

**JENNINGS COUNTY SCHOOL CORPORATION**  
**Central Administration Office Building**  
**Executive Session**  
**Regular Board Meeting**  
**March 1, 2022**

**Executive Session:** The Jennings County School Corporation Board of School Trustees met in executive session on March 1, 2022 at 6:00 p.m. in the Special Education Board Room of the Jennings County School Corporation Central Administration Office Building, 34 West Main Street, North Vernon, IN 47265, to discuss the following in accordance with IC 5-14-1.5-6.1(b):

- (9) To discuss a job performance evaluation of individual employees. This subdivision does not apply to a discussion of the salary, compensation, or benefits of employees during a budget process.

Board Members present were Dr. Amy Pettit, Earl Taggart, Susan Wahlman, Tony Daeger and Chelsea Morrison. Pat Sullivan was present via phone call. Travis Shepherd was absent. Superintendent Dr. Teresa Brown, Assistant Superintendent Nicole Johnson, and Administrative Assistant Shannon Lacoursiere were also in attendance.

The executive session adjourned at 6:57 p.m.

**Regular Meeting:** The Board of School Trustees held its regular meeting in the Board Room of the Jennings County School Corporation Central Administration Office Building, 34 West Walnut Street, North Vernon, IN 47265. The meeting began at 7:00 p.m.

The following link was available to live stream the Regular Board meeting from your home:

<https://youtu.be/hdzyB4W--vY>

Board members present were Dr. Amy Pettit, Earl Taggart, Susan Wahlman, Chelsea Morrison, and Tony Daeger. Pat Sullivan was present via live stream. Travis Shepherd was absent. Superintendent Teresa Brown, Assistant Superintendent Nicole Johnson, Administrative Assistants Shannon Lacoursiere, Philip Marsh, Amanda Sullivan, Todd Ebinger, Roy Herr and Board Executive Secretary Debbie Andis were also in attendance.

This meeting was a meeting of the School Board in public for the purpose of conducting the School Corporation's business and it was not to be considered a public community meeting. There was time for public participation as indicated by the agenda. (Policy 0166)

Consent Agenda Items: The following items were provided to the Board for their review and approval. If any Board Member had a concern about an item, he/she would have requested that the item(s) be removed from this grouping to be voted upon individually.

The following consent agenda items were presented for approval without discussion:

- III. Minutes;
- VB2. Field Trips;
- VC1. Professional Staff: Leaves;

- VC2. Professional Staff: Resignations, Retirements;
- VC4. Conference Requests;
- VD1. Support Staff: Leaves;
- VD2. Support Staff: Resignations, Retirements;
- VD4. Conference Requests;
- VI. Claims;

Information Items: These items were given to the Board to review. If a Board Member wished to discuss any of these items; he/she would have indicated that the item(s) be removed from the grouping for discussion during the meeting.

The following information items were shared with the Board:

VIIA1. Jennings County Redevelopment Meeting Minutes 9/16/2021.

VIIA2. Jennings County Redevelopment Meeting Minutes 12/16/2021.

## **Agenda**

- I. Pledge  
The President opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance.  
Dr. Pettit thanked everyone for attending the school board meeting tonight and reminded everyone that we are live streaming this event.
- II. Consent Agenda Items  
Mr. Taggart made a motion to approve the consent agenda items. Mr. Daeger seconded the motion.  
Discussion: Shannon Lacoursiere stated that Danielle Earl needs to be removed from the consent agenda items/resignation.  
Mrs. Wahlman roll called. 6 yes, 0 no. Approved.
- III. Minutes of the Executive Session and the Regular Board Meeting of February 10, 2022.  
The minutes were approved without discussion as a consent agenda item.
- IV. Community Non-Agenda Items
  - The President asked if anyone would like to speak on an item not on the agenda. There were no comments.
  - Teacher of the Year Presentation  
Dr. Brown noted that we were very excited to recognize our Teachers of the Year from each of our schools a few weeks ago. Unfortunately, our District TOY was unable to attend and didn't get to celebrate it properly. We want to recreate that moment for her. Dawn Turner is here with her family and GCE family to celebrate with her. Todd Hearne recreated that moment by sharing the words that he stated at the TOY banquet. Mr. Hearne stated that he is so grateful Dawn Turner is at GCE. Tonight you are being recognized as the corporation Teacher of the Year. Dr. Pettit, Board President, presented Dawn Turner with TOY award and thanked everyone for coming.

- Scipio Elementary Presentation  
Those presenting were Leonard Collett - Principal, Amber Hook- Instructional Coach and Ashley Long – Behavior Specialist. Mr. Collett first praised the teachers, para pros, custodians, maintenance, bus drivers and cooks for doing a remarkable job the past few years making sure our kids get what they need. A power point was shown to show all the wonderful things happening at Scipio Elementary. A few of the highlights were new playground equipment, building repairs and upgrades, and the most positive is the hard work that the teachers and all the staff at Scipio Elementary put in, to make their kids successful.

## V. New Business

### A. NEOLA Administrative Guideline – Information for the Board

1. Administrative Guideline 2623, Testing Program.
2. Administrative Guideline 2623A, Standardized Testing for Special Education Students.
3. Administrative Guideline 5460, Graduation Requirements.
4. Administrative Guideline 5895, Student Employment.
5. Administrative Guideline 8462, Child Abuse or Neglect.
6. Administrative Guideline 8800A, Religious Activities / Ceremonies.
7. Administrative Guideline 4162A, Alcohol Testing Program for CDL Holders and Employees Who Perform Safety-Sensitive Functions.
8. Administrative Guideline 5111.01, Homeless Students.
9. Administrative Guideline 8500B, Meal Charge Accounts Procedures.
10. Administrative Guideline 8600B, Bus Safety Procedures.

Dr. Pettit stated that the above guidelines are information for the board.

### B. Programs (Policy 2000)

1. ESSER/CARES Funds, Update  
Nikki Johnson showed a power point which provided an overview of the ESSER/CARES funding usage.

Dr. Pettit stated that there's a lot of questions out there on social media about this money and I think this was a very thorough and well thought out presentation that explains where these funds are going to.

2. Field Trips  
None at this time.

### C. Professional Staff (Policy 3000)

1. Leaves
  - Julie James, BCE Teacher, unpaid leave 2/14/2022 & ½ day unpaid leave 2/15/2022.

This leave was approved without discussion as a consent agenda item.

2. Resignations/Retirements  
None at this time.

3. Recommendations
  - Leigh Alcorn, SE Teacher, termination effective 3/01/2022.

Dr. Brown: The principal has recommended that the teaching contract of Leigh Alcorn should be cancelled for multiple reasons stated by the principal in a preliminary written decision that was provided to Ms. Alcorn. I have provided the Board with a copy of the Principal's preliminary decision. After receiving the principal's notice, Ms. Alcorn asked to have a private conference with me. I met

with Ms. Alcorn and have decided to uphold the principal's preliminary decision to cancel her contract. I notified Ms. Alcorn in writing of my decision and informed her that she had the right to request a private conference with the Board. Ms. Alcorn has not requested a private conference with the Board, and her deadline under the law to make that request has expired. Therefore, I am recommending to the Board that you approve the administrative recommendation and cancel the teaching contract of Leigh Alcorn for the reasons stated in the principal's written preliminary notice.

Dr. Amy Pettit: The Superintendent has recommended that the Board cancel the teaching contract of Leigh Alcorn for the reasons stated in the principal's written preliminary decision. Is there a motion?

Mrs. Wahlman: I move that the Board approve the Superintendent's recommendation and cancel the teaching contract of Leigh Alcorn for the reasons stated in the principal's written preliminary decision.

Mr. Taggart : Second the motion.

Dr. Amy Pettit: It has been moved and seconded that the Board approve the Superintendent's recommendation and cancel the teaching contract of Leigh Alcorn for the reasons stated in the principal's written preliminary decision.

Mrs. Wahlman role called. 6 yes, 0 no. Approved

4. Conference Requests  
None at this time.
- D. Support Staff (Policy 4000)
1. Leaves
    - Samantha Garcia, SCE Para Pro, unpaid leave 2/18/2022 & 2/22/2022.
    - Alexis Tharpe, NVE Para Pro, unpaid leave 3/30/2022.

These leaves were approved without discussion as a consent agenda item.
  2. Resignations/Retirements
    - Alisea Dryden, HE Custodian, resignation effective 2/28/2022.
    - ~~Danielle Earl, JCS Bus Aide, resignation effective 2/18/2022.~~
    - Jason Maddox, JCHS Assistant Baseball Coach, resignation effective 2/18/2022.
    - Brianna Pearson, BCE Para Pro, resignation effective 2/10/2022.
    - Caitlin Petro, SCE Para Pro, resignation effective 2/14/2022.

These resignations were approved without discussion as a consent agenda item.
  3. Recommendations
    - Dakota Bland, JCMS Para Pro, \$13.75 hr. x 7 hrs. day, effective 2/14/2022.
    - Myah Borntreger, JCHS Assistant Girls Soccer Coach, \$2,889 stipend, effective 2/1/2022.
    - Amy DeBruler, JCS Bus Aide, \$14.50 hr. x 10-12 hrs. week, effective 2/22/2022.
    - Andi Gudgel, SE Para Pro, \$13.00 hr. x 7 hrs. day, effective 2/23/2022.

- Beth Hamilton, JCHS Unified Track Coach, \$940 stipend, effective 2/22/2022.
- Shanna Lovitt, NVE Sub Para Pro, \$11.00 hr. x 7 hrs. day, effective 2/28/2022.
- Doug Mills, JCHS Assistant Baseball Coach, \$3,301 stipend, effective 2/1/2022.
- Chelcie Ragsdale, SE ESSER Para Pro, \$13.00 hr. x 7 hrs. day, effective 2/18/2022.
- Jason Smith, GCE Para Pro, \$14.70 hr. x 7 hrs. day, effective 2/14/2022.

Mr. Sullivan made a motion to approve the above recommendations. Mr. Daeger seconded the motion. Mrs. Wahlman role called. 6 yes, 0 no. Approved.

4. Conference Requests  
None at this time.

#### E. Finances (Policy 6000)

1. Donations, Approval

- CERA Sports Corporation, \$435.00 to Scipio Elementary.
- Jennings Church of Christ, \$200.00 to JCHS Panther Pantry.

Mr. Daeger made a motion to approve the above donations. Ms. Morrison seconded the motion. Mrs. Wahlman role called. 6 yes, 0 no. Approved.

#### VI. Claims

The claims were presented for approval in the amount of \$1,965,724.45 (claims 8573 – 8703) and payroll in the amount of \$1,179,175.12 (check date 2/28/2022).

The claims were approved without discussion as a consent agenda item.

#### VII. Other

##### A. Update

1. Jennings County Redevelopment Meeting Minutes 9/16/2021.  
The above minutes were included in the board packet.
2. Jennings County Redevelopment Meeting Minutes 12/16/2021.  
The above minutes were included in the board packet.
3. Other

Dr. Brown is asking the board to consider joining a suit for litigation. There are 41 school districts in Indiana and many districts nationwide who have entered into litigation with Juul Labs due to marketing vaping products to our children. We have had real concerns with vaping in our Jennings County Schools and would like to recommend that our board consider joining this law suit. There are no upfront costs to our district in any way. We would be adding our name to the suit.

Mr. Taggart made a motion to approve. Mr. Sullivan seconded the motion.

Discussion: Dr. Pettit stated that from a health care perspective that vaping is extremely dangerous not only to our children but also to adults. She appreciates Dr. Brown bringing this forward and allowing us to participate and making a statement for the health and wellbeing of our children.

Mrs. Wahlman role called. 6 yes, 0 no. Approved.

VIII. Adjournment

Ms. Morrison made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:50 p.m. Mr. Daeger seconded the motion. Mrs. Wahlman roll called. 6 yes, 0 no. Approved.

The Board of Trustees of Jennings County School Corporation did not discuss any subject matter in the Executive Session other than that specified in the Public Notice.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

\_\_\_\_\_  
Amy Pettit - President

\_\_\_\_\_  
Travis Shepherd

\_\_\_\_\_  
Chelsea Morrison - Vice President

\_\_\_\_\_  
Pat Sullivan

\_\_\_\_\_  
Susan Wahlman - Secretary

\_\_\_\_\_  
Earl Taggart

\_\_\_\_\_  
Tony Daeger