

School Board Meeting – May 5, 2026 Regular & Executive 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 May 5, 2026, at the John Glenn Administration Building. Board members present were Christine Carson, Jared Egger, Kathy Jaworski, Ryan Knowlton, and Todd McGaughey. Christian Mattix and Carissa Smith were absent. Superintendent Christopher Winchell and 22 observers were present throughout New Business Item 1, and nine observers were present throughout the meeting. The meeting was also available for virtual attendance.

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

North Liberty Elementary School

➤ Donations

- | | | |
|--------------|------|---|
| • Falcon 500 | \$40 | 5 th Grade Prizes & Supplies |
| • Falcon 500 | \$40 | High Ability Stem Camp T-shirts |

Urey Middle School

➤ Donations

- | | | |
|--------------|------|--------------------|
| • Falcon 500 | \$40 | I-Learn Activities |
| • Falcon 500 | \$40 | STEM |
| • Falcon 500 | \$40 | Art |

John Glenn High School:

➤ Donations

- | | | |
|--------------|------|----------------------------|
| • Falcon 500 | \$40 | Advanced Child Development |
|--------------|------|----------------------------|

Mr. Jared Egger made a motion to approve Donations & Fundraisers as presented, and Mrs. Christine Carson seconded the motion. The motion carried with a vote of five to zero.

PUBLIC COMMENT

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

CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS #1 – 3

1. Approve Minutes – April 21, 2026 – Regular Session
2. Approve Vouchers – 107172 through 107238
3. Approve Personnel Recommendations

Retirements/Resignations

- | | |
|-------------------|--|
| a. Pamela Hayes | Teacher, Walkerton Elementary School |
| b. Carla Gurtner | Teacher, North Liberty Elementary School |
| c. Angie Foresman | School Counselor, John Glenn High School
Spell Bowl Coach, John Glenn High School |

- d. Celeste Merkes Regular Route Bus Driver, John Glenn School Corporation
- e. Katie Bryan Freshman Volleyball Coach, John Glenn High School
- f. Dave Lichtenbarger Assistant Football Coach, John Glenn High School
- g. Rebecca Laskowski JV Softball Coach, John Glenn High School
- h. Bret Bajdek Teacher, John Glenn High School
Assistant Football Coach, John Glenn High School
Boys Golf Head Coach, John Glenn High School
- i. Ryan Price Assistant Football Coach, John Glenn High School
- j. Tom Bendy Assistant Football Coach, John Glenn High School
- k. Michael McGann Boys Soccer Head Coach, Urey Middle School
- l. Jessica Bogard Volleyball Assistant Coach, North Liberty Elementary School
Girls Basketball Assistant Coach, North Liberty Elementary School

Appointments

- a. Ellainie Blank Teacher, Urey Middle School
- b. Cheyenne Garrett Girls Soccer Head Coach, Urey Middle School
- c. Josie Jankowski Freshman Volleyball Coach, John Glenn High School

Transfer

- a. Andy King Transfer from Assistant Football Coach, Urey Middle School to
Assistant Football Coach, John Glenn High School

Mr. Winchell took a moment to recognize a few of our retiring teammates. Mrs. Hayes has been at Walkerton Elementary School for 37 years. Carla Gurtner has been at North Liberty Elementary School for 25 years, and Celeste Merkes has been driving a school bus for 49 years; the most recent 12 years of her career have been at John Glenn. We appreciate the service of all those who are retiring and those stepping away from John Glenn for other adventures.

Mrs. Christine Carson made a motion to approve Consent Agenda Items 1-3, and Mr. Todd McGaughey seconded the motion. The motion carried with a vote of five to zero.

Mr. Steinkellner introduced Ellainie Blank to the board as the newest member of the Urey Middle School Staff. Ellainie will be teaching 7th Grade English and Language Arts next school year.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Approve Six-Semester Graduates

Mr. Manering presented 6 six-semester graduates to the board seeking approval of their early graduation. These students have met their graduation requirements and are in good standing. Mr. Knowlton congratulated the students and acknowledged all the hard work that goes into graduating an entire year early. Mr. Todd McGaughey made a motion to approve Six-Semester Graduates, and Mrs. Kathy Jaworski seconded the motion. The motion carried with a vote of five to zero.

2. First Reading of NEOLA Update 38-1

Mr. Winchell reminded the board that in order to update school board policy, you must hold two separate readings. Tonight, we have proposed revisions to approximately 20 policies that address a wide range of topics, including, but not limited to, school board member elections and eligibility, and board member compensation. Updated language about staff evaluations and teacher appreciation grants, as well as drug and alcohol testing for CDL employees. Purchasing practices, digital content, background checks, and AED updates. Tonight we are holding the first reading of these policies, and at the next meeting we will hold the second reading and seek board approval. There was no official action needed.

3. Approve Overnight Field Trip – Boys Basketball Summer Trip

Mr. Winchell reminded the board that all overnight field trips require the board's special approval. The boys' basketball team has a long history of participating in a summer tournament. This year, they will be traveling to Sandusky, Ohio, to compete at Cedar Point. Mr. Jared Egger made a motion to approve Overnight Field Trip – Boys Basketball Summer Trip, and Mrs. Christine Carson seconded the motion. The motion carried with a vote of five to zero.

4. Approve MOU with Chat RX

Mr. Winchell explained that Dr. Tod Stillson, a retired Marshall County physician, has developed an online, AI-assisted, digital physician appointment system. His APP will ask a patient a series of questions to help determine whether they can self-treat their symptoms, need a prescription, or need urgent care. This determination can be made free of charge. If the patient needs to see a physician for a prescription, this can be accomplished for \$25 using the APP. Dr. Stillson has been piloting this program with local schools to offer this service to our families. Our school nurses will work in conjunction with our families if they feel this service would benefit them. Mr. Jared Egger made a motion to approve MOU with Chat RX, and Mr. Todd McGaughey seconded the motion. The motion carried with a vote of five to zero.

5. Approve House Bill 1210; Circuit Breaker Loss Budget Account Adjustment

Mr. Winchell noted that when SB 1 passed, it created additional circuit-breaker losses, as we have discussed many times. Generally, these circuit breaker losses are paid directly from our Operations Fund. Since the losses have been so substantial statewide, the legislators have allowed a one-time opportunity to use the Debt Service Fund to offset the losses, provided you have a cash balance available. School corporations can make a request to the Department of Local Government Finance (DLGF) to use the Debt Service Fund to cover circuit breaker losses rather than the Operations Fund. We do not carry an excessive cash balance in our Debt Service Fund, so we cannot offset the entire \$400,000 circuit breaker loss. However, we do have enough cash to offset it by \$100,000 to \$200,000. Since this is a change to the budget the board approved last October, it is appropriate for the board to approve our request to the DLGF for this opportunity. The DLGF will review our request and inform us how much of the Debt Service Fund we can utilize. We will bring an additional request when we have final approval from the DLGF. Mr. Winchell also noted that we are here to expand and protect student programming. There will be ebbs and flows in state revenue. We need a healthy cash balance to avoid knee-jerk reactions to funding fluctuations. By maintaining health cash balances, we have the flexibility to reallocate and offset any revenue losses. Mrs. Christine Carson made a motion to approve House Bill 1210, Circuit Breaker Loss Budget Account Adjustment, and Mrs. Kathy Jaworski seconded the motion. The motion carried with a vote of five to zero.

REPORTS

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

Dr. Fuller reported the following:

- I-Learn testing is wrapping up. The testing window closes this Friday. It has been three weeks of hard work, and we are proud of all of our students and staff.
- Summer School – As we announced, we have partnered with the Boys and Girls Club again for Summer School. We have finalized our teaching staff, instructional aides, school bus drivers, and school nurse coverage. We have had a good turnout with students interested in attending.
- We will hold an open house for the John Glenn Virtual Academy on Tuesday, May 19th, at 6:00 PM. Our regional Edmentum representative will be in attendance to help answer questions from parents and students. We are very excited about the interest in our new programming.

2. Superintendent's Report – Mr. Christopher Winchell

Mr. Winchell reported the following:

- Springs are moving along. We hope all the raindrops we have been dodging this season will help the grass grow in our recently renovated areas.
- The football bleachers are the next step in the outdoor project. They should go up next week.
- Legal updates – we need to update our cell phone policy prior to the next school year. Recent legislative changes offer two options for a school corporation. You can either allow students to bring phones to campus and not use them during the instructional day, or you can prevent students from bringing them to school at all. Here at John Glenn, we recognize that students may need their cell phones at the conclusion of sports practices to arrange a ride home. This will be a big change for all students in Indiana. We are also updating our Cardiac Arrest Protocols to accommodate the change from including only licensed staff to including all staff, including extracurricular staff.
- Staffing update – We currently have 18 licensed positions open for the next school year. It may seem like a lot, but over the last several years, we have averaged 40 per year. At this time of year, we look closely at student programming and performance, IDOE initiatives and points of emphasis, and stakeholder feedback to identify areas for improvement.
- To go along with staffing, we will be moving some classrooms around. You may remember that during construction as WES, we had to move preschool programming to St. Pat's and the 4-6 grade life skills classroom to North Liberty. Now that construction is complete, we have decided to move these two programs back to Walkerton Elementary. This will cut down on some transportation for Lavelle and for us. It will also be nice that, as we look at outdoor playground equipment, we can plan for one building, rather than for three different locations.
- There are some donations coming in through the John Glenn Education Foundation from our dear friend Doug Conner and EO Advisors. You may remember that they recently supported us with Brainware. They are making donations to help us get our sawmill at Urey Middle School. They were so impressed with what Mr. Buss is doing with his woodshop program at UMS that they will also be giving us a wood kiln. We are very excited!
- Our relationship with Mr. Conner has turned into an additional exciting networking possibility. You may have heard of Five Star. They are a popular local travel basketball league and offer character development programming. They operate a large facility in Union, Michigan, serving 20,000 kids per year. They are interested in starting a woodworking program at their facility in Union, and Mr. Conner put them in touch with John Glenn to learn more about what we have been doing here.
- The IASBO conference begins tomorrow in French Lick.
- Dr. John Urey will be visiting Urey Middle School on Friday afternoon. We are partnering with the Walkerton Historical Society to host a meet-and-greet after he speaks with the Urey students.
- Anyone interested in running for the school board, the filing dates are May 19th through June 18th at Noon.
- There is an Executive Session immediately following tonight's meeting.

3. Conference Requests

- a. Allison Middlebook
- b. Donia Hudgen
- c. Angie Foresman

BOARD COMMENTS/QUESTIONS

Mr. Egger noted that the Building Trades Board had the opportunity to tour this year's build, and it is coming along very nicely and is nearly complete. The students have done a wonderful job under Mr. Laskowski's leadership. If any other board members would like to see it, the Open House will be held on May 17th from 2:00 to 4:00 PM.

UPCOMING EVENTS

IASBO Annual Meeting – May 6th – 8th

UMS National Junior Honor Society Inductions – May 6th – 6 pm

WES Fun Fair – May 8th

Senior Awards Night – May 11th – 7:30 pm

Retirement and Teacher of the Year Celebration – May 13th – 3:30 pm

NLES 6th Grade Celebration – May 14th – 6:30 pm

NEXT MEETING DATE: May 19, 2026 7:00 P.M. Admin Building Regular Session

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Ryan Knowlton called the meeting adjourned at 7:52 P.M.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

The board met in Executive Session to discuss the purchase or lease of real property, discuss records classified as confidential by federal or state statute, and discuss the job performance of individual employees. No additional topics were discussed. The executive session adjourned at 9:55 PM.

PRES. _____

SEC'Y. _____
