

**School Board Meeting – April 7, 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 April 7, 2026, at the John Glenn Administration Building. Board members present were Jared Egger, Kathy Jaworski, Ryan Knowlton, Christian Mattix, Todd McGaughey, and Carissa Smith. Christine Carson was absent. Superintendent Christopher Winchell and twelve observers were present. The meeting was also available for virtual attendance.

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

Urey Middle School:

- Donation
  - Polygon \$5000 STEM Drones

John Glenn High School:

- Donations
  - Midwinter Band Concert \$537.25 Band
  - Falcon 500 \$150 Top 10% Banquet
  - O'Connor Delivery Services \$361.25 Drama  
Delivery service provided
  - Southwire/Blackbaud Giving \$50 Girls Golf
  - Brian and Theresa Schmeltz \$100 Drama  
In Memory of Nathan Cannon Smith
- Fundraisers
  - Softball 3/19-4/12 Hit-a-thon
  - Softball 3/19-4/12 BBQ Dinner Sale

John Glenn School Corporation:

- Donation:
  - EO Advisors \$25,0000 Brainware Program

Mr. Christian Mattix 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.

PUBLIC COMMENT

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

CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS #1 – 6

1. Approve Minutes – March 3, 2026 – Regular Session
2. Approve Vouchers – 106906 through 107057
3. Approve Personnel Recommendations

## **Retirements/Resignations/Terminations**

- a. Heather Thompson School Nurse, John Glenn High School
- b. Heather Nimon Teacher, Urey Middle School
- c. Danielle Combs School Nurse, Urey Middle School
- d. Renee Hensler Fall and Winter Cheer Coach, John Glenn High School
- e. Laura Patrick Teacher, John Glenn High School
- f. Lexia Pearish Building Secretary, John Glenn High School
- g. Amy Weiss Teacher, Walkerton Elementary School

## ***Appointments***

- a. Chris Fleck Boys Golf Assistant Coach, John Glenn High School
- b. Elizabeth Drotar Pit Crew, John Glenn High School
- c. Amanda Paschen Pit Crew, John Glenn High School
- d. Mike Clark Seasonal Custodial Groundskeeper, John Glenn School Corporation
- e.. Colin Stephens Girls Tennis Assistant Coach, John Glenn High School

## ***Transfers***

- a. Billy Harness Transfer from Boys Basketball Varsity Assistant Coach to Boys Basketball JV Head Coach, John Glenn High School

## **4. Approve Student Transfer Requests**

To date, we have received 109 transfer student requests for the 2025-2026 school year.

- 5. Approve Administrative Leave
- 6. Approve FMLA

Mr. Winchell took a moment to thank Mrs. Amy Weiss for her 30 years of dedicated service to the John Glenn School Corporation. She has been an anchor and champion for our early literacy and reading efforts. She's been a long-time staple, and as much as we will miss her as she retires, we wish her well. He also noted that Mrs. Patrick wishes to extend her thanks to Mr. Manering and the Board for their patience as she works through her extended medical leave. It is not often that we comment on personnel items, but she specifically asked that I thank Mr. Manering, the School Board, and the Central Office Team for helping her work through the process of her medical leave and now, retirement.

Mr. Jared Egger made a motion to approve Consent Agenda Items 1-6, and Mr. Christian Mattix seconded the motion. The motion carried with a vote of six to zero.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### **1. Approve Overnight Field Trip – Girls Basketball Summer Trips**

Mr. Winchell commented that while this request is specifically for the Girls Basketball Team, many of our teams do special activities throughout the summer. These activities are great opportunities for our students to participate in team-building activities and build relationships with their teammates and coaches. As you may remember, all overnight field trips require school board approval. I recommend that the board approve these trips to the Wisconsin Dells and Clinton Prairie High School. Mr. Christian Mattix made a motion to approve Overnight Field Trip – Girls Basketball Summer Trips, and Mrs. Kathy Jaworski seconded the motion. The motion carried with a vote of six to zero.

### **2. Approve Overnight Field Trip – Knox CTE Student**

Mr. Winchell noted that, similar to above, this is for Ali Cruz to participate in the Phoenix Challenge, a Digital Design Competition, as part of her CTE Programming at Knox High School. Ali was one of the few students chosen to participate in this challenge, which will be held in North Carolina. Mr. Todd McGaughey made a motion to approve Overnight Field Trip – Knox CTE Student, and Ms. Carissa Smith seconded the motion. The motion carried with a vote of six to zero.

### 3. Approve Resolution to Transfer Amounts from the Education Fund to the Operations Fund

Mr. Winchell explained that this is our quarterly request to the board to document our plan to transfer \$175,000 per month from the Education Fund to the Operations Fund. This is a formality that dates to budget changes that the State made in 2019. Mr. Christian Mattix made a motion to approve Resolution to Transfer Amounts from the Education Fund to the Operations Fund, and Mr. Jared Egger seconded the motion. The motion carried with a vote of six to zero.

### 4. Approve Purchase over \$75,000 – Chromebooks

Mr. Winchell reminded the Board that school board policy requires special approval for any purchase over \$75,000. Purchases between \$75,000 and \$300,000 require us to obtain three quotes or to purchase through a state-approved bid. Purchases over \$300,000 would require us to follow the statutory bid process, guaranteed energy savings process, construction management process, or one of the statutorily approved processes.

This is our annual request to purchase Chromebooks for the incoming freshman class. This purchase request also includes laptops for various areas, including front offices, the Science, Art, and STEM departments, and high-ability classes. It also includes the purchase of Chromebooks for some staff. We plan to transition the majority of staff to Chromebooks because they are significantly less expensive and carry lower cybersecurity risks and costs. As you remember, we are working to close the \$500,000 operational budget deficit, as mandated by SEA Enrollment Act 1 of the 2025 Indiana General Assembly.

The data center boom and the war in the Middle East have significantly impacted technology expenses right now. Vendor quotes are only guaranteed for 48 hours, and prices are rising rapidly. The State is currently providing schools with high-quality cybersecurity software at no cost. Schools have been informed that they will need to shoulder those costs in the next year or so. Anywhere we can transition from laptops to Chromebooks without negatively impacting instruction will help reduce this future cost. Mr. Daniel Medesi, Director of Technology, added that last year, when we purchased Chromebooks for the incoming freshman, the cost was approximately \$65,000. This year, it is close to \$90,000. That is a significant increase for one year.

Mrs. Carissa Smith asked whether all staff would be required to switch to Chromebooks. Mr. Medesi explained that it would be a mixture. The technology team is working through each department, grade level, and office to determine which programs they run and what their needs are. Mrs. Smith also asked how teachers are feeling about the transition to a different type of device. Mr. Medesi noted that the current review is mixed. There is always uncertainty when making big changes, but the technology department is here and eager to help with the transition. Mr. Winchell also suggested that Mrs. Smith ask the teachers present how they feel about the transition from computers to Chromebooks. Mr. Merrill shared that the news was not positively received at all. Mr. Winchell noted that similar changes have been equally challenging over time. Mrs. Amanda Smith reiterated that there is a lot of unknown, and with continued open discussion, everyone would reach the same goals. Mr. Winchell noted that the administration team is committed to ensuring that all staff members who truly need a laptop receive one.

Mr. McGaughey asked if teachers who currently have a laptop can just keep it. Mr. Medesi explained that it is an option; it is very important to keep our devices on a replacement schedule. Devices can fail at any time. Mr. Mattix asked if it was time for us to consider creating more of a computer lab-type setting for

students to utilize actual computers rather than Chromebooks. Mr. Medesi shared that many of our departments already have mini computer labs built into them, such as the science, art, and industrial tech departments, because of their unique software needs. In summary, Mr. Winchell added that while we need to make financially responsible decisions, we also need to consider the best academic practices. Our teachers are fantastic teammates. The administration team is continuously trying to balance cost with programming. The staff may not be totally thrilled about our transition to Chromebooks, but we are sensitive to that and will maintain a portion of laptops. We do need to transition to some Chromebooks due to cost and cybersecurity concerns. We have discussed SB 1, and the reduction in property taxes will affect us directly. We need to reduce the budget by \$500,000. We exist to provide student programming, and we must make decisions to protect it. That includes protecting teachers and keeping the classes that we currently have. To do that, we may have to make some tough decisions about supplies. It's been a long time since we have had to make this type of tough decision at John Glenn due to State Funding. Mr. Jared Egger made a motion to approve Purchase over \$75,000 – Chromebooks, and Mr. Christian Mattix seconded the motion. The motion carried with a vote of five to one.

#### 5. Approve Summer School MOU with Boys and Girls Club

Mr. Winchell noted that, similar to last year, we have the opportunity to partner with the Boys and Girls Club for summer school and after-school care. For the past few years, the Boys and Girls Club has received a grant that not only covers teachers' salaries but also provides free after-school care for our families who want to take advantage of it. We will provide building needs, transportation, and service, and the Boys and Girls Club will cover teacher salaries. Dr. Fuller added that summer school will begin on June 1<sup>st</sup> and conclude on July 2<sup>nd</sup>. We are very excited to partner with them again this year. He also reminded the board that we make recommendations to the BGC on which students need the extra instruction provided during summer school, and who should be hired as teachers. Mr. Christian Mattix made a motion to approve Summer School MOU with Boys and Girls Club, and Mrs. Kathy Jaworski seconded the motion. Mr. Winchell made special note that Ms. Carissa Smith's daughter has been promoted by the BGC to be a local manager here at John Glenn, and we congratulate her. The motion carried with a vote of six to zero.

#### 6. Approve Teacher Appreciation Grant and Distributions

Mr. Winchell noted that we are pleased to announce that, based on the distribution we received from the Indiana Department of Education, we were able to award eighteen \$3,500 stipends in the Teacher Appreciation Grant. The Teacher Appreciation Grant is a special stipend that the Indiana General Assembly began many years ago. We used to be able to distribute it to all teachers. It was decided in this most recent legislative session that the Teacher Appreciation Grant could be awarded to only 20% of teachers. They also stipulated that the dollar amounts be \$3,500, \$5,500, or \$7,500. They give us a specific amount of money, and then we must decide how to distribute it within their guidelines. The administration and teacher union teams first decided to use the \$3,500 stipend, and based on the total stipend we received from the State, there were eighteen stipends. The discussion team then reviewed the state's specifications and added local criteria, including a minimum score on their teacher evaluation and involvement in extracurricular activities. Teachers had to apply to be considered. The discussion team leadership then reviewed the applicants to confirm they met the criteria, and those individuals were entered into a lottery. We prorated the eighteen grants based on the number of teachers per building. This has been a very long, complicated process. We have reached a reasonable conclusion based on all the stipulations the State has imposed on us. The teacher team shared that they appreciate how transparent this process has been. Mr. Jared Egger made a motion to approve Teacher Appreciation Grant and Distributions, and Mr. Todd McGaughey seconded the motion. The motion carried with a vote of six to zero.

## REPORTS

## 1. Assistant Superintendent's Report – Dr. Patrick Fuller

Dr. Fuller provided a complete overview of the results of the recent parent and community survey. His complete report is available on our website.

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

Mr. Winchell reported the following:

- We are going to take the data that we received from the survey and start building future calendars. This is excellent feedback that will be instrumental in our corporation's calendars over the next several years. We will continue working with the discussion team and have the 2027-2028 calendar for approval soon.
- Top 10% Academic Banquet – This is just such a highlight of the year. It is such a special moment as they get to recognize the educators who have impacted them the most. We pride ourselves on building relationships with our students, and this is an impactful example of how important that is.
- Spring sports are trying to navigate the weather. The recent four inches of rain have not helped our outdoor project or our sports calendars.
- There are 31 days of school left. There is still much to do!
- There is a special recognition tomorrow at the State House for any elementary school that earned a 95% or higher pass rate for I-READ 3 last year.
- The ISBA Spring Meeting is tomorrow at Swan Lake. We will be recognized at the meeting for being a Commendable School Board.
- John Glenn will hold the Region 2 IASBO Meeting next Wednesday at the Walkerton Community Building, and our culinary students will be preparing the meal. Senator Mishler will be the speaker.
- Commencement will be held on Friday, May 22<sup>nd</sup>. Fingers are crossed for good weather.
- Standardized testing – We have finished the first window for I-READ 3, and we are currently in the second window. The high school recently completed the SAT and is reviewing results. I-LEARN testing will begin soon.
- Facilities – Our projects are coming along nicely, despite all the rain. Unfortunately, the restrooms aren't finished yet, but we hope they will be by commencement. We should be very proud of how we have stewarded our money and planned each of these projects. We have completed a lot of work while lowering the tax rate. We are grateful for the continued community support.
- On the heels of looking at the report we shared from Policy Analytic last board meeting, we have had some time to really evaluate. The state has really stretched us in the Operations Fund due to circuit breaker losses. We have gone from a \$300,000 loss last year to a \$700,000 loss this year. We were able to combat that by not taking a bond this year as we had planned. Over the next several years, we will lose an additional \$600,000 in circuit breakers. We are already working to cut an additional \$500,000 from the Operations Fund. While this wasn't good news, we do have time to adjust. It was a wise decision not to take a bond in 2026. This has allowed us to have funding available to take a bond in 2027 for the 2028 budget year. We still need to complete HVAC, door, and window updates at Urey. Despite big financial changes by the state, John Glenn is still in a very strong financial state. We may have to shift our priorities a bit, but we are very financially stable.
- JGEF Gala is Friday, April 10<sup>th</sup>.

## 3. Conference Requests

- a. Glenda Smith
- b. Trisha Tibbs
- c. Bret Bajdek
- d. Katie Nardi

BOARD COMMENTS/QUESTIONS

UPCOMING EVENTS

NEXT MEETING DATE: April 21, 2026 7:00 P.M. Admin Building Regular Session

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Ryan Knowlton called the meeting adjourned at 8:26 P.M.

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

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

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