

Board Minutes
January 20, 2026

The Johnson County Board of Education met in regular session on Tuesday, January 20, 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. Thompson 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 Mr. Brantley; unanimous approval.
2. The December 16, 2025 regular meeting minutes were approved on a motion by Mr. Waller, second by Ms. Smith; unanimous approval.
3. The December 2025 financial report was approved on a motion by Mr. Thompson, second by Ms. Smith; unanimous approval.
4. Superintendent Watkins presented the following policies for first reading:
 - 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)The board agreed by consensus to review these policies to be voted on at the February 17, 2026 board meeting.
5. Superintendent Watkins presented a copy of the proposed school calendar, with staff input data, for the 2026-2027 school year. This calendar was approved on a motion by Mr. Thompson, second by Ms. Smith; unanimous approval. This calendar is attached and becomes a part of these minutes.
6. Superintendent Watkins presented a resolution for the Georgia Department of Revenue, granting temporary tax relief for eligible standing timber located in a disaster area in Johnson County. The resolution will accompany the application for Hurricane Disaster Area Timber Grant in conjunction with House Bill 223. This resolution was approved on a motion by Mr. Brantley, second by Ms. Smith; unanimous approval. A copy of this resolution is attached and becomes a part of these minutes.
7. The following Field Trip Request and Fund Raising Request were unanimously approved on a motion by Mr. Waller, second by Ms. Smith:
 - JCMHS FFA, Atlanta, State Capital, February 23 – 24, 2026
 - JCHS BETA, Spaghetti Supper/Silent Action, February 17, 2026
8. Mr. Charles Howard, JCES Principal, updated the board on the Elementary School. He presented discipline data and noted that teachers and staff revisited the PBIS expectations

with students after returning from the holidays. He invited the board to attend Social Studies night on Thursday, January 29, 2026 at 6:00 pm.

9. Mr. Reid Bethea, JCMHS Principal, updated the board on the Middle and High schools. He presented discipline data for each school and reported that the middle school recently participated in a PBIS reward trip to the Aquarium in Atlanta, with 110 students qualifying to attend. He also congratulated Ty'Rihanna Brown on signing to play softball with Georgia Military College (GMC). He noted that athletic programs are currently active, including Varsity Basketball, Varsity Baseball, Varsity Soccer, and Middle School Baseball. Additionally, he recognized Ms. Stetzer and the band for their participation in the recent Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. parade held in Dublin last weekend.
10. Superintendent Watkins briefed the board about the band boosters plan to purchase a trailer for transporting band equipment. This purchase will be made with booster funds, separate from any school funds. He expressed his appreciation to Mr. Lindsey and his team again for the work on the completion of the football stadium and the gym renovation. He further discussed that there were remaining funds after the insurance payments and loan proceeds. By consensus, the Board agreed that these remaining funds would be applied toward the loan obtained for these projects.
11. Mr. Donald Smith reported that during a recent Development Authority meeting, discussion took place regarding Johnson County's plans to create a new website encompassing all county entities, including the school system. He requested that Dr. Watkins and Mr. Lindsey coordinate with the county administrator to explore ways to ensure the schools are included, and he suggested the possibility of involving students in the process.
12. On a motion by Mr. Brantley, and second by Ms. Smith, 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.
13. Superintendent Watkins presented Landry Thompson for employment for the 2026-2027 school year. The vote was 4 YES with Mr. Thompson abstaining.
14. Superintendent Watkins presented personnel recommendations. The following recommendations were approved on a motion by Mr. Waller, second by Mr. Brantley; unanimous approval.
 - **To Hire:**
 - Steve McDiffitt, Teacher, remainder of 2025-2026 school year 49%
 - Amber Attaway, Associate Superintendent of Teaching & Learning and Federal Programs 2026-2027 school year
 - Attached list of Administrators/Teachers for 2026-2027 school year
 - **To Resign**
 - Wilma Bassett, Retirement effective at end of current contract
 - Traci Copeland, Retirement effective at end of current contract
 - Karrie Cutler, Retirement effective at end of current contract
 - Julie Frix, Resignation effective at end of current contract
 - Cathy Powell, Retirement effective at end of current contract
 - Amy Rowland, Retirement effective at end of current contract
 - Angela Tanner, Retirement effective at end of current contract
 - Sue Webb, Retirement effective at end of current contract

15. The meeting was then adjourned at 7:15 p.m.

**JOHNSON COUNTY BOARD
OF EDUCATION**

By: _____
Chairman

Attest: _____
Superintendent