



Mr. Winchell informed the board that when preparing for the board meeting, we had one candidate application, so we were going to consider appointing a new member tonight. However, we had an additional applicant prior to the final deadline. Mr. Winchell recommended to the Board that we table this action item so they have time interview both Mr. Hamel and Mrs. Jaworski and allow them time to reflect on the interview process held earlier this evening. Mr. McGaughey asked when we would table the decision until. Mr. Winchell recommended that we table this item until next Tuesday, February 11<sup>th</sup>. Our next meeting date would typically be February 18<sup>th</sup>, but since we have a 30 day deadline to appoint a new board member, it would be in our best interest to hold a meeting on the 11<sup>th</sup> and then forgo our meeting on the 18<sup>th</sup>. Mr. Egger asked if forgoing our meeting on February 18<sup>th</sup> would create any issues for business that would typically be done during that time. Mr. Winchell assured the Board that we would be able to cover all necessary business on the 11<sup>th</sup> and then return to our regular schedule in March. Mr. Winchell also asked the board for permission to publish the agenda according to Open Door Laws on Friday, and then provide the board packet to the Board on Monday. Mr. Jared Egger made a motion made a motion to table the new business of considering the Appointment of School Board Member to fill Vacancy until February 11, 2025 and Mr. Todd McGaughey seconded the motion. The motion carried with a vote of four to zero.

## 2. Approve 2025-2026 and 2026-2027 District Calendars

Mr. Winchell noted that this is our annual effort to approve district calendars. We started a practice of trying to approve calendars 18 months in advance to allow families ample time to plan for vacations. We have been slow on this in the last few years due to the fluctuation of Falloween dates, but now that we have a three year contract in place for that, we worked in conjunction with the teacher's union. These two calendars represent reciprocal calendars to what we have now with one difference in the spring of the 2026-2027 calendar. Since Easter falls with Spring Break, we are not able to schedule our typical snow make-up days for Good Friday and Easter Monday, so you will notice a few less snow make-up days in the 2026 calendar but Spring Break is extended by one day. Mr. Egger asked if having fewer snow make-up days would require us to do anything if we need more make-up time. Mr. Winchell explained that our practice has been to:

- Use the traditional snow make-up days built into the annual calendar first.
- Followed by using 3 asynchronous eLearning days if needed.
- Lastly, we would look to add additional eLearning days or additional make-up days at the end of the year, depending on the remaining number of school days.

Mr. Jared Egger made a motion to approve 2025-2026 and 2026-2027 District Calendars and Mr. Todd McGaughey seconded the motion. The motion carried with a vote of four to zero.

## REPORTS

### 1. Director of Learning Report – Dr. Patrick Fuller

Dr. Fuller reported the following:

- We took a team to Swan Lake on the 20<sup>th</sup> for the textbook caravan. We have narrowed it down to three options, and we will meet to discuss the pros and cons; we will schedule them to do presentations and make our final selection before spring break. We are also working toward our additional goal of creating an ELA Curriculum Outline to highlight our ELA process from Kindergarten through High School.
- Today, we held the first of a series of Artificial Intelligence Professional Developments for the staff at JGSC. In a national poll, 53% of teachers who use AI rated the overall impact of using the AI platform as positive. In comparison, 87% reported receiving no training on incorporating AI in their work.
- Our goal with this series of PDs is to build awareness and understanding.

### 2. Superintendent's Report – Mr. Christopher Winchell

Mr. Winchell reported the following:

- Just to put it on the record again, we have a board vacancy due to Bob Borlik's retirement. Coupled with the process of changing the school board boundaries through the IDOE to incorporate Greene Township. That is why we interviewed candidates from Greene Township tonight. We will discuss the interviews in Executive Session tonight and then on February 11<sup>th</sup>, the Board will consider appointment of a new board member.
- Many great things are going on around the corporation this time of year, some of which have been highlighted by the principals already. We held freshman orientation at the high school last night. We require 45 high school credits to graduate, while the state requires 40 credits. The new graduation pathways and requirements were brought up at freshman orientation, and Mr. Manering reminded parents that John Glenn has been ahead of the curve for a long time by requiring 45 credits.
- We had three wrestlers take second place at the Laporte Sectional over the weekend. These three wrestlers will participate in the Crown Point Regional this coming weekend. This is a great accomplishment.
- The Girls' Basketball Team played in the first round of the Sectional at St. Joe tonight and won 37-35. They will play in the second round on Friday.
- The Boys' basketball team will have their Sectional draw on February 23<sup>rd</sup>.
- It is hard to believe we will be talking about Spring Sports very soon!
- The FFA participated in a Leadership Summit at Huntington University. We are fortunate that we have expanded programming in this area and added a second teacher over the past few years. They also competed in the Sections Parliamentary Procedures competition and took second place in the district.
- Winter Guard, our Winter Flag Team, won, not only their division but the entire event.
- We have discussed the adoption of the textbook we are working through with Dr. Fuller. Dr. Fuller has also done a great job with the ongoing professional development series in progress throughout the school year.
- We have a couple of teammates attending the Marshall County Leadership Series Cohort, Mr. Manering and Mr. Romer. Marshall County also offers a miniseries called Courage Keepers Courageous Leadership Series that a few staff members will attend.
- We have completed Checkpoint #2 for our I-Learn Testing recently. Checkpoint #3 will begin soon. Checkpoint #4 is the traditional spring test in May.
- Legislative Updates:
  - There is a bill out there that states if you have so many transfer students your school could become a charter school. There has been some concern about surfacing at John Glenn because we have many transfer students. To clarify, this bill addresses students transferring out of your school district, not students who transfer in to your district.
  - There is a bill that is looking to add oversight to Charter School budgets. We support that sort of bill and believe that anyone who takes taxpayer dollars to educate students should have the same oversight that traditional public schools have.
  - In Governor Braun's State of the State Address, he specifically referenced Senator Linda Roger's Education Matters Bill, specifically referencing moving the minimum salary of a teacher from \$40,000 per year to \$45,000 per year. When he mentioned it, he mentioned it implying that Senator Roger's bill was going to give each teacher a \$5,000 raise. For us, that would cost approximately \$900,000. Remember that we currently operate under the statutory 62% rule, where we are required to give teachers 62% of the Education Fund in the way of salaries and benefits to teachers. The \$900,000 that we would need actually equals \$1.35 million in new revenue from the State to provide 62% to teachers. After saying this, Governor Braun noted that he plans a 2% increase to school funding which would equal \$300,000. We would need an 8.5% increase in funding to provide the \$5,000 raise per teacher. We will continue to monitor this situation. Mr. Winchell has continued to engage with legislators regarding the Greene Township school building. We had a

unique road to annexing Greene Township, and we worked hard to keep the school building out of the negotiations. Now that the dust has settled and we have received some additional tax revenue and the max levy appeal, we are re-engaging in the conversation about the building. We are talking to legislators about the \$1 rule. That rule states that a charter school can purchase an underutilized public school building for \$1. Why should a traditional public school have to pay retail value, rather than just paying \$1 as a charter school would? We are continuing to work through this process. There is a lot of planning that needs to take place.

- With a new board member soon, it is always important to remember that our duty as school leaders is to protect and expand student programming. That can only be done with fantastic fiscal management. Two things can mess up fiscal management: facilities that are falling apart and a tax revenue cut from the legislators. We have a very sound facility management plan, and we work hard to stay on top of the legislative actions and how they will affect us. We lobby and challenge our legislators when appropriate. Inside the three major pillars, protecting student programming, growing student programming, and sound fiscal management, we also know the importance of early literacy and growing our reading scores. Another important measuring stick for us is our graduation rate. We are really proud to have such a high graduation rate. We have also made an effort to expand our work with staff professional development and enhance our work with curriculum review and alignment to grow all standardized test achievements. We regularly challenge ourselves to protect John Glenn Traditions and challenge the status quo to grow from good to great and from great to epic.

### 3. Conference Requests

- a. Glenda Smith
- b. Katie Nardi
- c. Bret Badjek
- d. Geoff Jankowski
- e. Ron Brown
- f. Dave Lichtenbarger

### BOARD COMMENTS/QUESTIONS

### UPCOMING EVENTS

NEXT MEETING DATE: February 11, 2025      7:00 P.M.   Admin Building   Regular Session

### ADJOURNMENT

Mrs. Christine Carson called the meeting adjourned at 8:06 P.M.

### EXECUTIVE SESSION

The Board met in Executive Session following the regular session to consider applications for appointment of a public official. No additional topics were discussed. The Executive Session was adjourned at 8:35 P.M.

PRES. \_\_\_\_\_

SEC'Y. \_\_\_\_\_

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