Jasper County Charter System

Tracy R. Blackburn, Superintendent

Board Bullets

Highlights of the Jasper County Charter System Board of Education Meeting held on Tuesday, November 17, 2026, at 6:00 p.m.

Opening and Recognitions (video highlights)

- 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.
- Maddie White from Washington Park Elementary School, a Fellowship of Christian Athletes member, shared the invocation, accompanied by Jessie Stanley. JCHS NJROTC presented the colors and led the Pledge of Allegiance.
- Jasper County Primary School students, led by Ms. Savage, performed "Five Little Flags" and demonstrated the district mission and vision through student learning.
- American FFA Degree: The Board recognized JCHS alumna Maegan Stanley for earning the highest National FFA degree, awarded to approximately 1% of FFA members. Her former agriculture teacher, Casey Hilsman, was also recognized.
- Golden Key Award: Elizabeth Proctor, Jasper County Teacher of the Year at JCPS, was recognized for receiving the GaDOE Innovative Golden Key Award for STEM innovation.
- Regional Literacy Teacher of the Year: JCPS kindergarten teacher Brittney Bryant was recognized by the Georgia Literacy Council for exceptional student literacy growth, including a $1,500 award.
- Lady Canes Softball: The Board celebrated the JCHS region champions and Class AA playoff team, recognizing Coach Hamby as Region Coach of the Year, Ryleigh Moore as Region Pitcher of the Year, and Kelsey Vining as Region Player of the Year.

Superintendent Remarks

- Superintendent Blackburn highlighted Jasper County High School's 2026 four-year graduation rate of 94.15%, the district's highest since 2018 and more than five percentage points above the statewide rate of 88.5%.
- American Education Week and Thanksgiving: Superintendent Blackburn expressed gratitude for Jasper County educators, staff, families, community partners, and Board members, recognizing the compassion and strength of the Jasper family during recent difficult times.
- Veterans Day: JCHS NJROTC hosted its first annual student-led Veterans Day Program, including an "Old Glory" reading, flag-folding ceremony, and recognition of World War II veterans Luther Price and Robert F. Johnson. Watch the ceremony: https://youtu.be/EqB29K7L0gE
- School Safety: JCCS ranked among Georgia's Top 25 school systems in the October SchoolDog/GSBA-RMS Safety Challenge, recognizing daily safety checks and proactive follow-up by administrators and School Resource Officers.
- School Nutrition: Director Janet Clowers and her team collected feedback from families, students, staff, and community members to improve school meals and participated in a GaDOE Administrative Review.
- Charter System Leadership: School Governance Team members attended the Charter Systems Foundation Fall Conference at the University of Georgia, focusing on school improvement, stakeholder engagement, student voice, and innovation.

- Athletics and Fine Arts: Hurricane football advanced to the GHSA State Playoffs. The JCHS One Act Play earned a Superior regional rating; Andi McFarland was honored for Best Actress, Timber Jones for Best Supporting Actress, and Faraday Harty for Overall Best Supporting Actress.
- Hands-on Learning: WPES students explored chemical and physical changes through interactive science activities, with support from the Jasper County Fire Department.

Informational Items

- **FTE Overview:** The Board reviewed Full-Time Equivalent reporting, its connection to student services, and the importance of accurate eligibility, scheduling, service delivery, credentials, and reporting for QBE funding.
    - Enrollment declined from 2,771 in 2024–2025 to 2,693 in 2026–2027, a loss of 78 students over two years and 75 students (approximately 2.7%) since last year.
    - Estimated October QBE earnings were approximately $338,191 lower than October 2025. Both enrollment and changes in reported instructional services contribute; the full decrease is not attributable to any single factor.
    - Primary gifted students increased from 14 to 27 this year, following a decline from 41 in 2024–2025. The district is standardizing referral and testing windows to improve timely identification and service access.
    - Reported Early Intervention Program FTE fell from 137 to 118, representing an estimated $116,500 decrease in EIP earnings. The district is reviewing eligibility, services, and reporting.
    - Next steps include standardized identification, FTE training and tracking, credential and program audits, and year-round monitoring.
- **Washington Park Elementary CSIP Overview:** Principal Dr. Eric Thompson and his team shared academic, attendance, behavior, and student-leadership data, along with school improvement strategies.
    - WPES seeks at least a three-percentage-point increase in Proficient/Distinguished Georgia Milestones performance in ELA and mathematics.
    - 2026–2027 math targets are 39% for grade 3, 47% for grade 4, 45% for grade 5, and 32% for grade 6; the schoolwide stretch target is 50%.
    - All WPES teachers participate in at least one Professional Learning Community. Year 3 Leader in Me implementation includes staff training, student leadership, and expanded student-led conferences.

Financial Reports

- October 2026 General Fund financials showed approximately $5.88 million in year-to-date revenue, $9.53 million in expenditures, and a $4.37 million ending cash balance.
- At 33% of the fiscal year, the district had collected 16.3% of budgeted revenue and spent 23.5% of budgeted expenditures. The timing of property tax collections remains an important factor.

Jasper County Charter System

Tracy R. Blackburn, Superintendent

Board Bullets

Business Items Approved

- The Board approved the required annual schedule of approved local option sales tax projects for the year ended June 30, 2026, reflecting approximately $17.1 million in updated 2020 SPLOST estimated costs and $12 million in 2025 SPLOST estimated costs. No new projects or expenditures were requested.
- The Board approved Owner Change Order #03 for $89,998.85 to complete previously approved additional grading and paving. Updated competitive pricing totaled approximately $168,441; the remaining $78,442.10 contingency balance will be applied toward the cost. The alternate front bus loop option was not included.

Superintendent's Consent Agenda

- The Board approved the consent agenda included the October 27 meeting minutes; second readings of Policies GARH (Personal Leave) and GARHB (Paid Parental Leave); fundraisers for JCHS Athletics and JCMS; a Monticello Garden Club facility use agreement for JCHS FFA; and field trips for JCHS/JCMS, JCHS, and WPES.

Personnel

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

New Hire

a. Grace Hicks, Bus Monitor, Transportation (effective 11/18/2026)

b. Pablo Gomez, History Teacher, Jasper County High School (effective 11/30/2026)

Resignation

a. Bobbi Maddox, Bus Driver, Transportation (effective 11/30/2026)

b. Brittney Cook, SFS Assistant, Jasper County High School (effective 12/14/2026)

Correction

a. Olivia Cumbess, System Technology Specialist, BOE (effective 11/9/2026)

Other Business and Adjournment

- The next scheduled Board Business Meetings are:
  - December 15, 2026
  - January 19, 2027