

**JOHNSON COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 0050**  
**JOHNSON COUNTY CENTRAL PUBLIC SCHOOLS**  
**BOARD OF EDUCATION**  
**Special Board of Education Retreat**  
July 30, 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;

Six visitors were present

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The Johnson County School District No. 0050 Board of Education met in a special session at 1:00 p.m., Wednesday, July 30, 2025 at the KSB School Law Firm located at 206 South 13th St, Suite 1100, Lincoln, 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 1:10 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.

#### **CURRENT BUILDING REPAIRS AND RENOVATIONS**

Superintendent Jon Rother, opened the meeting by facilitating a discussion regarding the current building repairs and renovations. A new fire suppression system has been installed in the kitchen in the high school. Work has been started on installing a sprinkler system in the high school. The current High School is in need of HVAC replacement. If the Board of Education is planning to continue to use this building HVAC work will be necessary. Rough estimate to replace the current HVAC exceeds 1.5 million. If replacing the equipment, in order to maintain air quality, it will also be necessary to replace windows, doors, electrical wiring and other items. Discussion was held regarding funding options for such projects as well as completing projects in phases. It was suggested to look into a lease purchase agreement to help with such funding while still considering funds coming from levied taxes in the Building Fund.

Considerations were discussed regarding other necessary renovations to the high school in an effort to make the building ADA compliant and to meet fire safety codes. The Board of Education believes they will need to maintain the current high school for use for many years to come and will continue to explore, plan and implement needed replacements and repairs in an effort to expand the life of the building to provide an acceptable learning environment for the students of the district. Representatives from Clark-Enersen, (architectural firm), Russ Koch (the district's educational facilities consultant) were present to add to this discussion.

Currently the district is planning to replace the chiller at the middle school building in Cook. Mr. Rother and Russ Waring are working with Adam Kent from Clark-Enersen Architectural firm, to begin the bidding process for this project. There are many additional repairs needed at the Cook site to include kitchen renovations, communication system, and roof repairs. The long term use of this building is

unknown at this time. Options for new uses for this building continue to be explored should a new building project pass that would move all students to one community. Board of education member Jon Schmid also believes we need to continue considering the idea of moving the current elementary attendance center to the Cook site should a building bond project not pass.

## **FUTURE BUILDING PROJECT**

Discussion with representatives from Clark-Enersen, Mr. Russ Koch (Educational Facilities Consultant) and Mr. Jerry McCall (Educational Consulting Services) was held in regard to the scope and procedures of a future building project. It was recommended by Dan Jones and Jon Schmid to consider a PreK-8 building project that would be under a 30 million dollar project. Duplication of services such as nutrition services will need to be considered as well as gym, locker room, weight room and wrestling program space. Fine arts, office space and classroom size will also need to be considered as will space for other programming needs.

Board of Education member Jon Schmid, expressed his concern about purchasing the entire 52.3 acres being proposed and questioned whether all this land is necessary for a building project. Options for selling land were discussed if not all property is needed. Discussion was held regarding usage of the land for future building projects and needs of the district long term.

Recess was declared at 3:10 p.m.

President Wellensiek called the meeting back to order at 3:20 p.m.

Economist, Mr. Jerry McCall was present to provide his thoughts on the use of the proposed building site. Mr. McCall has consulted with Doug Goracke, the Tecumseh Economic Developer and has begun gathering information about the district and the communities within the district to help make recommendations regarding the long-term vision of the district. Mr. McCall provided a conceptual plan of ideas he envisions for the proposed building site long term. This conceptual plan included such things as CTE labs (Career and Technical Labs), greenhouse labs, walking trails, field test labs and other possibilities for long term planning. Mr. McCall stressed the benefits of involving people from the city as well as the private industry in the long term planning process. He expressed his thoughts on the impact this Board of Education can have on the future of the district and the communities.

The delivery methods of building construction were discussed. Tim Ripp from Clark-Enersen explained the Construction Manager at Risk method as well as the Design Build method. Both methods bring different values to construction projects and the board of education will continue to explore and discuss which method they will pursue for a building bond project. The current contract with Boyd Jones as Construction Manager At Risk was discussed. The type of construction delivery method will be an item on the August 2025 Board of Education Agenda.

Superintendent Rother provided a preview of the 2025- 2026 school district budget. The option of increasing the base growth percentage used to determine the property tax authority for the 2025-26 budget in an amount of up to 6 % was discussed. Valuations will not be certified by the counties until the latter part of August at which time Superintendent Rother will continue to work on finalizing the budget. Discussion was held regarding the amount of funds needed in necessary cash reserves. President Wellensiek communicated the emphasis the Nebraska Department of Education puts on the need for at least two to three months in budget expenditures being budgeted for cash reserves for cash flow purposes and emergency situations.

## **POLICY 3060 -FIREARMS AND WEAPONS NON-STUDENTS**

Policy 3060 (Firearms and Weapons Non-Students) was discussed. School attorney Coady Pruett, presented the legal implications of such a policy. Discussion was held. Mr. Rother will contact ALICAP, the district's insurance liability provider with questions regarding this policy.

### **EXTRA CURRICULAR DRUG TESTING PROGRAM**

Discussion was held pertaining to having parents/guardians pay for continued drug testing after a set number of positive results in one school year. Board of Education members recommended that after two times of positive tests the parents/guardians should compensate the district for continued testing. The history of the drug testing program was discussed and thoughts were shared.

### **STUDENT DISCIPLINE**

Discussion was held pertaining to 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. The Board of Education identified that after a total of two (2) positive tests in one school year, the parent/guardian of that student shall be required to pay for any subsequent drug testing. Should the parent/guardian refuse to pay for subsequent drug testing, the student will remain ineligible until such payment is received. Payment must be made prior to the testing.

### **BOARD OF EDUCATION GOALS**

The Board of Education identified the following goals for the 2025-2026 school year:

- Successful bond initiative
- Make progress toward improving the high school facilities
- Work toward making the lunch program financially solvent
- Maintain a healthy cash reserve

A motion was made by Justin Beethe and second by Sarah Weber 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. Motion carried 6-0.

Meeting was adjourned at 5:17 p.m.

The next regularly scheduled meeting will be held in the high school room 204 in Tecumseh, Nebraska at 6:00 p.m. Wednesday August 13, 2025. The notice of meeting will be published in the Nemaha Valley Observer. The agenda will be posted at the three main school buildings as well as 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.