Jasper County Charter System

Tracy R. Blackburn, Superintendent

Board Bullets

Highlights of the Jasper County Charter System Board of Education Meeting held on Tuesday, October 27, 2026, at 6:00 p.m.

Opening and Recognitions

- Vice Chair Coward presided over the meeting. The agenda was amended to include a $10,600 donation from Central Georgia EMC for the Board's consideration.
- Keeley Doublestein, a Jasper County Middle School Fellowship of Christian Athletes member, led the invocation and Pledge of Allegiance, accompanied by ScottiAnn Benton. Darla Alexander and Carter Pickens from Washington Park Elementary School shared the district mission and vision, and how it is put to practice through Leader in Me at WPES.
- The Board recognized 21 Jasper County High School students honored through the 2026 College Board National Recognition Program. Eight of these students earned all three distinctions: School Recognition, Rural and Small-Town Recognition, and First-Generation Recognition.
- In celebration of Principal Appreciation Month, the Board recognized and thanked district principals for their leadership, dedication to students and staff, and commitment to their school communities.

Superintendent Remarks (*video summary*)

- Graduation Success: JCHS achieved a 94.15% graduation rate, its highest since 2018 and more than five percentage points above the state average.
- School Spirit and Traditions: JCHS celebrated Homecoming, recognizing Taylor Wilson, Shanae McClain, and Bryce West. The community also celebrated 100 Years of Monticello Football, honoring generations of Hurricane tradition (video with highlights).
- JCHS Athletics: Boys' and girls' cross country captured their third consecutive region championships. Softball won the region championship, with Ryleigh Moore and Kelsey Vining earning top region honors, while volleyball advanced to the state playoffs.
- JCMS Athletics: Softball and volleyball advanced to the playoffs, finishing third and fourth in the region, respectively. Both cross country teams also enjoyed successful seasons.
- Academic and Staff Recognitions: JCPS presented at the GaDOE STEM Conference, where Elizabeth Proctor received the Innovative Golden Key Award. Brittney Bryant was named a Regional Literacy Teacher of the Year and received a $1,500 award.
- Community Highlights: Georgia Pre-K Week featured special guest readers, including State Representative Dale Washburn and Board member Michele Celani. Central Georgia EMC contributed $10,600 to support education.

Informational Items

- Safety Update: Director of Student Services Mr. Strength provided a safety update as the district continues reviewing procedures and collaborating with school leaders to maintain safe, supportive learning environments.
- Jasper County High School CSIP Overview: Principal Kamwanya Belle and his leadership team presented student performance, attendance and behavior data, academic improvement priorities, and implementation strategies.

  - 2026–2027 improvement goals include 6% growth in Mathematics EOC achievement, 5% growth in Biology EOC achievement, 100% participation of instructional staff in Professional Learning Communities, and a 1% increase in schoolwide attendance. Additional priorities address Algebra EOC growth for students with disabilities and literacy achievement.
  - Strategies include early warning systems, targeted tutoring and reteaching, credit recovery, attendance intervention, data-driven PLCs, instructional walkthroughs, and ongoing student progress monitoring.
- Jasper County Middle School CSIP Overview: Principal Dionka Jackson and her team shared achievement, attendance and discipline trends, school improvement goals, student leadership, and family engagement activities.
  - 2026–2027 goals target 3% growth in English Language Arts and 3% growth in Mathematics on state End-of-Grade assessments, along with completion of year three of the Leader in Me program.
  - Key strategies include seventh-grade ELA and eighth-grade mathematics instructional focus classes, MTSS interventions, weekly PLCs, data cycles, student leadership action teams, quarterly SMART goals, and student-led conferences. Family and community engagement and the School Governance Team were also highlighted.
- Policy GARH – Employee Leaves and Absences (First Reading): The proposed revision increases the annual number of accumulated sick-leave days eligible for personal or professional use from three to five, consistent with updated Georgia legislation. The policy is scheduled to return for approval in November.
- Policy GARHB – Paid Parental Leave (First Reading): The proposed revision adds up to three weeks (120 hours) of paid maternal birth leave for eligible employees immediately following childbirth, to run concurrently with applicable federal leave.

Financial Reports

- The Board received the annual SPLOST project expenditure schedule for the year ended June 30, 2026. The report included approximately $17.1 million in updated estimated 2020 SPLOST costs and a $12 million estimate for 2025 SPLOST projects, with June 2030 listed as the anticipated completion date for the latter facility projects.
- August 2026 General Fund financials reflected approximately $1.07 million in year-to-date revenue, $3.03 million in expenditures, and a $6.05 million ending cash balance.
- September 2026 General Fund financials reflected approximately $3.52 million in year-to-date revenue, $6.13 million in expenditures, and a $5.41 million ending cash balance. Revenue timing, particularly property taxes, was noted as an important factor early in the fiscal year.

Business Items Approved

- **JCHS Mandatory Addendum**: The Board approved a correction to the stated cost limitation in the LS3P project documentation was presented to support submission of accurate reimbursement documentation to the Georgia Department of Education. This was a document correction, not a new project.

- **CRE HVAC Training Equipment:** The Board approved purchasing $53,930.16 in HVAC training equipment from Southern Education Systems for the JCHS Construction pathway, funded through the Construction Related Equipment grant.

Superintendent's Consent Agenda

- The Board approved the consent agenda included which the September 15, 2026 business meeting minutes; Board Policy EE, Food Services Management; JCMS and JCHS fundraisers; facility use agreements involving the Jasper County Recreation Department, Board of Commissioners, and Jasper County 4-H; and field trips for JCHS FFA to Indianapolis and TSA to Jekyll Island.
- Donation items approved included a 2026 enclosed cargo trailer and 2010 EZ-GO golf cart offered by the Jasper County FFA Alumni Association for agricultural education and FFA programs, with future upkeep and insurance responsibilities assigned to the Board upon acceptance; and a $10,600 donation from Central Georgia EMC.

Personnel

The Board approved the personnel recommendations presented by the Superintendent following Executive Session.

New Hire

a. Dylan Carey, Teacher, ALO (effective 10/28/2026)

b. Olivia Cumbess, Technology Specialist, BOE (effective 11/2/2026)

c. Breneika Smith, SFS Assistant, WPES (effective 11/1/2026)

d. Minerva Horsham, Bus Driver, Transportation (effective 10/28/2026)

Retirement

a. Jean Williams, Bus Driver, Transportation (effective 10/1/2026)

b. Carroll Moss, Teacher, WPES (effective 11/1/2026)

c. John DeGarmo, Media Specialist, JCHS (effective 1/1/2027)

Transfer

a. Brady McMichael, Teacher, From ALO to JCVA (effective 10/28/2026)

Other Business and Adjournment

- The next scheduled Board Business Meetings are:
  - November 17, 2026
  - December 15, 2026