

Board Minutes March 17, 2026

The Johnson County Board of Education met in regular session on Tuesday, March 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. Thompson gave the invocation and Mr. Waller 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 February 12, 2026 called meeting and the February 17, 2026 regular meeting minutes were approved on a motion by Mr. Brantley, second by Mr. Thompson; unanimous approval.
3. The February 2026 financial report was approved on a motion by Mr. Thompson, second by Ms. Smith; unanimous approval.
4. Superintendent Watkins presented Policy JR: Student Records (revision needed). The board agreed by consensus to review this policy to be voted on at the April 21, 2026 board meeting.
5. Superintendent Watkins presented a Resolution to Request GaDOE Assistance in Developing A New Five-Year Local Facilities Plan. After discussion, this Resolution was approved on a motion by Mr. Thompson, second by Mr. Waller.
6. Superintendent Watkins presented a Resolution Opposing Tax Abatements or Property Tax Incentives since it did not result in measurable job creations. After discussion, this Resolution was approved on a motion by Mr. Waller, second by Mr. Thompson.
7. The following Fund Raising Request was unanimously approved on a motion by Mr. Waller, second by Mr. Brantley:
 - JCHS BETA, Daddy/Daughter Dance, April 24, 2026
8. Mr. Charles Howard, JCES Principal, updated the board on the Elementary School and presented recent discipline data. He expressed his appreciation to the teachers and staff for their professionalism during the recent severe weather. He also commended the 4th grade staff for ensuring that NAEP testing ran smoothly. He recognized the Math team for earning second place in their competition. Team members included Bailee Brantley, Brali Bravo, Piper Tanner, Alex Sanchez, and Dena Smith. He also recognized Georgia Young Author winners: Savannah Garnto, Levi Williams, and Bailee Brantley. He reminded every one of several upcoming events: March 26 – half day for students and parent conferences, March 27 – Professional Learning Day; and April 3 – Field Day.

9. Superintendent Watkins presented the Middle and High School reports on behalf of Mr. Reid Bethea, JCMHS Principal. He presented discipline data for each school. He also updated the board on upcoming events including Prom and various spring sports.
10. Mr. Charlie Lindsey, Associate Superintendent, echoed Mr. Howard's praise for the Elementary staff during recent severe weather. He also updated the board on developments related to the restroom and concession facility at the sports complex. Georgia Power will not be able to provide the in-kind electrical service hookup as previously anticipated. The cost for this will be approximately \$6,500. He also briefed the board about an upcoming panic drill planned for March 27, 2026 involving various law enforcement and emergency medical staff.
11. Superintendent Watkins recommended that the \$6,500 cost to Georgia Power be approved. On a motion by Mr. Brantley, second by Ms. Smith; unanimous approval was given to proceed with the payment to Georgia Power.
12. Dr. Hanna Kiser, Director of Special Education, CTAE, and Assessments, provided the board with an update on her programs. She reported that FTE has been completed for Special Education. CTAE Farm Day, "Growing Greatness" is scheduled for March 25, 2026. She also noted that NAEP testing for fourth grade was completed successfully. She informed the board that new ELA standards will be implemented for testing. Additionally, new gifted program models must be in place beginning July 1, 2026. The cohort of teachers working to obtain their gifted endorsements is on track to complete the requirements by June 2026.
13. Superintendent Watkins commended the Associate Superintendents and Directors for doing great work in their respective areas in our district. He presented the board members with a small gift of appreciation in recognition of Board Member Appreciation Week and thanked them for their dedication to the students, staff, and community. He also reminded them about the upcoming budget meetings and hearings.
14. On a motion by Mr. Waller, 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.
15. Superintendent Watkins presented personnel recommendations. The following recommendations were approved on a motion by Mr. Brantley, second by Ms. Smith; unanimous approval.
 - **To Hire:**
 - Dr. LaTonia Butts, Director of Student Services
 - Margaret Boatright, School Nurse
 - Lemia McClendon Carswell, School Nurse
 - Amanda Johnson, JCES Teacher
 - Donna Avera-Luker, Substitute Teacher
 - Shushona Mason, Substitute Teacher
 - Josey Scott, Substitute Teacher

16. The meeting was then adjourned at 7:10 p.m.

**JOHNSON COUNTY BOARD
OF EDUCATION**

By: _____
Chairman

Attest: _____
Superintendent