

School Board Meeting – April 22, 2025 Regular Session

CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL – 7:00 P.M.

ESTABLISH A QUORUM AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Board of School Trustees of the John Glenn School Corporation met in regular session at 7:00 p.m. on April 22, 2025, at the John Glenn Administration Building. Board members present were Jared Egger, Christine Carson, Kathy Jaworski, Ryan Knowlton, Christian Mattix and Carissa Smith. Todd McGaughey was absent. Superintendent Christopher Winchell and six observers were present.

DONATIONS & FUNDRAISERS (WES, NLES, UMS, JGHS)

Walkerton Elementary School

- Donation
 - Falcon 500 \$85 Kindergarten Field Trip

North Liberty Elementary School

- Donation
 - Falcon 500 \$88.30 Second Grade Chair Pockets
 - Kropp Fire Protection \$250 AHA Incentive Trip

Urey Middle School

- Fundraisers
 - Golf Outing 5/30/25

North Liberty Elementary School

- Donation
 - Falcon 500 \$41.19 Girls Basketball
 - Falcon 500 \$50 Environmental Science
 - William Morton \$100 Scholarship Fund in Memory of Richard Parker
 - Catherine Reese \$1500 Dick Reese Classic - Baseball
- Fundraisers
 - Falcon Travelers 5/2/25 Hat Day

Mr. Jared Egger made a motion to approve the named donations and fundraisers as presented, and Mrs. Kathy Jaworski seconded the motion. The motion carried with a vote of six to zero.

PUBLIC COMMENT

No Public Comment was made at tonight's meeting.

CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS #1 – 4

1. Approve Minutes – April 8, 2025 – Regular Session
2. Approve Vouchers – 104969 through 105010
3. Approve Personnel Recommendations

Retirements/Resignations

- a. Geoff Jankowski Varsity Assistant Football Coach, John Glenn High School
- b. Leslie Irish JV Softball Coach, John Glenn High School
- c. Shaina Patriquin Teacher, North Liberty Elementary School

Appointments

- a. Beth Smith Part-time Cafeteria Staff, John Glenn High School

4. Approve FLMA Request

Mr. Ryan Knowlton made a motion to approve Consent Agenda Items 1-4, and Ms. Carissa Smith seconded the motion. The motion carried with a vote of six to zero.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Second Reading of NEOLA Policies 37-1 and 36-2 Special Update

Mr. Winchell reminded the board that our bylaws require us to hold a first reading on potential policy changes with no action taken, and then we have a second reading where, if the board so chooses, they can take action to approve at that time. These updates are from NEOLA 37-1 and 36-2 Special Update Edgar/UGG, which relate to technical corrections and processes used in the business office pertaining to federal grants. We have met our criteria to update these policies and recommend that the board officially approve them. Mr. Jared Egger made a motion to approve Second Reading of NEOLA Policies 37-1 and 36-2 Special Update, and Mr. Ryan Knowlton seconded the motion. The motion carried with a vote of six to zero.

2. Approve Meal Prices for the 2025-2026 School Year

Mr. Winchell informed the board that we review our meal prices annually and run all our numbers through the federal calculator. After doing so, we determined that we should raise our prices this year by \$.05. We try hard to keep our meal costs as low as possible, but occasionally we get a nudge from the federal government to raise our prices. We belong to the Federal Food Program, so we get a lot of reimbursement from the federal government for students who qualify for free and reduced meals. That is why they have regulations on when we should raise our meal prices. Mr. Bendy added that we surveyed area schools to see their meal prices, and we appeared to be the lowest lunch prices in the area. This was a good time to do a slight increase. Our federal food account has been steady. Before last year, we did not have a price increase for four or five years. Mrs. Carson asked what percentage of students receive free or reduced meals, and Mr. Winchell stated that approximately 50% of our students receive free or reduced meals. Mr. Egger asked if we were concerned with the meal programs' federal funding. Mr. Bendy and Mr. Winchell agreed that we are not concerned since the Department of Agriculture oversees the Federal Food Program. There has been no commentary from D.C. about canceling the Department of Agriculture or the Food Program. Mr. Bendy further explained that the reimbursable rate for free meals is much higher than we charge. As long as the balance in our food service account remains consistent, they generally won't recommend that we raise our meal cost. If that balance were to dwindle, they would suggest an increase in our meal cost, as their goal is for us to charge all families the same amount as the reimbursable rate. Mr. Knowlton asked what we are doing differently from other local schools to keep our meal costs low. Mr. Bendy noted that having more students qualify for free meals helps our reimbursement rate, and the cost of food and the amount of labor we utilize are also closely monitored. We do very well as long as we have students eating our food. Mr. Winchell also added that we self-operate, self-administer, and self-oversee all aspects of the food service department. That allows us to control our costs more easily. For a final note, Mr. Winchell added that there are schools around us that

provide 100% free lunch for all of their students. They accomplish that by having more than 82.5% of free and reduced students. They get enough revenue back from the government to make that possible. We monitor it closely here, but we still have a way to go. Mr. Christian Mattix made a motion to approve Meal Prices for the 2025-2026 School Year, and Mrs. Kathy Jaworski seconded the motion. The motion carried with a vote of six to zero.

3. Approve Career and Technical Education Consortium Service Agreement

Mr. Winchell reminded the board that we belong to the North Central Career and Technical Education Consortium, which is the organization that provides a lot of the CTE programming for our students. Before you tonight, is the annual agreement with the consortium that we will all work together. This gives us the ability to pursue and accept Federal Perkins Grants. This is a status quo agreement, the same as we signed last year. Our course requests are up for career and technical education. At the beginning of this school year, we added culinary classes here on campus and heavy highway construction. We will continue to look for ways to expand programming for our students. Mr. Christian Mattix made a motion to approve Career and Technical Education Consortium Service Agreement, and Mr. Jared Egger seconded the motion. The motion carried with a vote of six to zero.

4. Award Construction Bid for Outdoor Facility Project with Brown and Brown

Mr. Winchell noted that we have been working through projects according to our Master Facilities Plan. We began our facility updates in the elementary schools, with new windows, roofing, HVAC, and lighting. We also updated the carpet, some bathrooms, and classroom furniture. We contemplated which project to tackle next, the outdoor project at the high school, or to start windows and HVAC at Urey. When we received the significant donation from the Reese Family for the baseball lights, we knew we would need to commit to installing lights at the softball field and supporting infrastructure. We knew the significant need for restrooms at the softball and soccer fields, and the need to make all of our fields more accessible to those with mobility challenges. When this project was put out to bid, our goal was to be under \$6.8 million. We were very excited when the winning bid was \$6.1 million from Brown and Brown. We have previously worked with Brown and Brown on the 2020 North Liberty Elementary School Project. In front of you tonight is the recommendation to approve Brown and Brown's bid for the outdoor project. Barton Coe Vilamaa has reviewed all the paperwork and agrees that Brown and Brown is the project's lowest, most responsive bidder. We have met all of our statutory requirements to make this official, and upon your approval, we will get this project started as soon as possible. Mr. Egger noted that there are rumors that the baseball field will have a turf field installed, and wanted it stated on the record that turf is not included in this current project. Mr. Jared Egger made a motion to approve Construction Bid for Outdoor Facility Project with Brown and Brown, and Ms. Carissa Smith seconded the motion. The motion carried with a vote of six to zero.

5. Approve Purchase over \$75,000 – Co-op Bleacher Purchase for Outdoor Facility Project to Dant Clayton

Mr. Winchell explained that, as we have been designing the outdoor project, it made sense to utilize an annual pre-bid statewide co-op bid for the bleachers. This allowed us to work with Dant Clayton to design what we need at each field. We request the board's approval to purchase the bleachers for the baseball field, softball field, and to replace the football visitor stands, through this co-op purchase. Using the pre-approved bid, we do have to collect three bids as we usually do for projects between \$75,000 and \$300,000. To re-emphasize, Dant Clayton is a bleacher company that put out bids at the beginning of the year to become the state and federally approved Bleacher Company. We are within our statutory guidelines to use them for our bleacher purchase. Mrs. Carson asked about the warranty provided. Mr. Groves noted that we will utilize an annual inspection agreement, in which they will inspect the bleachers annually and make minor repairs for a set price. Some companies provide these services through a separate state bid. Mr. Ryan Bowland, Barton Coe Vilamaa, added that this state bid was very close to

their original budget, and Barton Coe Vilamaa agrees that this is the most competitive price for what we need. Mr. Winchell added that if we had put the bleachers out to bid ourselves, we may have received a slightly better price, but by utilizing the pre-approved state bid, we ensured that our design specifications were met. A traditional bid may not have been able to provide these exact designs. Mr. Ryan Knowlton made a motion to approve Purchase over \$75,000 – Co-op Bleacher Purchase for Outdoor Facility Project to Dant Clayton, and Mrs. Kathy Jaworski seconded the motion. The motion carried with a vote of six to zero.

6. Approve Purchase over \$75,000 – Lockers for John Glenn High School from Sharp School Supply

Mr. Winchell noted that, like many other things throughout our buildings, the John Glenn High School lockers are nearing the end of their lives, and many are unusable. Except for the senior hallway, the lockers need to be replaced. We have often said that the high school is costly to renovate, and tackling smaller projects a little at a time is much more cost-effective. We have been slow to pull the trigger on the project, so we could see where the overall project bid came in. Now that we know the project came in better than anticipated, we are comfortable proceeding with this project. In addition, this quote is guaranteed to remain the same regardless of any potential tariffs. Mr. Groves added that lockers will be replaced in the freshman, sophomore, and junior hallways, and lockers will be added. This will increase our total lockers to almost 800 from 623, allowing for growth. Mr. Bendy added that new lockers at the high school have been on the Master Facilities Plan since he arrived in 2014 as a wish list item. It has been a priority, but it needed to be funded from a project, as it was too expensive to pay for from the Operations Fund. This project will be funded by the interest that we have earned. We have approximately \$60,000 left over on our 2022 GO Bond that will be used as well. Mr. Ryan Knowlton made a motion to approve Purchase over \$75,000 – Lockers for John Glenn High School from Sharp School Supply, and Mr. Christian Mattix seconded the motion. The motion carried with a vote of six to zero.

7. Approve Purchase over \$75,000 – HVAC Controls for John Glenn High School from Havel

Mr. Winchell continued, we are trying to pepper in projects at the high school as we complete projects at the other buildings. Our HVAC controls at the high school are past their prime. Controls last 10-20 years. First, they begin to not control what they are supposed to control. Second, the software updates are so frequent that we can get to a point where the software is no longer supported. Mr. Groves added that we have already replaced the front-end controls at the high school that impact controls in the gyms, cafeteria, band, and choir rooms. This project will address the thermostats in each classroom, and teachers will be excited to have control over their classroom temperature. Mr. Christian Mattix made a motion to approve Purchase over \$75,000 – HVAC Controls for John Glenn High School from Havel, and Mr. Jared Egger seconded the motion. The motion carried with a vote of six to zero.

REPORTS

1. Director of Learning Report – Dr. Patrick Fuller

Dr. Fuller reported the following:

- ILEARN testing continues for the next few weeks. Keep our kids and teachers in your thoughts as we continue.
- Summer School will look a little different this year. Last year, the Boys and Girls Club informed us that they were doing away with their traditional summer care program, so we agreed to provide a hybrid program. Parents had the option for their students to attend the all-day program with Boys and Girls Club, where summer school was in the morning, and then traditional Boys and Girls Club programming was held in the afternoon. Other parents chose to have their students attend traditional summer school hosted by the corporation. This year, we are offering strictly Boys and Girls Club Summer School for kindergarten through 7th-grade students. We will hire all

of the teachers who will teach summer school, and we will recommend the students who need to attend. They will use a DOE-approved curriculum.

- We will offer traditional Kindercamp from June 2nd through June 20th at Walkerton Elementary.
- K-8 students will begin on June 9th and run to July 11th.
- The Boys and Girls Club will offer childcare for the week of June 2nd through 6th at a cost.
- July 11th will be the last day of all programming.
- The high school summer school programming will not be changing. They will operate from May 30th through June 20th.
- We will offer transportation for morning and noon.
- If students stay the entire day at the Boys and Girls Club, parents will need to pick them up at 4:30.
- We will have multiple teaching positions available and have 50 teachers interested. We will continue to work through this process. All K-8 programming will be held free of charge.

2. Superintendent's Report – Mr. Christopher Winchell

Mr. Winchell reported the following:

- We had a great turnout at the field naming on Saturday at the Dick Reese Classic. Thank you to the board for naming the field for Mr. Reese. The excitement was palpable. We are so appreciative and humbled by their generous donation to the lighting project and their overall generosity.
- I sit on the United Way Board of St. Joseph County. They help fund our Kindercamp. They are currently searching for a new Executive Director. I dream they will one day fund a Walkerton Neighborhood Center just as they have with the Southeast Side Community Center and the Mishawaka Neighborhood Center. We also partner with United Way on the ALICE Program, which provides resources and financial counseling support to income-limited families. This is a pilot program that we are very fortunate to participate in.
- We are touring Greene Township School with Superintendent Eid at SBCSC. They know we would like the building if the financial situation were perfect. Many things play a part in it, but conversations are ongoing. We are cautious because we understand the financial investment required to take on a vacant building. Mrs. Jaworski added that it has been eight years since students have been in that building.

3. Conference Requests

- a. Daniel Medesi
- b. Katie Nardi
- c. Jeff Johnson

BOARD COMMENTS/QUESTIONS

Mr. Mattix asked how we were doing with buses. Mr. Groves noted that we are struggling and can't wait until our three new buses arrive early this summer. We are currently down two buses due to minor fender benders requiring repair.

UPCOMING EVENTS

NLES Fun Fair – Friday, May 2nd

JGHS Prom – Saturday, May 3rd

NEXT MEETING DATE: May 6, 2025 7:00 P.M. JG Admin Regular Session

ADJOURNMENT

Mrs. Christine Carson called the meeting adjourned at 8:42 P.M.

PRES. _____

SEC'Y. _____
