

JOHNSON COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 0050
JOHNSON COUNTY CENTRAL PUBLIC SCHOOLS
BOARD OF EDUCATION
SPECIAL MEETING
September 30, 2026

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

Excused Absence: Justin Beethe, Gail Hutt

Also Present: Jon H. Rother, Superintendent; Laurie Badertscher, Recording Secretary; Justin Damme, 9-12 Principal; Marsha Bacon, 4-8 Principal; Dr. Laura Rademacher, Director of Student Services/Special Education, Garrett Collin, Activity Director; Marcus Scheer, Director of Technology; Russ Waring, Director of Operations.

70 visitors were present

The Johnson County School District No. 0050 Board of Education met in special session at 7:00 p.m. Wednesday, September 30, 2026 in the middle school gym in Cook, 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 on the school district website.

President Kim Wellensiek called the meeting to order at 7:00 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-absent, Dan Jones-present, Jon Schmid-present, Sarah Weber-present, Kim Wellensiek-present.

President Wellensiek welcomed and thanked all guests for attending the meeting. The purpose of the meeting was to present accurate information regarding the November 3, 2026 School Building Bond Election and to afford the patrons of the district the opportunity to ask questions.

Vice-President Dan Jones thanked everyone for attending. Mr. Jones informed those in attendance that the Board of Education and administration has worked diligently exploring ways in which the district can save money. One reason behind the bond proposal is that the board and administration have identified two million dollars in inefficiencies in staffing, transportation, utilities and repairs per year. The board is proposing a Pre-K-8 building that will be on one level, will be efficient and will meet the needs of the district.

Kim Wellensiek shared that the administration and board of education have identified the inefficiencies in operation as the core problem the district is facing financially. The current facilities are a 1931 PK-3 building, a 1966 high school, and a 1958 middle school facility. It is estimated that the district can save an estimated 2.08 million per year or 52 million over the life of the 25-year bond.

The proposed bond for \$35 million dollars is for the purpose of paying the costs of construction and acquisition of PreK-8th grade facilities for the district; and providing for the necessary furniture, equipment and apparatus for such facilities. The difference between this bond and the prior proposed bonds is a decrease in size, decrease in scope and change in location of the project. The current high school facility would continue to be utilized. The proposed building is a 71,000 square foot structure and would be located on the 52 acre property owned by the district, located north of the track.

Andy Forney of DA Davidson was present to explain the tax impact of the proposed bond. President Wellensiek explained LB2 and how agricultural and horticultural land is taxed. Wellensiek informed those in attendance that there will be a calculator posted on the website to help property owners calculate what the tax impact will be should a bond pass. Kim Wellensiek also informed those in attendance that for the first four years following a successful bond, the building fund levy will need to be maximized as there continue to be repairs and improvements to the high school facility. Beginning the fourth year, the board will be able to lower levy for the Building Fund and Qualified Capital Purpose Undertaking Fund.

During the presentation, Tim Ripp, architect from Clark & Enersen and Andy Forney of DA Davidson were present to facilitate questions. Mr. Rother spoke about what is best for kids, the current teacher shortage and the positive impact a new facility could have on the community and those potentially moving to the district. Mr. Rother also discussed how school finance works and the limits set on the budget and tax asking. Questions were answered by board members throughout the presentation and the board welcomed questions following the meeting.

A motion was made by Jon Schmid and second by Sarah Weber to adjourn the meeting. Roll call vote: Justin Beethe-absent, Gail Hutt-absent, Dan Jones-yes, Jon Schmid-yes, Sarah Weber-yes, Kim Wellensiedk-yes. Passed 4-0

Meeting adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

The next special Board of Education Meeting will be Monday October 5, 2026 at 7:00 p.m in the high school located at 358 N 6th Street, Tecumseh, NE 68450. The next regular board of education meeting will be Wednesday, October 14, 2026 at 6:00 p.m. in the high school room 204 located at 358 North 6th Street in Tecumseh, Nebraska.

Notice of the meeting will be posted in the Nemaha Valley Observer. The agenda will be posted at the three main school buildings as well as at the Tecumseh and Cook Post Offices and on the district website at www.jccentral.org. A current copy of the agendas will be available for inspection in the office of the Superintendent prior to the meeting.