

**Board Minutes
December 16, 2025**

The Johnson County Board of Education met in regular session on Tuesday, December 16, 2025, in the board office at 6:00 p.m. Kevin Brantley, Donald Smith, Sherrie Smith, Marty Thompson, and Jacob Waller were present. Chairman D. Smith called the meeting to order and welcomed everyone. Mr. Waller 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. Waller, second by Mr. Brantley; unanimous approval.
2. The November 18, 2025 regular meeting minutes were approved on a motion by Mr. Brantley, second by Ms. Smith; unanimous approval.
3. The November 2025 financial report was approved on a motion by Mr. Waller, second by Mr. Brantley; unanimous approval.
4. Superintendent Watkins presented the board meeting schedule for 2026. This schedule was approved on a motion by Mr. Brantley, second by Mr. Waller; unanimous approval. This schedule is attached and becomes a part of these minutes.
5. Superintendent Watkins presented a proposal for a Middle School Baseball/Softball Concession/Restroom Facility. The cost for this project is \$65,000. On a motion by Mr. Brantley, second by Mr. Waller; unanimous approval was given for the project.
6. The following Field Trip Request was unanimously approved on a motion by Ms. Smith, second by Mr. Brantley:
 - JCMHS Band, Universal Orlando STARS Band/Workshop, January 17 – 20, 2026
7. Mr. Charles Howard, JCES Principal, presented the State of the School for Johnson County Elementary School. He reviewed detailed data including demographics, School Improvement Plan (SIP) goals, attendance initiatives, Social Emotional Learning for both students and staff, discipline, parental involvement, academic ranking within Oconee RESA, and next steps for the school. Mr. Howard emphasized that Johnson County is a great school system with much to celebrate. He also shared that, according to *U.S. News & World Report*, JCES is ranked 455 out of 1,244 elementary schools in Georgia. He stated that his continued focus is on growth and moving the school to the next level. He also invited board members to attend the annual First Grade Shoebox Parade on Thursday, December 18, 2025, at 1:15 p.m.
8. Mrs. Tecia McKay, Associate Superintendent, updated the board on the International Night at Johnson County Middle High School that was held earlier this evening. She also shared that JCES will host International Night at their regularly scheduled PTO meeting in January. She concluded by congratulating the recent Oconee RESA District Art Contest winners from Johnson County.
9. Mr. Charlie Lindsey, Associate Superintendent, updated the board on the Football Stadium project. He reported that the final paperwork has been approved by the insurance company for the remaining payment. He also noted that both the Football Stadium and the High School gym projects are complete, with final closeout steps to be completed soon.

10. Superintendent Watkins presented notes from Dr. Hanna Kiser, Director of Special Education, CTAE, & Assessments. The Gifted Cohort has completed one of three parts of the program and all 12 are on track to successfully completing this endorsement. The Special Education department recently completed a portion of cross functional monitoring and was found in compliance.
11. Superintendent Watkins thanked Mr. Howard for his report and expressed appreciation for the hard work and dedication of his staff. He also commended staff across the district for their efforts in making Johnson County a strong school system. He updated the Board on several items, including GSBA handouts addressing absenteeism and GSBA's partnership to support staff currently enrolled in the Public School Employees Retirement System in becoming eligible to join the Teachers Retirement System. He also shared that the Georgia Department of Education is introducing safeguards to help prevent financial challenges being experienced by several school systems across the state. Additionally, he noted that Cartwheel will be utilized throughout the district to support students' mental health needs, and he discussed the implementation of the new distraction-free law, explaining that the district has purchased magnetic pouches for students to secure their cell phones during the school day. He then announced that the Johnson County Board of Education received the Quality Board recognition at the recent Georgia School Boards Association Conference and congratulated board members for their service and leadership. He concluded by inviting board members to breakfast on Friday, December 19, 2025, to honor the district's bus drivers, custodians, and maintenance staff.
12. Mr. Kevin Brantley expressed his sincere appreciation to Mr. Lindsey and Dr. Watkins for their dedication extra efforts on recent projects. He noted that, following Hurricane Helene, there had been extra issues to handle. He said, "We have a great new Football Stadium and a school system that is great".
13. On a motion by Ms. Smith, and second by Mr. Thompson, the board gave unanimous approval 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. Waller, second by Mr. Brantley.
14. Chairman Smith opened the floor for nominations for Board Chair. Mr. Brantley nominated Donald Smith, and Mr. Waller seconded the nomination. Mr. Brantley then nominated Jacob Waller for Vice Chair, and Mr. Smith seconded the nomination. Both motions passed with unanimous approval.
15. The meeting was then adjourned at 7:25 p.m.

**JOHNSON COUNTY BOARD
OF EDUCATION**

By: _____
Chairman

Attest: _____
Superintendent