

**JACKSON PUBLIC SCHOOLS
Board of Education Minutes
Organizational/Regular Meeting
February 17, 2026**

The Board of Education of the Jackson Public Schools held its Regular Meeting at 6:00 p.m. on Tuesday, February 17, 2026 at Jackson High School, 544 Wildwood Ave., pursuant to notice duly given.

Present: Marilyn Acton, Derek Dobies, Kesha Hamilton, Subba Redday, Cheryl Simonetti, Tabitha Williams, Alaina Sharp

Approval of Agenda

Motion by D. Dobies, to approve the agenda and to move action item 25-26-62 to discussion. T. Williams support. Motion carried 6-0

Superintendent's Report

Guest Chef Brian Renz - Chef Brian came and cooked King Pao for the board of education, he has visited JPS for 26 years. He appreciates the connection and relationships that he has built with the staff. Pamphlet was handed to the board of education and was designed with teachers to engage students.

MASB Award Recipients - Board members who were recognized by MASB were Alaina Sharp, Marilyn Acton, Chery Simonetti and former board member Shalanda Hunt.

Consent Agenda

The consent agenda consisted of the following items:

- 25-26-51 Minutes
- 25-26-52 Human Resources
- 25-26-53 Monthly Financial Report, January

Motion by D. Dobies, supported by C. Simonetti, to approve the consent agenda as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

Citizens Requesting to Address the Board

Discussion Items

25-26-54 MASB Spring Institute

M. Acton encouraged board members to attend the Spring Institute, which will be held this year in Lansing. She noted that the conference provides a valuable opportunity to network with other board members from across the state. She also emphasized that attendees gain important and timely information from these sessions that helps keep the board informed and up to date.

25-26-55 Bond Change Order Approval

Mr. Leon expanded on the higher-than-normal bond change order approval amount, explaining that it will help prevent work stoppages and give JPS the authority to continue progress on the bond program without delay. He noted that during the last bond, the board approved \$75,000 for change orders, and the administration is recommending the same approval amount for this bond.

25-26-56 Board Policy for Compensation

M. Acton noted that many school boards compensate school board members for attending monthly board meetings. Currently our board policy allows \$30 per meeting.

Motion by C. Simonetti, supported by A. Sharp to let 25-26-56 die. Motion carried 6-1 (No - M. Acton)

25-26-57 Committee of the Whole

M. Acton read the definition of committee of the whole in the context of school boards allows all board members to participate in discussions and decision making as a single group rather than a smaller committee. This approach can enhance collaboration and ensure that all perspectives are considered in the decision-making process. She noted that other school boards have done this and it works for their meetings.

25-26-58 Gun Safety and Safe Gun Storage

D. Dobies noted that public act 257 and 258 passed in 2024, these policies are at the state level that are geared towards educating gun safety and safe storage. The Department of Health and Human Services created a flyer about recent gun law and safe storage. There is a requirement for public school districts to post on their website and distribute those either electronically or via mail. JPS has this posted on our website and our leadership team has engaged in gun safety intervention working with the city of Jackson. This resolution would distribute this form to students, so they can help educate their parents.

25-26-59 Elementary Technology Purchase

Mr. Leon mentioned that JPS is planning to transition elementary students from a 1:1 technology model back to the use of classroom carts. He explained that JPS utilized classroom carts prior to COVID and noted that there is not a significant need for 1:1 technology at the elementary level. He also stated that funding for this purchase would come from the 2026 bond.

25-26-62 Superintendent Evaluation Process

J. Patterson shared that his first evaluation was conducted in December 2025. He stated that a mid-year evaluation will take place in July 2026, followed by his formal evaluation in December 2026. He also reviewed his evaluation goals with the board and discussed the focus areas he will be working toward.

Action Items

25-26-60 E-rate Projects

The district is planning to upgrade its network switches and battery backups. To support this project, the district will utilize the federal **E-Rate** reimbursement program, which will reimburse 85% of the total cost (85 cents on the dollar).

Bids were distributed and reviewed last month. At this time, the bid is being recommended for award to All Covered to complete the work.

Motion by D. Dobies, supported by S.Reddy, to approve E-Rate Projects. Motion carried unanimously

25-26-61 Approval of Annual Retainer Contract

*Motion by C. Simonetti, supported by A.Sharp, to approve the annual retainer contract as presented.
Motion carried 4-3 (No - D. Dobies, K. Hamilton, T. Williams)*

Motion by D. Dobies, supported by T. Williams, to place an RPF for legal services bid for 2027. Motion carried unanimously

Board Comments

The Board members were given an opportunity to provide comments.

Calendar

- February 25, 2026 - District Improvement Meeting, JHS Media Center, 5:00 pm
- March 11, 2026 - Finance/Facilities Meeting, Reynolds Hall, 1:00 pm
- March 17, 2026 - Regular Board Meeting, JHS Media Center, 6:00 pm
- March 20, 2026 - JHS Ambassador Auction, , JHS Fieldhouse, 5:00 pm

Adjournment

Motion by D.Dobies, supported by S.Reddy, to adjourn the meeting at 7:25 pm. Motion carried unanimously.


Alain Sharp, Board Secretary