

**Board Minutes
February 17, 2026**

The Johnson County Board of Education met in regular session on Tuesday, February 17, 2026, 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 Ms. Smith 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 Ms. Smith; unanimous approval.
2. The January 20, 2026 regular meeting minutes were approved on a motion by Mr. Waller, second by Ms. Smith; unanimous approval.
3. The January 2026 financial report was approved on a motion by Ms. Smith, second by Mr. Waller; unanimous approval.
4. Superintendent Watkins presented the following policies for second reading and approval:
 - DJCB: Salary Deductions (New Policy)
 - GAL: Salary Deductions (New Policy)
 - GAEB: Sexual Harassment (Revision need)
 - GARH: Employee Leaves and Absences (New Policy)
 - IDFA: Gender Equity in Sports (Revision needed)
 - JB: Student Attendance (New Policy)
 - JBCD: Transfer and Withdrawals (Revision needed)
 - JCDAF: Use of Electronic Devices by Students (New Policy)- based on HB340
 - JGJA: Suicide Prevention (Revision needed)These policies were approved on a motion by Ms. Smith, second by Mr. Waller; unanimous approval.
5. Superintendent Watkins and board members discussed HB 581 Homestead Exemption and whether to remain in the opt-out status. The board agreed by consensus to table decision until after the 2026 legislative session.
6. Superintendent Watkins presented FY27 budget workshop and hearing dates. The following dates were approved on a motion by Mr. Waller, second by Ms. Smith; unanimous approval:
 - Tuesday, April 28, 2026, 6:00P.M. Workshop
 - Tuesday, May 19, 2026, 5:30 P.M. Budget/Public Hearing
 - Tuesday, May 19, 2026, 6:00 P.M. Regular Board Meeting
 - Tuesday, June 2, 2026, 6:00 P.M. Budget/Public Hearing – adopt TENTATIVE budget
 - Tuesday, June 16, 2026 6:00 P.M. Regular Board Meeting – adopt FINAL budget
7. The following Fund Raising Request were unanimously approved on a motion by Mr. Waller, second by Ms. Smith:
 - 4-H, Krispy Kreme Doughnuts, February 18-25, 2026
 - JCHS Band, Calendar Fundraiser, March 1-31, 2026
 - JCHS Band, Country Meat Sticks and World's Finest Chocolates, March 2026
 - JCHS PBIS/Whole Child, Popcorn, Snow cones, Drinks, March 6, 2026

8. Superintendent Watkins presented a facilities request for Beyond Pink Ribbons Breast Cancer Walk/Run on May 30, 2026. On a motion by Mr. Waller, second by Ms. Smith, unanimous approval was given to approve this request and waive the facility use fee.
9. Mr. Charles Howard, JCES Principal, updated the board on the Elementary School. He presented discipline data and reported that JCES recently had a very successful Career Day and Social Studies/International Night.
10. Mr. Reid Bethea, JCMHS Principal, updated the board on the Middle and High schools. He presented discipline data for each school. He also reported that the band participated in a collaborative classroom with 1st grade students, helping them with sound recognition. He congratulated Kyndal Kyzer for being recognized as the DAR winner and Chassidy Hood as the Fair Bear winner for 6th grade. Middle and High School students also participated in the Science Fair at Oconee RESA on February 5th. He noted that athletic programs are currently active, including Varsity Basketball, Varsity and Middle School Baseball, Varsity Soccer, Middle School Track, and Varsity and Middle School Tennis.
11. Mrs. Amber Attaway, Director of Student Services, updated the board with Whole Child data. Her presentation included various detailed data slides on: subgroups, attendance for students and staff, discipline, social emotional wellbeing, and content mastery.
12. Mrs. Tecia McKay, Associate Superintendent of Federal Programs, updated the board on her programs. In the area of curriculum, she encouraged everyone present to look at the data for at-risk students, applauded all schools for their participation in academic competitions, and presented artifacts from literacy in science classes and Social Studies Night, which included an ESOL family component. In the area of School Improvement, she reported that all schools completed monitoring that aligned with the 45 day reviews and she noted evidence of a strong instructional culture observed during recent walkthroughs and peer observations. In the area of Professional Learning, she complimented instructional coaches for their willingness to actually demonstrate teaching strategies. Finally, in the area of Federal Programs, she mentioned she was in the planning stages for completing the FY27 budget.
13. Superintendent Watkins announced that the district as a whole was in good shape based on the monthly financial report. He also noted that the recent Whole Board training with Attorney Cory Kirby was a success.
14. On a motion by Mr. Thompson, and second by Mr. Waller, 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. Thompson, second by Mr. Waller.
15. Superintendent Watkins presented Mary Beth Thompson for employment for the 2026-2027 school year (49%). The vote was 4 YES with Mr. Thompson abstaining.
16. Superintendent Watkins presented Connie Brantley for employment for the 2026-2027 school year (49%). The vote was 4 YES with Mr. Brantley abstaining.
17. Superintendent Watkins presented personnel recommendations. The following recommendations were approved on a motion by Mr. Waller, second by Mr. Brantley; unanimous approval.

- **To Hire:**

- Becky Frost, JCES Reading Interventionist 49%
- Annie Jackson, JCMHS Paraprofessional 49%
- Alice Nesbitt, JCMHS Teacher/Instructional Role 49%
- Don Norton, JCMHS Teacher/Head Football Coach/Athletic Director 49%
- Traci Copeland, JCES Teacher – retirement rescinded from last month per request
- Karrie Cutler, JCES Teacher – retirement rescinded from last month per request
- Judy Card, JCHS ELA Teacher
- April Barnes, JCMS Social Studies Teacher

18. Former Board Member, Mr. Alvin Moorman, addressed the board to ask about the salary bonus recently announced by Governor Kemp. He noted that although the bonus did not include all categories of staff members, the board should look at giving it to all staff. Superintendent Watkins stated that after the legislative session is complete the board will determine next steps.

19. The meeting was then adjourned at 7:05 p.m.

**JOHNSON COUNTY BOARD
OF EDUCATION**

By: _____
Chairman

Attest: _____
Superintendent