

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

January 8, 2025

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

Also Present: Jon H. Rother, Superintendent; Laurie Badertscher, Recording Secretary; Rich Bacon, Middle School Principal, Garrett Collin, Athletic Director, Rick Lester, High School Principal

Justin Beethe-absent (excused)

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, January 8, 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 Tecumseh Chieftain and on the school district website.

Superintendent Rother 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-absent, Gail Hutt-present, Dan Jones-present, Jon Schmid-present, Sarah Weber-present, Kim Wellensiek-present.

**SWEARING IN OF NEW BOARD MEMBERS**

Newly elected Johnson County Central Board of Education members Dan Jones, Jon Schmid, and Sarah Weber, received the "Oath of Office". All members read, signed and dated the "Oath of Office" as presented.

**REORGANIZATION OF THE BOARD**

Superintendent Rother requested nominations for President. Gail Hutt nominated Kim Wellensiek for President. A motion was made by Jon Schmid and second by Sarah Weber to cease nominations. Nominations ceased. Roll call vote: Justin Beethe-absent, Gail Hutt- yes, Dan Jones-yes, Jon Schmid-yes, Sarah Weber-yes, Wellensiek-abstain. Carried 4-0-1

Kim Wellensiek assumed the leadership role as Board President and requested nominations for Vice-President. Kim Wellensiek nominated Justin Beethe. A motion was made by Dan Jones and second by Gail Hutt to cease nominations. Nominations ceased. Roll call vote: Gail Hutt-yes, Dan Jones-yes, Jon Schmid-yes, Sarah Weber-yes, Kim Wellensiek-yes, Justin Beethe-absent. Carried 5-0

President Wellensiek requested nominations for Treasurer. Sarah Weber nominated Gail Hutt for Treasurer. A motion was made by Dan Jones and second by Jon Schmid to cease nominations. Nominations ceased. Roll call vote: Dan Jones-yes, Jon Schmid-yes, Sarah Weber-yes, Kim Wellensiek-yes, Justin Beethe-absent, Gail Hutt-abstain. Carried 4-0-1.

President Wellensiek appointed Jon H. Rother, as secretary of the Board of Education and Laurie Badertscher, Recording Secretary.

President Wellensiek appointed committee members as follows:

AMERICANISM: Gail Hutt, Jon Schmid, Kim Wellensiek

BUDGET REVIEW: Gail Hutt, Dan Jones, Sarah Weber

BUILDING AND GROUNDS: Justin Beethe, Dan Jones, Jon Schmid

NEGOTIATIONS: Justin Beethe, Sarah Weber, Kim Wellensiek

POLICY REVIEW: Gail Hutt, Jon Schmid, Sarah Weber

TRANSPORTATION: Justin Beethe, Dan Jones, Kim Wellinsiek

### **APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES**

A motion was made by Dan Jones and second by Gail Hutt to approve the December 4, 2024, Special Board of Education Meeting Minutes and the December 11, 2024, regular Board of Education Meeting Minutes as presented. Roll call vote: Jon Schmid-yes, Sarah Weber-yes, Kim Wellensiek-yes, Justin Beethe-absent, Gail Hutt-yes, Dan Jones-yes, Carried 5-0

### **FINANCIAL REPORT**

A motion was made by Jon Schmid and second by Sarah Weber to approve the General Fund claims for payment in the amount of \$771,260.58 and the Building Fund claims for payment in the amount of \$49,260.26. Roll call vote: Sarah Weber-yes, Kim Wellensiek-yes, Justin Beethe-absent, Gail Hutt-yes, Dan Jones-yes, Jon Schmid-yes. Carried 5-0

**PUBLIC COMMENT-** None

### **ADMINISTRATOR REPORTS**

High School Principal Report:

High school Principal Rick Lester reported on the following:

- High School Spanish
- 2025-2026 Registration Handbooks
- 1<sup>st</sup> Semester Report Cards – distributed January 9, 2025

Middle School Principal Report:

Middle school Principal Rich Bacon, reported on the following:

- Boys Jr. High basketball results
- Girls Jr. High basketball season to begin in January 2025

- Boys Jr. High wrestling season to begin in January 2025
- Johnson County Spelling Bee finals – at Sterling High School, January 25<sup>th</sup>

### **ATHLETIC DIRECTOR REPORT**

Athletic Director, Garret Collin reported on the following:

- Boys and Girls Basketball – MUDECAS January 13<sup>th</sup> – 18<sup>th</sup> at Beatrice
- Boys and Girls ECNC Basketball- February 3<sup>rd</sup> - 8<sup>th</sup> TBD
- ECNC Girls Wrestling – January 28<sup>th</sup> at Auburn
- ECNC Boys Wrestling – February 7<sup>th</sup> at Freeman
- District Bowling – February 3<sup>rd</sup> at Lincoln

### **SUPERINTENDENT REPORT**

Superintendent Rother reported on the following:

- Kindergarten class considerations for 2025-2026
- Concrete cutting project complete
- Carpet installed in high school entrances
- JCC is currently hosting three student teachers
- ESEA Monitoring visit- February 20, 2025
- School budgets
- Backpack Program - local coordinator needed
- Administrative staffing considerations
- Staff absence data reviewed
- 2024 Nebraska Department of Education Teacher Vacancy Survey results
- JCC AQuESTT Data provided

### **FUTURE DATES**

- NASB Legislative Issues – January 26 & 27

- NASB Federal Advocacy Conference – March 16-19
- NRCSA Spring Conference – March 20 & 21
- NASB Legislative Issues Conference- January 21-January 22, 2024

## DISCUSSION

### REGULAR AGENDA-BUSINES

A motion was made by Gail Hutt and second by Dan Jones to retain American National Bank as the financial institution for Johnson County Centrals' General Fund, Building Fund, Depreciation Fund, QCPUF Fund, Bond Fund, Contingency Fund and Imprest account. Western National Bank will be the financial institution for the Lunch Fund, Activity Fund and safety deposit box. Roll call vote: Jon Schmid-yes, Sarah Weber-yes, Kim Wellensiek-yes, Justin Beethe-absent, Gail Hutt-yes, Dan Jones-yes. Carried 5-0

A motion was made by Sarah Weber and second by Jon Schmid to identify KSB School Law as the legal counsel for Johnson County Central Public Schools for the year 2025. Roll call vote: Sarah Weber-yes, Kim Wellensiek-yes, Justin Beethe-absent, Gail Hutt-yes, Jon Schmid-yes, Dan Jones-yes, Carried 5-0

A motion was made by Sarah Weber and second by Gail Hutt to approve the 2025-2026 Negotiated Agreement with the terms as presented. Roll call vote: Kim Wellensiek-yes, Justin Beethe-absent, Gail Hutt-yes, Dan Jones-yes, Jon Schmid-yes, Sarah Weber-yes. Carried 5-0

A motion was made by Sarah Weber and second by Dan Jones to recognize the JCCEA as the teachers bargaining agent for 2026-2027. Roll call vote: Justin Beethe-absent, Gail Hutt-yes, Dan Jones-yes, Jon Schmid-yes, Sarah Weber-yes, Kim Wellensiek-yes. Carried 5-0.

Superintendent Rother reviewed the following policies: **3047**-Data Breach Response, **3048**-Communicable Diseases, **4058**- Confidentiality in Counseling and Guidance, **5042**- Bulletin Boards, **5043**-School-Sponsored Publications, **6035**- Athletic Contest Participation by Sixth Graders. No changes needed. Policy **6034** – Concussion Awareness will be revisited in February 2025 after more information is provided.

A rough draft of the 2025-2026 School Calendar was presented by Superintendent Rother. Discussion was held. No action was taken.

A motion was made by Sarah Weber and second by Gail Hutt to approve the 2025-2026 Teaching Contract for Mr. Keaton Kleespies. Roll call vote: Gail Hutt-yes, Dan Jones-yes, Jon Schmid-yes, Sarah Weber-yes, Kim Wellensiek-yes, Justin Beethe-absent. Carried 5-0

A motion was made by Dan Jones and second by Sarah Weber to approve the 2025-2026 Director of Student Services Contract for Dr. Laura Rademacher. Roll call vote: Dan Jones-yes, Jon Schmid-yes, Sarah Weber-yes, Kim Wellensiek-yes, Justin Beethe-absent, Gail Hutt-yes. Carried 5-0.

A motion was made by Gail Hutt and second by Dan Jones to approve the 2025-2026 Principal Contract for Mr. Justin Damme. Roll call vote: Jon Schmid-yes, Sarah Weber-yes, Kim Wellensiek-yes, Justin Beethe-absent, Gail Hutt- yes, Dan Jones-yes, Carried 5-0.

A recess was declared at 7:40 p.m.

President Wellensiek called the Board of Education meeting back to order at 7:45 p.m

A motion was made by Sarah Weber and second by Jon Schmid to enter into executive session for the purpose of discussing personnel. Roll call vote: Sarah Weber-yes, Kim Wellensiek-yes, Justin Beethe-absent, Gail Hutt-yes, Dan Jones-yes, Jon Schmid-yes. Carried 5-0

Entered executive session at 7:46 p.m.

A motion was made by Dan Jones and second by Jon Schmid to leave executive session. Roll call vote: Kim Wellensiek-yes, Justin Beethe-absent, Gail Hutt-yes, Dan Jones-yes, Jon Schmid-yes, Sarah Weber-yes. Carried 5-0

Left executive session at 8:29 p.m.

A motion was made by Gail Hutt and second by Sarah Weber to adjourn the meeting. Roll call vote: Justin Beethe-absent, Gail Hutt-yes, Dan Jones-yes, Jon Schmid-yes, Sarah Weber-yes, Kim Wellensiek-yes. Carried 5-0.

Meeting adjourned at 8:30 p.m

The next Board of Education Meeting will be held on February 12, 2025, in the High School room 204 in Tecumseh, Nebraska at 6:00 p.m. The notice of the meeting will be published in the Tecumseh Chieftain as well as on the school website. The agenda 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.