

JOHNSON COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 0050
JOHNSON COUNTY CENTRAL PUBLIC SCHOOLS
BOARD OF EDUCATION
Special Board of Education Retreat
July 21, 2026

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

Absent: Gail Hutt

Also Present: Jon H. Rother, Superintendent; Laurie Badertscher, Recording Secretary

Two visitors were present

The Johnson County School District No. 0050 Board of Education met in regular session at 5:00 p.m., Tuesday, July 21, 2026 at Eugene T. Mahoney State Park, Sandstedt-Platte Conference Room, 28500 W Park Hwy, Ashland, 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 Kim Wellensiek called the meeting to order at 5:00 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-absent, Dan Jones-present, Jon Schmid-present, Sarah Weber-present, Kim Wellensiek-present.

BOARD MISSION AND VISION

Superintendent Rother led a discussion pertaining to the Johnson County Central Board of Education Mission Statement. The Mission Statement is 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 members of society." No changes were made to the Mission Statement.

BOARD GOALS

Mr. Rother reviewed the previous goals set by the Board of Education. Following discussion, the following goals were set by the Board for 2026-2027:

- Successful bond initiative.
- Continued progress toward improving the high school facilities.
- Work to improve communication with patrons/stakeholders facilitating their engagement with the school district.
- Become a more efficient school district with current facilities and finances in the face of uncertain bond initiatives.
- Maintain a competitive culture for academic success.

BOARD ROLES, RESPONSIBILITIES AND LEGAL ISSUES

KSB School Law legal counsel, Mr. Coady Pruett was present to lead a discussion regarding what the board's roles and responsibilities are. Mr. Pruett reviewed Policy 2001 which outlines the Board of Education primary duties as follows:

- Establish a mission statement, goals and policies
- Establish and maintain school facilities
- Select a superintendent
- Adopt a fiscally responsible budget
- Evaluate programs

Mr. Pruett emphasized that the most successful boards look at long-term strategies. The Board of Education had an opportunity to ask questions and discussion was held.

BUDGET PREVIEW

Superintendent Rother shared the budget planning documents used to help create the district budget. The 2026/27 State Aid Certification document was reviewed as was the 2026/2027 Budget Authority and Allowable Reserve Percentage Certification document as presented by the Nebraska Department of School Finance and Organizational Services. The 2026-2027 certified budget authority for Johnson County Central is \$9,409,739 with access to prior years unused budget authority of \$183,605.

While the assessed valuations and real growth percentages are not certified by the counties until August 20, 2026, Mr. Rother used estimates to provide a draft of proposed budget numbers. The Board of Education had the opportunity to ask questions and discussion was held.

FUTURE BUILDING BOND

Discussion was held pertaining to the future bond election for the purpose of construction of a new facility. The Board recognizes that the most successful bonds are when people from the public become involved in selling the bond. Discussion included but was not limited to a target bond amount, shared spaces, selling lots near the building site, and options for financing the construction project. Conversation was also held regarding a contingency plan if the next bond does not pass. This includes the possibility of closing either the Cook Site or the Tecumseh Elementary and consolidating programming within the two remaining buildings.

A motion was made by John Schmid and second by Sarah Weber to adjourn the meeting. Roll call vote: Justin Beethe-yes, Gail Hutt-absent, Dan Jones-yes, Jon Schmid-yes, Kim Wellensiek-yes. Carried 5-0. Meeting adjourned at 7:27 p.m.

The next Regular Board of Education Meeting will be Wednesday, August 12, 2026 at 6:00 p.m., high school room 204 located at 358 N 6th Street, Tecumseh, NE. 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 agendas will be available for inspection in the office of the Superintendent prior to the meeting.