

School Board Meeting – January 6, 2026 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 January 6, 2026, at the John Glenn Administration Building. Board members present were Jared Egger, Kathy Jaworski, Ryan Knowlton, Christian Mattix, Christine Carson, and Todd McGaughey. Carissa Smith was absent. Superintendent Christopher Winchell and 6 observers were present. The meeting was also available for virtual attendance.

REORGANIZATION OF THE BOARD OF SCHOOL TRUSTEES

PRESIDENT Ryan Knowlton

Mrs. Christine Carson noted that the tradition of the JG Board is to rotate board officers each year. Mrs. Carson then nominated Mr. Ryan Knowlton as President. Mrs. Kathy Jaworski seconded the motion. The motion carried with a vote of six to zero.

VICE PRESIDENT Carissa Smith

Mrs. Christine Carson nominated Ms. Carissa Smith for Vice President. Mrs. Kathy Jaworski seconded the motion. The motion carried with a vote of six to zero.

SECRETARY Christian Mattix

Mrs. Christine Carson nominated Mr. Christian Mattix for the position of Secretary. Mrs. Kathy Jaworski seconded the motion. The motion carried with a vote of six to zero.

Mr. Ryan Knowlton took over as President for the remainder of the meeting.

TREASURER Tom Bendy

Mr. Christian Mattix made a motion to approve Tom Bendy as Treasurer, and Mr. Jared Egger seconded the motion. The motion carried with a vote of six to zero.

DEPUTY TREASURER Collin Barker

Mr. Christian Mattix made a motion to approve Collin Barker as Deputy Treasurer, and Mr. Jared Egger seconded the motion. The motion carried with a vote of six to zero.

LEGISLATIVE LIAISON Ryan Knowlton

Mr. Jared Egger made a motion to retain Ryan Knowlton as Legislative Liaison, and Mrs. Christine Carson seconded the motion. The motion carried with a vote of six to zero.

JGSC TECHNOLOGY COMMITTEE Christian Mattix

Carissa Smith

Mr. Jared Egger made a motion to retain Mr. Christian Mattix and Ms. Carissa Smith on the JGSC Technology Committee. Mrs. Christine Carson seconded the motion. The motion carried with a vote of six to zero.

JGHS ATHLETIC COUNCIL

Jared Egger

Mrs. Christine Carson made a motion to retain Mr. Jared Egger to the JGHS Athletic Council, and Mrs. Kathy Jaworski seconded the motion. The motion carried with a vote of six to zero.

HIGH ABILITIES COMMITTEE

Christine Carson

Mr. Todd McGaughey made a motion to retain Mrs. Christine Carson on the High Abilities Committee, and Mr. Christian Mattix seconded the motion. The motion carried with a vote of six to zero.

REGULAR MEETING DATE AND TIME

First and Third Tuesday of Every Month, 7:00 p.m.

Mr. Christian Mattix made a motion to keep the meeting date and time on the first and third Tuesday of every month, at 7:00 p.m., and Mrs. Christine Carson seconded the motion. The motion carried with a vote of six to zero. It was noted that there are a few meetings a year that will deviate from the general schedule, typically in July, November, and December, to coincide with holidays and school breaks.

BOARD SALARY

\$2,000 Annually

Mr. Jared Egger made a motion to keep the School Board salary at \$2,000 annually per member, and Mrs. Christine Carson seconded the motion. The motion carried with a vote of six to zero.

SCHOOL ATTORNEY

Newby, Lewis, Kaminski and Jones, LLP

Mr. Christian Mattix made a motion to retain the law firm of Newby, Lewis, Kaminski and Jones, LLP, as legal counsel for the John Glenn School Corporation, and Mr. Jared Egger seconded the motion. The motion carried with a vote of six to zero.

Mr. Mattix asked if it was possible to obtain a report from Mr. Kaminski regarding the billable hours for legal services in 2025. Mr. Winchell will follow up and report back.

DESIGNATION OF NEWSPAPER/S FOR
PUBLISHING LEGAL NOTICES FOR
SCHOOL CORPORATION

Plymouth Pilot

South Bend Tribune

Mrs. Christine Carson made a motion to designate the Plymouth Pilot and the South Bend Tribune for publishing required legal notices for the John Glenn School Corporation, and Mr. Christian Mattix seconded the motion. The motion carried with a vote of six to zero.

AUTHORIZATION OF SUPERINTENDENT TO EMPLOY SUBSTITUTE PERSONNEL

Mr. Todd McGaughey made a motion to approve the Authorization of the Superintendent to Employ Substitute Personnel, and Mrs. Kathy Jaworski seconded the motion. The motion carried with a vote of six to zero.

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

North Liberty Elementary School:

- Donation
 - Anonymous Patron \$1000 Families in need

Urey Middle School:

- Donation
 - Falcon 500 \$100 Weiss Health Class Service Project

John Glenn High School

- Donations
 - Friends of Potato Creek \$150 Choir
 - James & Patricia Houser \$100 Drama
 - Lakeville Lions Club \$300 Choir
 - Northern Edge Construction \$500 Wrestling
 - Walkerton Tri Kappa \$100 Drama

Mrs. Christine Carson made a motion to approve the above-named donations and fundraisers, and Mr. Todd McGaughey seconded the motion. The motion carried with a vote of six to zero.

Mr. Winchell highlighted that Mr. Romer noted that NLES helped 133 students through their Gifts of Love Program. That is just one of the many programs that our buildings participate in to help our local community. We have a similar program at WES called Adopt-a-Family, and at Urey, students host a toy drive in conjunction with local churches that participate in Santa’s Workshop. We do not need any credit, but I also do not want to gloss over all the extra work that is done at the building level with the support of our administration teams, but really, it is every teammate. Santa’s workshop serves about 175 kids; they served 133 kids at North Liberty, and I am sure it was a similar number with Adopt-a-Family at Walkerton. I know these things have already been mentioned, but I wanted to take a moment to highlight the numerous philanthropic initiatives that occur within our buildings. We are fortunate to have such great community support. I am truly proud that, despite all the barriers students face, we successfully provide them with the launching pad of a high school diploma, which is quantified with our 100% graduation rate. It starts right here with the Board, who works hard to hire the right leadership team and then supports the leadership team to utilize their expertise, which trickles down to the rest of our teammates, top to bottom. This is a whole team effort.

Mrs. Jaworski added that community service projects, such as our toy drives, food drives and adopt-a-family projects, are just as important as our academic teachings. We are also teaching students to be good citizens and consider the needs of others.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment made at tonight’s meeting.

CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS #1 – 4

1. Approve Minutes – December 2, 2025 – Regular Session
2. Approve Vouchers – 106406 through 106553
3. Approve Personnel Recommendations

Retirements/Resignations/Terminations

- a. Ben Ennis Head Wrestling Coach, Urey Middle School

- b. Adhemar Ennis Instructional Aide, Walkerton Elementary School
- c. Scott Schuster Golf Coach, Urey Middle School

Appointments

- a. Victoria Jolly Part-time Instructional Aide, Walkerton Elementary School
- b. Kaley Wood Part-time Instructional Aide, Walkerton Elementary School
- c. Kelsey Buyssee Homebound Instructor, Walkerton Elementary School
- d. Rachel Wallace Winter Term Remediation Teacher, John Glenn High School
- e. Leslie Irish Winter Term Remediation Teacher, John Glenn High School

4. Conflict of Interest Statements

Conflict of Interest Statements for Jared Egger, Todd McGaughey, and Carissa Smith were presented to the Board for approval, as they have immediate family members employed by the corporation.

Mrs. Christine Carson made a motion to approve Consent Agenda Items 1-4, and Mr. Todd McGaughey seconded the motion. The motion carried with a vote of six to zero.

Mr. Winchell took a moment to note that Ben Ennis has resigned as the Wrestling Coach at Urey Middle School to pursue a greater adventure in coaching at Ancilla College. Ben is just another example of a John Glenn alumnus who is doing great things; we wish him well.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Appoint MASE Insurance Trust Board Member – Jeremy Merrill

Mr. Winchell reminded the Board that we are part of an insurance consortium called MASE. Every school that is a member of the consortium has two votes. One who is a member of the administration team, and one who is a member of the teacher's union team. The superintendent is the appointee who votes for the administration team, but the teachers' union must also appoint a member. Mr. Scott Richie has recently stepped down from this position on the MASE Insurance Trust Board after serving for many years. The Union has requested that the Board appoint Mr. Jeremy Merrill as their representative on the MASE Trust Board, and I fully support this recommendation. Mr. Christian Mattix made a motion to appoint MASE Insurance Trust Board Member – Jeremy Merrill, and Mr. Jared Egger seconded the motion. The motion carried with a vote of six to zero.

2. Approve Superintendent Contract Addendum

Mr. Winchell noted that the board was very gracious in including this Superintendent in the salary updates that were approved for all staff in December. We needed to correct a Scrivener's error before we could approve this addendum. This addendum reflects the same contract approval for the other administrators that was made in December. There is a \$1,800 increase to the annual annuity, the same as for the other administrators, to offset the loss of the VEBA contribution. Additionally, there is a \$4,000 increase to the HSA, similar to the other administrators, due to changes in health plans. The Board also graciously noted that they would like to add five vacation days per year. Mr. Jared Egger made a motion to approve Superintendent Contract Addendum, and Mrs. Christine Carson seconded the motion. The motion carried with a vote of six to zero.

REPORTS

1. Superintendent's Report – Mr. Christopher Winchell Mr. Winchell reported the following:

- It seems that everyone had a nice break. We are back up and running, and the countdown is on to Spring Break.
- We received our 1782 notice back from the State. Once we approve the Budget each October, we submit it to the Department of Local Government Finance (DLGF), which reviews it. They then issue the 1782 notice, which serves as the temporary budget order. We have a chance to review the temporary order before issuing the final Budget. We were within \$56 of the approximate \$5 million levy. This highlights the excellent work of Mr. Bendy and Collin. With SB 1, everyone is worried about municipalities losing funding. It is essential to note that, here at John Glenn, we are not losing funding per se, but rather, we are being affected by increased circuit breaker losses. Circuit breaker losses are tied to property taxes. In our 2025 budget order, our circuit breaker losses were \$290,000. In this budget order, our circuit breaker losses are \$680,000. As we have been projecting our budget, we were expecting about a \$300,000-\$400,000 increase in our circuit breaker losses. We would anticipate that this will grow again in 2027 and in 2028. We have prepared for this over the years. We have been very deliberate about growing our cash balance over the last few years. We were also fortunate to receive the Max Levy Appeal after the annexation of Greene Township, which resulted in approximately \$800,000 to \$900,000 more in revenue, helping us absorb the losses due to the circuit breaker. We will continue to closely monitor the changes, but I felt it was important to quantify some of these numbers on the record. At our next board meeting, we will hold the Board of Finance meeting. Mr. Bendy, Collin, and I will provide more detailed information about the budget and funding. As I have been closely following the budget changes in local municipalities, I have noticed that many of our surrounding municipalities use Baker Tilly to assist with building their budgets. I was happy to share at a local legislative event that here at John Glenn, we work with Baker Tilly to do our bonds, but we build our own budget. We are so fortunate to have the team that we do.
- It is hard to believe, but January is the time that we start thinking about staffing for August. That being said, we anticipate expanding the shop class offerings at Urey Middle School. This, of course, would require us to hire a new ELA teacher. We take extra care to review our program offerings, noting which are successful and which need to be redesigned to best meet the needs of our students. We identify areas where we need to add staff and also note which areas may be able to rearrange staff to achieve our goals.
- For the last several years, there have been conversations about the State bringing back school grades. One of the many ways schools can earn points towards their school grades is by the number of CTE classes they offer at the middle school level, as well as the high school credits that are offered and earned at the middle school level. We are continually brainstorming ways to enhance our program offerings for students. With the redesign of the high school diploma graduation requirements, there is a greater emphasis on work-based learning and CTE credits, while the requirement for PE has been reduced from two credits to one credit. When we examine all these changes collectively, we can fine-tune our class and program offerings. To bring it full circle, thank you for approving our Winter Term Remediation Teachers. As you are aware, Ms. Irish has been providing remediation over Christmas Break for students who may have fallen behind in their credits. One of the new criteria the State is going to look at is the number of freshman students who have completed all their necessary credits by the end of their freshman year. Proactively, we expanded our winter term to include freshmen who may be at risk at this time. That is why we approved two teachers this year, rather than one.

BOARD COMMENTS/QUESTIONS

UPCOMING EVENTS

NEXT MEETING DATE: January 20, 2026 7:00 P.M. Admin Building Regular Session

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Ryan Knowlton called the meeting adjourned at 7:56 P.M.

PRES. _____

SEC'Y. _____
