day of August, 2025.


Driver

School Corporation

By: 




Members of the Governing Body of the School Corporation

NOTE: *Strike out either (A) or (B).

GREATER JASPER CONSOLIDATED SCHOOL CORPORATION

2026 BUDGET PREPARATION TIMELINE (TENTATIVE)

April 28	Seek Board approval of Budget Timeline
June-July	Preparation of first draft of proposed budgets
July 25	First draft of budgets to School Board
July 28	Regular Board Meeting, Request permission to upload budget hearing notice into Gateway
August 12	Publish Form 3 in Gateway. Publish CPF Plan and Bus Replacement plan on the GJCS website.
August 25	Regular Board Meeting. Public Hearing on proposed budgets.
Sept. 22	Board Meeting for Budget Adoption
Nov. 1	Last date to file adopted budgets, proofs of publication, Capital Projects Plan and School Bus Replacement Plan with County Auditor.
Nov/Dec	Department of Local Government Finance Final Hearing and approval of budgets.

- Points of Pride
 - Ireland Elementary Math Bowl Team Places 1st in the Orange Class at the M.A.T.H. Bowl Competition

Wildcat Spotlight—JES Outdoor Learning Space-Amanda Grothouse and Audrey Nordhoff

The Helpful Harvest Garden is an outdoor learning space at Jasper Elementary School. Audrey Nordhoff stated since the garden begun in 2022, it has become a vital resource for students, staff, and the community.

She stated where there is so much screen time, that the garden provides a much-needed balance, something called “green time.” It’s a place where they reconnect with nature, the senses, and each other.

Amanda Grothouse says that teachers use the garden for outdoor learning which helps to keep emotions balanced and minds focused. Students have positively responded to the responsibility of caring for the space, encouraging them to take pride in their work and increasing confidence.

Building & Maintenance Update—The Stenftenagel Group

Mr. Stenftenagel asked for approval of the Jasper Elementary School Pre-K Classroom Addition pending the sale of bonds. The contract will be awarded to Danco Construction for \$1,490,000.

A motion by Sara Schmidt, second by Dr. Englert, to award the above project to Danco Construction pending the sale of bonds, was unanimously approved by the Board.

Mr. Stenftenagel asked for approval of the Jasper Elementary School Pre-K Classroom Addition HVAC building management controls pending sale of bonds. He asked the Board to approve Alpha Mechanical for the installation of the new BMS and updating the existing BMS for the JES Pre-K Classroom addition for \$57,500.

A motion by Steve Lukemeyer, second by Arlet Jackle, to approve Alpha Mechanical for the above project pending sale of bonds, was unanimously approved by the Board.

Mr. Stenftenagel asked for approval to accept the lowest proposal (once received) for improvements to the JHS main entrance stairway. The bids they received on the first bidding were too high and he wants to bid the project again. He said some contractors asked if the deadline for the project could be after August 1. Once he receives proposals he will bring them to the Board.

Dr. Englert asked why we are doing the project now and not waiting for when the other construction is done.

Mr. Stenftenagel stated it needs to be done now so it doesn’t deteriorate anymore.

Dr. Lorey stated the project will be paid out of the Operation Fund.

Curriculum Update—Mrs. Fawks

Mrs. Fawks asked for approval to add the following summer school courses:

- Summer Ag Experience
- Health
- High School Credit Recovery
- Marching Band

A motion by Sara Schmidt, second by Steve Lukemeyer, to approve the above summer school courses, was unanimously approved by the Board.

Mrs. Fawks asked the Board to approve the 2025-2026 JMS and JHS Student Handbooks.

Dr. Englert asked what we were doing about the measles outbreak.

Dr. Lorey stated that notices have been sent to students who have not been fully vaccinated for measles. They were informed that in case of an outbreak, they would be required to isolate away from school for 21 days.

Dr. Englert asked if we have a lot of students not immunized.

Dr. Lorey stated we have students in each building.

Dr. Englert asked if there was any feedback on no backpacks this year.

Dr. Lorey said more students are socializing.

A motion by Dr. Englert, second by Sara Schmidt, to approve the 2025-2026 JMS and JHS Student Handbooks, was unanimously approved by the Board.

Student Support Services and Transportation Update—Mr. Buechlein

JHS Weight Room Upgrade-Derek Hart and Brittany Maners gave an in-depth presentation on the plans for the JHS weight room upgrade with increased student athletic safety at the forefront. They met with head coaches and got their input on the project. The proposed gym equipment would be purchased from PERCH. The equipment will have iPads for individual student workouts. There will be a leader board that will tell who the top students are doing the workouts. They said the top 10 students will be on the Board and not every student will be listed.

Mr. Lukemeyer asked if the student can get the data, so they know how they are performing.

They said there is an app that can be utilized.

Mr. Eckerle asked what the feedback was from the other coaches.

They stated there were a lot of questions but no concerns.

Mr. Lukemeyer asked if this would reduce injuries.

They stated yes.

Mr. Lukemeyer asked if the athletics can access the building in the evening.

They stated no it will be locked. It will only be open during school hours.

Funding for the project will be paid out of an existing construction bond.

A motion by Steve Lukemeyer, second by Arlet Jackle, to approve the purchase of equipment and flooring for the weight room, was unanimously approved by the Board.

Mr. Buechlein commended them on getting their certifications and attending clinics. They are the leadership we need.

Mr. Eckerle stated he appreciated them getting their certifications.

Mr. Buechlein asked the Board to approve the bus transfer of contract drivers for the following:

- Kurt Lechner Route 18 to Heller's Unlimited
- Mark Kieffner Route 3 to Cathy Kieffner

A motion by Dr. Englert, second by Sara Schmidt, to approve the bus transfers, was unanimously approved by the Board.

Mr. Buechlein asked the Board to approve the use of a Activity Bus for Camp Cares for the Summer of 2025.

A motion by Sara Schmidt, second by Steve Lukemeyer, to approve Camp Cares the use of a activity bus for the Summer of 2025, was unanimously approved by the Board.

Mr. Buechlein asked the Board to approve the purchase of a Blue Bird Activity bus for \$131,944.00.

Dr. Lorey stated the bus would be paid for from the Rainy Day Fund.

A motion by Steve Lukemeyer, second by Dr. Englert, to purchase the Blue Bird Activity Bus, was unanimously approved by the Board.

Other Business:

Dr. Lorey asked the Board to approve the 2026 Budget Timeline. She plans to present the budget to the Board in the July meeting, hold the public hearing at the August meeting, and seek approval at the September meeting.

A motion by Dr. Englert, second by Arlet Jackle, to approve the 2026 Budget Timeline, was unanimously approved by the Board. A copy of the timeline is enclosed.

Dr. Lorey asked the Board to approve a lease agreement template for future lease of turf athletic playing surfaces by other agencies. The corporation has received a couple of requests from other school teams to use the turf playing fields for events.

Dr. Lorey stated that by leasing out the fields the athletic department could earn revenue. The proposed agreement stated they would charge \$1,000 per use. The group would have to supply the corporation with liability insurance. They would also have to hire a GJCS employee to be on site for the event and pay them. The fields would be used for their purpose. Football would be rented for football etc.

Mr. Lukemeyer stated \$1,000 seems low. The people would rent the facility, and people would be able to view the game. Would the group have liability for the public attending the event. He stated who would clean the restrooms and restock the bathrooms. The liability issue concerns him. He stated he has some serious concerns about leasing the facilities. He would like to see if other schools have lease agreements. If the Board decides to do this, we need to make sure we are covering all the basis.

Dr. Lorey stated she asked Mr. Kendall for examples of leases, and he didn't find any. Mr. Lukemeyer would like to see more research done and he thinks it's too early to take a vote.

Mrs. Schmidt agreed with Mr. Lukemeyer. She stated she has concerns too.

A motion was made by Dr. Englert, but the Board decided to take it under advisement.

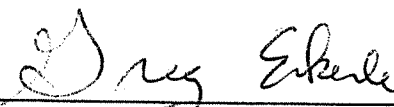
Announcements:

- The regular May Board Meeting will be held on May 12, 2025, in the Jasper High School Community Room at 7:00 p.m.

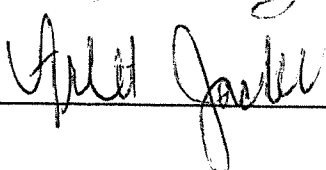
There being no further business to conduct and upon a motion by Arlet Jackle, second by Sara Schmidt, the Board voted to adjourn at 7:53 p.m.

An Executive Session was held before the regular meeting to discuss the following:

I.C.5-14-1.5-6.1 (b) (9) Job Performance Evaluation



President



Vice-President

Jeff Egan Secretary

Steve Larson Member

Sara Schmidt Member