

**JOHNSON COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 0050**  
**JOHNSON COUNTY CENTRAL PUBLIC SCHOOLS**  
**BOARD OF EDUCATION**  
**REGULAR MEETING**

August 13, 2025

Members Present: Justin Beethe, Gail Hutt, Dan Jones, Jon Schmid, Sarah Weber, Kim Wellensiek

Also Present: Jon H. Rother, Superintendent; Laurie Badertscher, Recording Secretary; Garrett Collin, Athletic Director; Marsha Bacon, 4-8 Principal; Justin Damme, High School Principal; Laura Rademacher, Director of Special Education and Student Services; Russ Waring, Director of Operations.

Two visitors were present

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The Johnson County School District No. 0050 Board of Education met in regular session at 6:00 p.m., Wednesday, August 13, 2025 in the high school room 204, Tecumseh, Nebraska. A current copy of the agenda was available for inspection in the office of the Superintendent prior to the meeting. The notice of the meeting and agenda was posted at the three main school buildings as well as the Tecumseh and Cook Post Offices. Notice of the meeting was also published in the Nemaha Valley Observer and on the school district website.

President Wellensiek called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. and opened the meeting by announcing that the Open Meetings Act rules were posted. Roll call was taken. Justin Beethe-present, Gail Hutt-present, Dan Jones-present, Jon Schmid-present, Sarah Weber-present, Kim Wellensiek-present.

**PARENT INVOLVEMENT HEARING**

A Parent Involvement Hearing was held to review Johnson County Central Public Schools Policies regarding parent involvement. Policies reviewed as follows: **5018** - Parent Involvement in Education Practices and Policy **5057** - District Title I Parent and Family Engagement Policy.

**STUDENT FEES HEARING**

A Student Fees Hearing was held to review policies concerning student fees. Policy **5045** - Student Fees was reviewed with the proposed change to include, extracurricular drug testing fees to be included in the listing of fees to be charged by the district.

**APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES**

A motion was made by Justin Beethe and second by Sarah Weber to approve the July 30, 2025 Board Retreat Meeting Minutes and the July 2025 Regular Board of Education Meeting Minutes as presented. Roll call vote: Justin Beethe-yes, Gail Hutt-yes, Dan Jones-yes, Jon Schmid-yes, Sarah Weber-yes, Kim Wellensiek-yes, Carried 6-0

**FINANCIAL REPORT**

A motion was made by Gail Hutt and second by Dan Jones to approve the General Fund claims for payment in the amount of \$1,057,208.60, Building Fund \$33,549.74 and the Qualified Capital Purpose Undertaking Fund in the amount of \$204,128.82 as well as the Financial Report as presented. Roll call

vote: Justin Beethe-yes, Gail Hutt-yes, Dan Jones-yes, Jon Schmid-yes, Sarah Weber-yes, Kim Wellensiek-yes, Justin Beethe-yes. Carried 6-0

**PUBLIC COMMENT-** None

## **ADMINISTRATOR REPORTS**

High school Principal Justin Damme reported on the following:

- Inservice day trainings
- Open House
- Senior work release
- Student schedules
- College credit classes
- OnToCollege ACT prep opportunities
- Window graphics update

Middle School Principal, Marsha Bacon reported on the following:

- Staff meetings
- Open house well attended
- MAP testing schedule
- Student activities
- The Thunderbird Way
- BIST (Behavior Intervention Support Team)
- MTSS (Multi-Tiered System of Support) teams

Elementary PreK-3 Principal Beckie Robeson reported on the following

- Administrator Days
- CPI Training
- Open House well attended
- ELA (English Language Arts) curriculum be reviewed
- Math Acceleration program continues with ESU 4
- Walkie-talkies at recess to help with communication effectiveness

Student Services / Special Education Director Laura Rademacher reported on the following:

- CharacterStrong curriculum introduced to staff
- IDEA Grant completed
- Administrator Days
- BIST (Behavior Intervention Support Team) training
- MTSS ( Multi-Tiered System of Support) training
- CPI (Crisis Prevention Institute) training
- Para-professional trainings

Activity Director, Garret Collin reported on the following:

- Summer Strength training “Gold Standard” students recognized
- Preliminary fall sports participation numbers provided
- Admission prices from conference schools were provided
- ECNC Tournament and Track meet admission prices set
- Video Board Sponsorships are available

## **SUPERINTENDENT REPORT**

Superintendent Rother shared work provided by Paul Grieger; D.A Davidson & Company Bond Underwriter. Mr. Grieger provided information regarding the financing options for a building bond that included a \$30,000,000 and a \$35,000,000 bond schedule. The figures provided were based on the preliminary valuations as of August 12, 2025 and a 30 year bond schedule. Board member Jon Schmid would like to see what a 20 year bond schedule would look like. The number of “property tax ratings” were also discussed.

Superintendent Rother reported on the following:

- 2025-2026 current K-12 enrollment is 455
- 2025-2026 PK-12 membership is 496
- Option Enrollment numbers provided (net option -89)
- Open house

Mr. Rother provided a quote from Midwest Alarm Services for a new fire alarm system in the high school. The proposed scope of the project was reviewed with the initial estimated cost to be \$86,850.00. Mr. Waring received two bids for fencing to surround the high school kitchen fire suppression ventilation system. The bid from Kudu Lawn Care in the amount of \$2,850.00 was accepted by Superintendent Rother.

The Johnson County Central Public Schools 2025-2026 Budget Hearing, Hearing to Set the Final Tax Request and a Special Board of Education Meeting will be held on September 17, 2025.

## **FUTURE DATES**

- Cook Site Chiller Pre-Bid Meeting - August 20, 2025
- Special Meeting to consider a resolution increasing the school district’s base growth percentage used to determine the school district’s property tax request authority by up to 6% - August 21, 2025, 5:00 p.m - High School Room 204.
- Cook Site Chiller Bid Opening - September 4, 2025
- NASB Area Membership Meeting - September 10, 2025- Nebraska City, NE.
- Community Pep Rally and Bon Fire- September 14, 2025, 6:00 p.m. -High School
- Thriving Children, Families and Communities Conference - September 15-16, Kearney, NE.
- NASB Labor Relations Conference - October 1-2, Lincoln, NE
- NASB State Education Conference - November 19-21, Omaha, NE.

## DISCUSSION

Superintendent Rother led a discussion to consider a resolution increasing the school district's base growth percentage used to determine the school district's property tax request authority by up to 6%. Items to be considered are the inefficiency of the district with operating three buildings. What the budget would look like if a building bond would pass. Discussion was held regarding tax receipts and the importance of necessary cash reserve.

Discussion was held regarding student discipline with regard to student use and/or possession of drugs, tobacco or alcohol when on school grounds, in a school vehicle or at any school-sponsored event. Mr. Rother indicated legal council recommends the disciplinary action be at the discretion of the administration.

The Extracurricular Drug Testing program was discussed. The costs associated with continued drug testing after a set number of positive results in one school year were discussed. While there is no requirement to do drug testing in schools, the Board of Education finds value in the program and the Extracurricular Drug Testing Program policy will continue to be implemented.

## REGULAR AGENDA-BUSINESS

Mark Pfister of Boyd Jones Construction was present to address the Board of Education regarding the value of their work and the considerations involved with a Construction Manager at Risk when working on a building bond project. Mr. Pfister highlighted the benefits of using Boyd Jones Construction as the CMR for a building project. He provided the history of Boyd Jones in working with the Board of Education beginning in 2021. Questions were asked regarding the formal agreement between Boyd Jones and Johnson County Central Public Schools. Mr. Pfister informed the Board of Education that KSB School Law composed the written agreement between parties.

The Board of Education members were provided an opportunity to ask questions and to provide thoughts regarding Boyd Jones. After discussion was held it was the consensus of the Board of Education to remain in partnership with Boyd Jones Construction as the CMR (Construction Manager at Risk) for a future building bond project.

The following policies were reviewed: **1001** - General Policy Statement, **2001** - The Role of the Board of Education, **2002** - Organization of the Board, Board Officers, and Check Signing, **2003** - Development and Education of Board Members, **1003**- Mission Statement, **4031** - Evaluation of Probationary Certified Employees, **5045**- Student Fees, **3040**-School Safety and Security, **5052** - School Wellness, **5054** - Student Bullying.

A motion was made by Jon Schmid to add the wording **and productive** to the mission statement policy 1003. The Mission Statement would read as follows: "Johnson County Central is an inclusive school district focused on the individual needs of each and every student helping them to become constructive and productive members of society." Motion failed due to lack of a second.

Discussion was held regarding policy 5054 - Student Bullying. Superintendent Rother provided an explanation of the policy. Principal, Marsha Bacon identified tools used to address bullying in the schools as well as methods used to prevent bullying the district.

President Wellensiek declared a recess at 7:54 p.m.

President Wellensiek called the meeting back to order at 8:01 p.m.

The Option Agreement to Purchase Real Estate was reviewed and discussed. Options of receiving income from such things as cash rent and/or the sale of a portion of the property were discussed. The timing of purchasing the property was also considered.

A motion was made by Jon Schmid and second by Justin Beethe to execute the contract to purchase the Wilson property by passing the Resolution of the Board of Education to Exercise the Option to Purchase Real Estate as presented. Roll call vote: Justin Beethe -yes, Gail Hutt-yes, Dan Jones - no, Jon Schmid - yes, Sarah Weber - yes, Kim Wellensiek -yes. Carried 5-1.

### **RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION TO EXERCISE OPTION TO PURCHASE REAL ESTATE**

WHEREAS, the Board of Education (“Board”) for Johnson County School District 49-0050, commonly known as Johnson County Central Public Schools (the “School District”) has determined that it needs to acquire certain real estate to accommodate the School District’s facilities needs necessary for the School District’s students, programs, activities, and operations; and

WHEREAS, the School District entered into an Option Agreement to Purchase Real Estate, with an effective date of January 15, 2021 (the “Option Agreement”), with David and Suzanne Wilson, who are owners of certain real property legally described as follows:

Outlot D, Shawnee Ridge Addition to the City of Tecumseh, Johnson County, Nebraska  
(the “Property”); and

WHEREAS, among other terms, conditions, and limitations, the Option Agreement grants the School District the exclusive and irrevocable option (the “Option”) to purchase the Property at a purchase price of Eight Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$800,000) (the “Purchase Price”); and

WHEREAS, the Board has determined that it is in the School District’s best interest to exercise the Option at the present time and prior to January 15, 2026.

NOW, BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that the Board hereby authorizes the School District to promptly execute the Option, including without limitation paying the Purchase Price in accordance with the Option Agreement; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board hereby authorizes the Board President and/or the Superintendent to take all further action, including but not necessarily limited to providing information and signing further documents, that are necessary to carry out the School District’s execution of the Option and acquisition of the Property; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board hereby directs the Superintendent to research and evaluate the extent to which any portion of the Property may exceed the School District’s long-term

school facility needs and if any portion of the Property will exceed such needs to provide recommendations, options, and alternatives for the Board to develop, sell, use, or otherwise dispose of such excess portion of the Property.

A motion was made by Justin Beethe and second by Gail Hutt to adjourn the meeting. Roll call vote: Justin Beethe - yes, Gail Hutt-yes, Dan Jones-yes, Jon Schmid-yes, Sarah Weber-yes, Kim Wellensiek-yes, Carried 6-0.

Meeting adjourned at 8:17 p.m.

The next Board of Education Special Meeting will be held Thursday August 21, 2025, in the high school room 204, in Tecumseh, Nebraska at 5:00 p.m. The next Regular Board of Education Meeting will be held Wednesday, September 10, 2025 at 6:00 p.m. in the high school room 204 in Tecumseh, Nebraska. The notices of the meetings will be published in the Nemaha Valley Observer as well as on the school website. The agendas will be posted at the three main school buildings as well as at the Tecumseh and Cook Post Offices. A current copy of the agenda will be available for inspection in the office of the Superintendent prior to the meeting.

