

School Board Meeting – March 18, 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 March 18, 2025, at the John Glenn High School Media Center. Board members present were Jared Egger, Christine Carson, Ryan Knowlton, Christian Mattix, and Carissa Smith. Kathy Jaworski and Todd McGaughey were absent. Superintendent Christopher Winchell and 13 observers were present through Donations & Fundraisers. Nine observers remained through the business portion of the meeting.

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

North Liberty Elementary School:

- Donation
 - Falcon 500 \$200 PE – AHA Incentive Trip
 - Falcon 500 \$81.31 2nd Grade

John Glenn High School

- Donation
 - Smith Ready Mix 13.25 cubic yards of concrete
- Fundraisers
 - Softball Hit-a-thon 3/10 – 3/14

Ms. Carissa Smith commented how nice it is to see that all the UMS Girls Basketball Coaching Staff members are JGSC Alumni.

Mr. Christian Mattix made a motion to approve the named donations and fundraisers as presented, and Mr. Jared Egger seconded the motion. The motion carried with a vote of five to zero.

PUBLIC COMMENT

No Public Comment was made at tonight’s meeting.

CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS #1 – 4

1. Approve Minutes – March 4, 2025 – Regular Session
2. Approve Vouchers – 104696 through 104813
3. Approve Personnel Recommendations

Retirements/Resignations

- a. Neal Rush Full-time Custodian, Urey Middle School
- b. Lori Paschen Cafeteria Staff, John Glenn High School

Appointments

- a. Jose Capeles Football Assistant Coach, John Glenn High School

4. Approve FLMA Request

Mr. Winchell took a moment to thank Lori Paschen for 20 years of dedicated service to the John Glenn community. The Ala Carte line will not be the same without her.

Mr. Ryan Knowlton made a motion to approve Consent Agenda Items 1-4, and Mr. Christian Mattix seconded the motion. The motion carried with a vote of five to zero.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Approve Barton Coe Vilamaa Agreement for Outdoor Project

Mr. Winchell explained that this is our normal contractual agreement with Barton Coe Vilamaa. They put a lot of work in each time we prepare a project to go out to bid, and this is the contract/fee schedule that outlines their compensation. We approved a similar contract for the Urey Front Entry project a few months ago. This contract is specifically for the outdoor project. Mr. Jared Egger made a motion to approve the Barton Coe Vilamaa Agreement for Outdoor Project, and Ms. Carissa Smith seconded the motion. The motion carried with a vote of five to zero.

2. Approve Notice to Bidders – Outdoor Project

Mr. Winchell noted that we have discussed a lot of projects over the past five years. We are continuously balancing our wants and our needs. One of the main projects we considered needed is adding a concession stand and bathroom to service the soccer and softball fields. We have been servicing these fields with port-a-johns for the last several years. Another need is additional concrete work to make our fields more accessible for those with disabilities. The visiting bleachers at the football field are also at the end of life and need to be replaced. As we have been working through our facility plans, we have wondered when to fit them into our financial plan. When the Reese Family came to us with a \$150,000 donation toward baseball field lights, they asked if we were willing to support the other projects that needed to happen simultaneously, such as lighting at the softball diamond as well. Due to our strong long-term fiscal management, we were in a good financial position to do a large outdoor improvement project without affecting the tax rate. In fact, the taxpayers have seen a ten-cent decrease in their taxes because of bonds rolling off due to how the bonds were structured and the annexation of Greene Township. Even with taking on this \$10 million bond and an \$850,000 max levy appeal, John Glenn has lowered its tax rate by ten cents. Because of circuit breakers and because of other taxing units, it is yet to be determined what the taxpayer will feel on that ten-cent decrease. There is always the concern that even if we lower our tax rate, the taxpayers may not feel it because other taxing units jump in and eat up that difference. Again, this is yet to be determined, but we are proud of what we have accomplished at John Glenn financially. Before you tonight is a project of just over \$10 million. We are hoping for competitive bids. Mr. Winchell shared photos and specifications of the pending project. Pending board approval tonight, this project will go out to bid tomorrow and we will hold bid opening on April 16th. If the bids come back too high, we would pass on all the bids, and then come back to the board for a revised project list to be approved to bid. Ryan Boland from Barton Coe Vilamaa was available for any questions regarding the project. Mr. Egger asked if BCV has seen a rise in project costs due to the recent tariffs and costs of materials. Mr. Boland noted that as of today, they have not seen any drastic changes. Unfortunately, they won't know how this will affect projects until, all of a sudden, bids start coming in drastically higher. Mrs. Carson asked what our procedure is if the bids we receive are too high. Mr. Winchell explained that we would sit with Barton Coe and assemble a new menu. We do not have a statutory timeline that would require us to have the project back out to bid by a specific date, but we do have an obligation to our bondholders to begin the project construction in the near future. We have identified our project to start in the fall of 2025, with completion in the fall of 2026. Mr. Knowlton asked what sort of a setback this would be to our project if we had to reject the bids; Mr. Winchell and Mr.

Boland agreed that it would set our project back approximately 60 days, 30 days to reconfigure the project, and then 30 days for the bids to be advertised.

Mr. Christian Mattix made a motion to approve Notice to Bidders – Outdoor Project and Mr. Jared Egger seconded the motion. The motion carried with a vote of five to zero.

3. Consider Commemoration of John Glenn High School Baseball Field – Richard “Dick” Reese Field

Mr. Winchell commented that since the Reese Family made their very generous donation towards the baseball field lighting and for all of Mr. Reese’s contributions to the corporation and students in our community for so many years, we began having an informal conversation in regards to naming the baseball field after Dick. As the project came to fruition, our informal conversation became more formal. As I reported at the last board meeting, Mr. Reese served 40 years in public education; he was a huge supporter of not only baseball but all things John Glenn. The resolution tonight highlights Mr. Reese's impact on the corporation and the entire John Glenn community. Mr. Kaminski, Corporation Legal Counsel, has reviewed the resolution and agrees that it meets the requirements outlined in our board policies for this commemoration. We also have a precedence set for naming facilities after those who greatly impacted our corporation, as demonstrated by the naming of John Hostrawser Field football field. At the last meeting, we were asked if we needed to put special protections in place that would prevent the renaming of a field that we had already named for someone else. Mr. Winchell assured the board that our board policy already has this protection. If approved tonight, we will officially name the baseball field Richard “Dick” Reese Field, and we will celebrate this commemoration on April 19th at the Dick Reese Classic Championship Game.

Mr. Christian Mattix made a motion to approve Commemoration of John Glenn High School Baseball Field – Richard “Dick” Reese Field and Mr. Ryan Knowlton seconded the motion. The motion carried with a vote of five to zero.

4. First Reading of NEOLA Policies 1422, 2260.01, 3122 and 4123

Mr. Winchell reminded the board that changing the board policy takes two official notifications from the board to the public. We are having the first reading to potentially update the above-named policies tonight. No official action will be taken tonight, but if the board chooses, these policies will be brought back for a second reading at our next meeting. After the second reading, the board can take official action to update these policies. Mr. Winchell explained that these particular policies reference our 504 policies. Most people are familiar with Special Education but may not realize that Special Education is tied to a federal law called IDEA. There is a section under IDEA that houses the IEP details. Usually, a specific diagnosis accompanies an IEP (Individual Education Plan). A 504 plan is similar to an IEP but does not carry the IEP label. Students who have 504s often have challenges that affect their ability to learn, but since these challenges are not one of the approved medical diagnoses, they do not qualify for an IEP. For example, a student has a fractured arm or leg that restricts them from attending school normally or doing school work normally, but they do not have a diagnosis that will be long term such as a severe ADHD diagnosis. As a public school, we are obligated to service students across the board and have additional obligations to serve children under IDEA. Dr. Fuller has been working on consistency across the corporation to ensure that all of our buildings are following the same processes, and the 504 plans is an area they have been focusing on. As part of the process, he reviewed the board policies. Most of the updates are in regards to staff member names who previously worked for the corporation. Dr. Fuller added that these policy updates are necessary because they clarify who a parent would contact if a 504 plan was not being followed or if they would like to appeal a 504 decision. Dr. Fuller is the 504 Coordinator. It is nice to have working documents that are the same corporation-wide, from kindergarten through 12th grade. Mr. Mattix asked if a student who has a 504 have the same protections as a student with an IEP, and does that open us up to more potential tort claims. Mr. Winchell noted that it depends what attorney you ask. As a general rule at John Glenn, we provide the same protections to both 504

plans and IEPs. One of the most basic examples we can provide is student discipline. A student can technically not be expelled from school if their disability is the cause of their misbehavior. Our special education attorneys often advise us to treat every 504 the same way we would treat an IEP. Mr. Knowlton asked if it was possible to update the policies to reflect a titled position rather than listing a specific employee as the one to be contacted as the compliance officer. Dr. Fuller explained that if there were something generic we could list, we would. Part of the paperwork that we give to parents lists their safeguards and rights, and it must have specific information such as the compliance officer's name, the address where their office is, phone number, extension, and email address. Mr. Winchell added that we are very good about bringing entire policy recommendations to the board to be updated when we receive those updated recommendations from NEOLA. One area we need to improve is technical corrections, when we have new teammates join the team, as an example. We will be looking for the best option to get all of our policies audited, whether an internal audit or external, and report back.

As a side note, Mr. Winchell shared that there is a debate going on in Indianapolis right now that Charter Schools, who also accept state funding, now want to receive additional local public tax dollars, but they are often known not to provide the same IEP services that we are required to provide. There are documented scenarios where Charter Schools have denied admittance to students with IEP and 504 plans. The debate in the Indiana General Assembly is whether, if you are taking public funding, you should have to provide the same Special Educational services to all students as traditional public schools do.

REPORTS

1. Director of Learning Report – Dr. Patrick Fuller

Dr. Fuller reported the following:

- Thank you for reviewing the 504 policy updates. This has been a lengthy process that the guidance counselors have worked very hard to complete.
- Kindergarten round-up was a huge success at both buildings. There were a ton of smiling faces and happy parents. At WES, they even had a school bus available to kids to take a quick ride.
- I-READ 3 is complete. Preliminary results are just beginning to come in, and we are impressed with our students. We will have a full report available as the final reports come in.

2. Superintendent's Report – Mr. Christopher Winchell

Mr. Winchell reported the following:

- We are very excited to name the field after Mr. Reese tonight. A press release will go out first thing tomorrow announcing the commemoration.
- We are also very excited that the project is going to bid.
- Mr. Tom Walter, a local community member who has been a huge supporter of building projects around the corporation, passed away last week. His wife was a bus driver for us, and his grandson is the art teacher at WES. There were many times that he would advise on projects, and often, he could predict issues that we might have before we had them. We will miss his input. Also, Mr. Richard Parker passed away. His wife Linda was a teacher here for many years. Richard was very involved in supporting the corporation, especially through Halloween and the Tyner ODD Fellows.
- Mr. Manering and I get many phone calls from community members who want to get involved with the school, but many times, nothing comes from those phone calls. I want to shout out to the local trade communities, though. The Carpenters Union has been here recently, giving us a large donation to use for equipment. We had some concrete work that needed to be done here at the high school and at the Greene Township bus stop. Local contractors and businesses donated those supplies. A special thank you to Ort's Greene Metal

Farms and Smith’s Ready Mix for donating materials. They said they wanted to get involved, and they have really stepped up.

- Mr. Bendy has been recognized as the IASBO Region 2 Business Manager of the Year. We will be putting out a note sharing Mr. Bendy’s accomplishments. We are very blessed to have the business manager and team that we have. We have a phenomenal fiscal plan and a team that manages it. If you have been following the news in regards to the General Assembly Budget, you know that there are potential cuts on the horizon. If there is a cut, we have been planning on it since 2009. You have often heard us refer to the cut that happened in 2009; we vowed then that we would be prepared for any cuts that would happen in the future by being fiscally conservative and accounting for every dollar we spend while building a sufficient cash balance. We will be going to the IASBO Conference in early May, and Tom will be recognized at a banquet during the conference with the potential to be named the State Business Manager of the Year.
- We get all sorts of letters and emails, and oftentimes, the things that come to the Superintendent are not pleasant. Twice over the last week, I have received two very positive notes regarding our employees and our corporation. One from a teammate who got a flat tire on her way to work and was rescued by another employee. She titled her email “Best place to work.” We couldn’t agree more. The second letter was from a teacher at the elementary school who was hired to fill a one-year maternity leave, and as that year is coming to an end, she shared just how special her time was at Walkerton Elementary.
- We will be touring the bathroom updates at the high school following tonight’s meeting.
- As a reminder, tomorrow night is the Academic Hall of Fame Banquet.
- Spring Break is next week.
- To follow up on a question from the last meeting regarding adding power outages to our crisis manual. Page 36 is designated for power outages, and the bullet points were about the same as the process we followed a couple of weeks ago.

- 3. Conference Requests
 - a. Joe Stanley

BOARD COMMENTS/QUESTIONS

UPCOMING EVENTS

March 19, 2025 – Top 10% Banquet

March 24th through March 28th, 2025 – Spring Break – NO SCHOOL

NEXT MEETING DATE: April 8, 2025 7:00 P.M. Admin Building Regular Session

ADJOURNMENT

Mrs. Christine Carson called the meeting adjourned at 8:13 P.M.

PRES. _____

SEC'Y. _____

