Jasper County Charter System

Tracy R. Blackburn, Superintendent

Board Bullets

Highlights of the Jasper County Charter System Board of Education Meeting held on Tuesday,September 15, 2026, at 6:00 p.m.

Opening and Recognitions

- Ms. Dennis opened the meeting and Bryce West, a senior at Jasper County High School, shared the invocation.
- Bristol Bennet and Mary Claire Smith, students from Jasper County Middle School, shared the Jasper County Charter System Mission and Vision and explained how they see the mission and vision reflected in their school experiences. They highlighted leadership opportunities, goal setting, hands-on learning, collaboration, technology, and preparation for life beyond school.
- During the Superintendent's Remarks, Mrs. Blackburn shared highlights from across the district including bus safety and family projects at Pre-K, student leadership activities at JCPS, hands-on science at WPES, and a spectroscopy lab at JCHS.
- Advanced Placement Recognitions: The Board recognized Jasper County High School for earning six 2025-2026 AP School Honors and celebrated nine current JCHS students who earned a score of 5, the highest possible score, on one or more AP exams.

Informational Items

- **Teaching and Learning Update: Georgia Milestones Data Review:** The Board received an overview of 2026 Georgia Milestones performance in Math, Science, and Social Studies. Several areas of strong performance were highlighted, along with specific areas where additional focus and support will be provided.
    - In Math, 4th grade met the state average and exceeded the RESA average, while 5th, 7th, and 8th grades posted strong results. Fifth grade and 8th grade exceeded the state and RESA averages by approximately 7 percentage points.
    - Priority areas in Math include 6th grade, Algebra, and Students with Disabilities. Professional learning, instructional support, and subgroup performance will continue to be areas of focus.
    - In Science, 5th grade and Biology exceeded state and RESA averages. Eighth-grade Science was identified as an area for continued improvement.
    - In Social Studies, 8th grade exceeded state and RESA averages, while U.S. History reached 6 percentage points above the state average and 21 points above the RESA average.
    - The district's goal remains to meet or exceed state and RESA performance while providing targeted professional learning, coaching, data analysis, and instructional support.
- **Hurricane Strong: Bullying Prevention and Student Safety:** The Board received an overview of the district's bullying prevention, investigation, and reporting procedures. The presentation reviewed the legal definition of bullying and cyberbullying, the steps administrators follow when investigating an allegation, and the importance of distinguishing bullying from other student conflicts. The district is also updating its forms, investigation checklist, documentation

procedures, and reporting tools to improve consistency and communication with students and families.

- **Car Rider Traffic Update:** The Board received an update on changes made to the car rider dismissal process at Jasper County Primary School and Washington Park Elementary School. The district has continued to review parent feedback, observe traffic patterns, work with school leaders and SROs, and monitor dismissal times.
    - The revised dismissal process was implemented on August 31, along with increased enforcement of assigned arrival times.
    - The Jasper County Sheriff's Office began enforcing restrictions on vehicles waiting along Highway 212 before their assigned arrival time.
    - Early results show that dismissal is moving more efficiently once vehicles are on campus. WPES dismissal time improved from approximately 33 minutes to 25 minutes, while JCPS has generally completed dismissal within approximately 20 to 25 minutes.
    - The district will continue enforcing arrival zones, monitoring traffic and dismissal times, and evaluating long-term improvements to campus traffic flow.
    - The Board was also presented with a proposed roadway improvement designed to better separate bus and car rider traffic and provide additional vehicle stacking capacity on campus.
- **Draft Board Policy EE, Food Services Management:** The Board received the first reading of a revised Policy EE. The policy addresses administration of the School Nutrition Program, meal accounts, meal modifications for students with allergies or health concerns, employee and visitor meals, nutrition standards, and requirements related to fundraisers. The proposed policy also reflects the district's participation in the Community Eligibility Provision, which provides students with breakfast and lunch at no charge. The policy will remain available for public comment and return to the Board for consideration at a future meeting.

Financial Reports

- The Board received the final June 2026 financial report, which showed the district ended FY26 using just over $500,000 in General Fund reserves, compared with the $2.7 million originally budgeted, due largely to stronger than expected revenues. The district ended the year with approximately $8 million in General Fund cash.
- The Board also received the July 2026 financial report. Because much of the revenue collected in July and August is attributable to FY26, the July report reflects very little FY27 revenue. As of July 31, the General Fund cash balance was approximately $6.9 million.

Business Items Approved

- **JCMS Gym Floor Change Order:** The Board approved a $9,543 change order for the Jasper County Middle School gym floor replacement. Changes included an upgrade to second-and-better maple flooring, stained three-point areas, and a change to the center-court Canes logo. The final project amount is $107,313.

- **WPES Roadway Improvements:** The Board approved a $176,785 change order for roadway improvements at the Primary and Washington Park campus. The project will create an additional bus lane to better separate bus traffic from car rider traffic and extend the Washington Park vehicle stacking lanes while maintaining a dedicated Primary traffic lane. The improvements are expected to provide space for approximately 50 additional vehicles on campus rather than on Highway 212.

Superintendent's Consent Agenda

- The Board approved the August 18 Business Meeting minutes, cancellation of the October 6, November 3, and January 6 Board Work Sessions, JCMS and JCHS fundraisers, and JCHS FCCLA and CTI Leadership field trip requests.

Personnel

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

New Hire
a. Kaylee Madaris, Bus Driver, Transportation Department (effective 9/16/2026)
b. Taylor Davis, Paraprofessional, Jasper County Preschool (effective 9/16/2026)
Resignation
a. John Morgan, Bus Driver, Transportation Department (effective 9/4/2026)
b. Darius Graves, Technology Specialist, BOE (effective 8/26/2026)
Transfer
a. Margaret Smith, SFS Assistant, From JCPS to JCMS (effective 9/8/2026)
b. Priscilla Whitlock, SFS Assistant, From JCMS to JCPS (effective 9/8/2026)
Termination
a. Wendy Jackson, Teacher, Jasper County High School (effective 8/28/2026)
b. Christopher Carroll, Teacher, Jasper County High School (effective 9/11/2026)

Other Business and Adjournment

- The **2026-2027 Board Training Plan** was presented to the Board.
- The next scheduled Board Business Meetings are:
    - October 27, 2026
    - November 17, 2026