

Board Minutes
August 24, 2026

The regular meeting of the Greater Jasper Consolidated Schools Board of Trustees was held at the Jasper High School Community Room on August 24, 2026, at 7:00 p.m. President Greg Eckerle called the meeting to order.

Board Members and School Corporation personnel in attendance:

Greg Eckerle-Present
Arlet Jackle-Vice President-Present
Dr. Judy Englert-Secretary-Present
Steve Lukemeyer-Member- Present
Sara Schmidt-Member-Present
Tim DeMotte-School Attorney-Present
Dr. Tracy Lorey-Superintendent-Present
Ryan Erny-Assistant Superintendent Support Services and Transportation-Present
Tina Fawks-Assistant Superintendent Curriculum, Instruction, and Assessment-Present
Christine Kendall-Corporation Treasurer-Present

Live Stream Link

<https://youtu.be/iJ8twgAnxWI>

The Pledge of Allegiance was said by everyone in attendance.

Public Comment:

None

Consent Agenda:

Mr. Eckerle asked members if any of the consent agenda items needed to be discussed.

There were no questions

A motion by Steve Lukemeyer, second by Sara Schmidt, to approve the consent agenda, was unanimously approved by the Board.

Consent Agenda

- Minutes, claims and bank reconciliations
- Consideration of Request for Leave
 - None

Resignations/Retirements

- Megan Wehr - Business Office Administrative Assistant - GJCS
- Chineca Brown - 30-hour Instructional Assistant and Lunch Supervision ECA - JES
- Mya Tisdale - 28-hour Instructional Assistant - IRE
- Ashley Speedy - Custodian - JES
- Nancy Berger - Cafeteria - IRE
- Jane Seidl - Cafeteria - IRE

- Adam Kroll - Instructional Assistant - JMS
- Haley Sermersheim - Instructional Assistant - JHS
- Carson Bauer - Seasonal Mowing - JMS
- Kevin Mullin - Seasonal Mowing - JMS
- Kelly Couch - Custodian - JHS
- Nathan Schitter - Girls' Assistant Wrestling Coach - JHS

Staff Recommendations

- Lisa Franks - Business Office Administrative Assistant - GJCS
- Haley Clark - ½ Math Bowl Coach ECA Stipend - JES
- Ashley Katter - 30-hour Instructional Assistant AND Lunch Supervision ECA Stipend - JES
- Ashley McClellan - Custodian - JES
- Dalton Thurson - 28-hour Instructional Assistant - IRE
- Stacy Huelsman - 28-hour Instructional Assistant - IRE
- Donna Arensman - ⅓ Cafeteria Supervisor ECA - JMS
- Kari Roth - ⅓ Cafeteria Supervisor ECA - JMS
- Brian Rawlins - Middle Boys Soccer Coach - JMS
- Kevin Mullin - Seasonal Mowing - JMS
- Yanira Morales de Serrano - Custodian - JHS
- Ayden Wigand - Girls' Assistant Wrestling Coach - JHS
- Amy Woebkenberg - Girls' JV Wrestling Coach - JHS
- Brian Uebelhor - Work-based Learning Manager - Hub19

Field Trip Requests

- JHS Performing Arts to Cincinnati to perform the National Anthem on September 17, 2026.
- JES Kindergarten to Reid's Orchard in Owensboro, KY Friday, October 9, 2026.

Other

- Summer school transportation compensation to Cathy Kieffner
- Approve \$20/hour wage amount for language translators

Wildcat Spotlight

- Recognition of students with perfect IREAD scores
Dr. Lorey discussed the IREAD test scores taken by all second and third grade students. There were 5 students that received perfect scores and they were recognized with a certificate and picture with the board.
- Dr. Lorey introduced new staff members to the board. These are all new staff that will be working throughout Greater Jasper Schools at Jasper Elementary, Ireland Elementary, and Jasper High School.
- Jasper High School Athletic Director Phil Kendall shared some of the highlights/success of the previous year.
 - Mr. Kendall gave his athletic report for the 2025-2026 school year. He reported the income and expenses for the year and stated where they are financially.

- Mr. Kendall informed the Board of the outstanding accomplishments, IHSAA Mental Attitude Winners, All Conference Athletics, and the SIAC Conference Championships.
- Mr. Kendall stated all sports pass revenue is up and that sponsorship advertising jumped again this year.
- Jasper High School currently charges \$6 per ticket, putting it in the bottom 10% of ticket prices statewide. The SIAC conference is pushing to raise ticket prices to \$7, which could generate an additional \$30,000 annually for Jasper.
- Mr. Kendall stated moving past pandemic-era cash-conserving tactics, he emphasized plans to actively reinvest more reserve funds into performance-enhancing equipment and program upgrades to operate closer to a zero-balance non-profit model.
- Mr. Lukemeyer asked if there was anything in the works for the soccer fields. He thinks the fields look great and is very happy with the work that was completed. Made a comment about future plans and if we would be thinking about running field north to south like most other schools.
- Arlet Jackle asked if student passes are mandatory for students to purchase. The activity fee is for any kind of activity through the school. This includes plays, dances, and sporting events. This is revenue built into the school budget.
- Dr. Englert asked if there is an update on the weightroom. Is there any information on less or more injuries due to the new equipment and how the program is growing.

FY27 Budget

- The school board received the initial compliance forms for the 2027 fiscal year budget and granted authorization to publish the required Form 3, the Capital Projects Fund (CPF) plan, and the Bus Replacement plan. The advertised tax rate for 2027 is set at 1.9501. This rate is intentionally inflated above expected final levels to ensure the district captures its maximum allowable tax levy in the Operations Fund under Indiana law.

A motion by Arlet Jackle, second by Dr. Englert to approve the FY27 Budget and posting on Gateway, was unanimously approved by the Board.

Curriculum Update—Tina Fawks

- IREAD Results
 - Record Performance: Reached a district-high 94.2% proficiency rate (vs. 88.7% statewide), with 84.7% of second graders passing early.
 - Support System: Gains are driven by science of reading instruction. Non-passing students receive targeted interventions and retest annually through 7th grade under "Good Cause Exemptions."
- JHS Curriculum Warehouse & Programs
 - Public Portal: Launched an online Curriculum Warehouse to increase public transparency and maintain course consistency across teachers.

- **Standout Courses:** Features a rare regional German program, extensive AP and CTE courses, and a specialized Education Pathway offering hands-on teaching internships for seniors.

Student Support Services and Transportation Update—Ryan Erny

- **ParentSquare:** Marcy S, Matt P, and Kelly L were recognized for setting up the platform. Around 84% of parents are currently signed up.
- **Reaching All Families:** Parents with valid emails in PowerSchool still receive posts, while those with emails and phone numbers receive urgent alerts.
- **Accessibility:** Effort is being made to onboard Hispanic families in collaboration with Mrs. Cobo, leveraging ParentSquare's automatic translation into native languages.

Transportation & Bus Updates

- **Construction Navigation:** Bus drivers were commended for managing citywide construction delays smoothly with guidance from Matt Kiefer.
- **Special Education Staff:** Special education bus drivers were nominated for a State Transportation Association of Indiana (STAI) award due to their collaborative problem-solving.
- **State Bus Inspections:** Master Trooper Brent Hoover has taken over bus inspections. The initial inspection round was completed prior to the school year, with additional inspections scheduled for September and full fleet inspections set for January.

School Safety & Site Vulnerability Assessments

- **Building Assessments:** Vulnerability walk-throughs were completed across Jasper High School, Jasper Middle School, Jasper Elementary, and Ireland Elementary. Assessments were conducted alongside SROs (Officer Knies and Officer Lampert), administrators, and maintenance staff.
- **Actionable Items:** minor issues were identified for remediation, including replacing faded door numbers, securing doors, improving visitor parking, and clarifying signage.
- **Reunification Planning:** Unified reunification protocols across district buildings are under active review.

Student Support Services & Mental Health Initiatives

- **Policy Review:** Partnered with Dr. Anne Kelly to break down and refine the district's suicide prevention policy language.
- **Online Resources:** Standardized crisis resources for both local and national support were integrated directly into the district website under Student Support Services.
- **Staff QPR Training:** District social workers are conducting Question, Persuade, Refer (QPR) suicide prevention training for all staff members during 45-minute team blocks. The Dubois County Mental Health Commission commended the district for going above and beyond state expectations.

Other Business:

- Dr. Lorey presented a set of proposed policy updates from NEOLA for the board to review. She noted that NEOLA transitioned from *BoardDocs* to a new platform, which includes color-coded text to easily distinguish between additions and changes. The board was asked to review these policies in preparation for a formal vote at the following month's meeting

Announcements

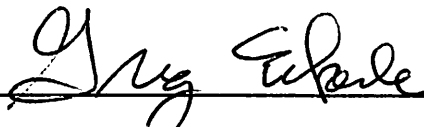
- September Board Meeting & Budget Public Hearing: Scheduled for Monday, September 28, 2026, at 7:00 PM in the Community Room.
- IAPSS / ISBA Fall Conference: Scheduled for October 5–6, 2026 (travel plans to be finalized closer to the date).
- Region 9 ISBA Meeting: Scheduled for November 17, 2026 (Dr. Lorey handles registration for board members).

Adjourn

There being no further business to conduct and upon a motion by Dr. Englert, second by Arlet Jackle the Board voted to adjourn at 7:59 p.m.

An Executive Session was held before the regular meeting to discuss the following:

I.C. 5-14-1.5-6.1 (b)(9) Job Performance Evaluation

 _____ President

_____ Vice-President

 _____ Secretary

 _____ Member

_____ Member

September 3, 2026

MEMO: EXECUTIVE SESSION
TO: ALL BOARD MEMBERS
FROM: TRACY LOREY

The Greater Jasper Consolidated Schools Board of Trustees will meet in **Executive Session** in the **GJCS Conference Room** on **Thursday, September 3, 2026 at 5:30 P.M.** for the following:

I.C. 5-14-1.5-6.1 (b)(2)(A) Collective Bargaining