

## **School Board Meeting – May 6, 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 May 6, 2025, at the John Glenn Administration Building. Board members present were Jared Egger, Christine Carson, Kathy Jaworski, Ryan Knowlton, Todd McGaughey and Carissa Smith. Christian Mattix was absent. Superintendent Christopher Winchell and 23 observers were present through New Business Item 1; four observers stayed for the remainder of the meeting.

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

##### Walkerton Elementary School

- Donation
  - PTA \$170 Mrs. Walker’s Class

##### Urey Middle School

- Donation
  - Modern Door Pallet of Copy Paper

Mr. Jared Egger made a motion to approve the named donations and fundraisers as presented, and Mr. Ryan Knowlton 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 22, 2025 – Regular Session
2. Approve Vouchers – 105011 through 105072
3. Approve Personnel Recommendations

#### ***Retirements/Resignations***

- |                    |  |
|--------------------|--|
| a. Brendan Walter  | Art Teacher, Walkerton Elementary School                   |
| b. Janine Zoellner | Instructional Aide, Walkerton Elementary School            |
| c. Beth Griffey    | Special Education Teacher, North Liberty Elementary School |
| d. Kyle Reed       | Soccer Coach, Urey Middle School                           |

#### ***Appointments***

- |                    |   |
|--------------------|---|
| a. Madison Sonner  | Tutor, Walkerton Elementary School                  |
| b. Bethany Laizure | Tutor, Walkerton Elementary School                  |
| c. Katie Bajdek    | Tutor, North Liberty Elementary School              |
| d. Alex Hendee     | Tutor, North Liberty Elementary School              |
| e. Preston Minix,  | Teacher, John Glenn High School                     |
| f. Geoff Jankowski | Homebound Instructor, John Glenn School Corporation |

#### 4. Approve FLMA Request

Mr. Ryan Knowlton 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 and Mr. Manering took a moment to introduce Miss Preston Minix as the new JGHS English Teacher.

### NEW BUSINESS

#### 1. Approve Six-Semester Graduates

Mr. Winchell noted that to graduate early, school board approval is necessary. Mr. Manering has provided the appropriate paperwork to the board, and we have a group of six-semester graduates here tonight pending your approval. Mr. Manering added that this group of students has worked hard to achieve graduation requirements in only six semesters. Mr. Kathy Jaworski commented that graduating in six semesters is not an easy task and encouraged the students to be lifelong learners. Mr. Winchell suggested the students not grow up too fast, even though they are making a huge step toward adulthood. Mrs. Kathy Jaworski made a motion to approve the Six-Semester Graduates, and Ms. Carissa Smith seconded the motion. The motion carried with a vote of six to zero.

#### 2. Approve Boys and Girls Club Summer School MOU

Mr. Winchell explained that this is the official MOU for summer school with the Boys and Girls Club. This agreement gives us permission to share data with Boys and Girls Club staff. When partnering with the BGC, summer school and summer programming will be provided to our families free of charge. Mr. McGaughey asked if our enrollment was up or down. Dr. Fuller explained that so far, our enrollment is very similar to last year. Mr. Knowlton inquired if the information we shared is protected by FERPA laws. Mr. Winchell noted that this MOU allows us to share the very specific information that is needed in order to continue student learning and state testing opportunities, which summer school specifically addresses. He also mentioned that we are very careful with protecting student data, such as social security numbers. That type of information will not be shared. Mr. Ryan Knowlton made a motion to approve Boys and Girls Club Summer School MOU, and Mr. Jared Egger seconded the motion. The motion carried with a vote of six to zero.

#### 3. Approve NIESC Dietitian Contract

Mr. Winchell noted that we are required by Indiana Code to have our lunch and breakfast menus reviewed and approved by a dietitian. Rather than individual schools employing their own dietitians, we partner with the Northern Indiana Educational Service Center to share one dietitian between multiple school corporations. The dietitian will work with Glenda Smith, our Food Service Director, to ensure we are in compliance. This is a contract that we approve annually. Mr. Todd McGaughey made a motion to approve the NIESC Dietitian Contract, and Mr. Jared Egger seconded the motion. The motion carried with a vote of six to zero.

#### 4. Approve NIESC Media Center Contract

Mr. Winchell commented that in a very similar manner, we are required by Indiana Code to have oversight of a licensed Media Center Specialist. We have been very careful with staffing, and one of the staff members we did not replace a few years ago was Donna Rummel. We thought we were in good shape with our classified staff teammates in our libraries, with the support of the service center specialist

through this contract. Without getting too detailed, with the budget that the State just passed, you have often heard Tom and me talk of the 2009 budget cut, and you have heard both of us joke that we have been planning for similar budget cuts since 2009, and that budget cut is basically upon us in 2025. This is one of those proactive budget moves we already made in preparation for a budget situation like we have now, knowing that we can receive the necessary support from the service center. Similar to the dietitian, we are allowed to share services with other schools. Mrs. Jaworski asked what types of things the Media Center Specialist helps with. Mr. Winchell noted that they help with new titles, recommend which titles/types of books to phase out of a library collection, and help with library software upgrades. The Media Center Specialist checks in with Mrs. Duff at the high school media center. Mrs. Duff then serves as the liaison between the service center and the corporation. Mr. Todd McGaughey questioned if he needed to abstain from this vote since his wife works in the library at North Liberty Elementary School. Mr. Winchell said it was not necessary since this action item does not affect her position or compensation. Mr. Jared Egger made a motion to approve NIESC Media Center Specialist Contract, and Mrs. Kathy Jaworski seconded the motion. The motion carried with a vote of six to zero.

#### 5. Approve Amendment to Rental Agreement with St. Patrick's Church

Mr. Winchell reminded the board that we have a partnership with St. Pat's church to use three classrooms, which hold two Head Start classrooms through the Elkhart and St. Joseph Counties Head Start Consortium, and our special education preschool. We have a simple lease agreement with St. Patrick's Church. This amendment reflects an increase to our monthly rent from \$200/month to \$300/month, and an update to the language on the utility expenses. John Glenn pays the monthly rent, and Head Start pays for the utilities. We ask the board for approval of all contracts, and we are recommending this amendment for approval tonight. Mr. Knowlton asked what is driving the 50% increase. Mr. Winchell noted that it was two-fold. The church has a boiler that needs to be replaced in the near future, and asked if we would be willing to raise our rent to help cover that expense. Additionally, we realized that we were underpaying for the space. We are still getting quite a bargain given we rent three classroom spaces, an office space, and an additional space we use as a cafeteria. Mr. Jared Egger made a motion to approve Amendment to Rental Agreement with St. Patrick's Church, and Mr. Ryan Knowlton 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:

- I-Learn wraps up this Friday. The high School is also finishing up last-minute Biology I-Learn. As a corporation, we have a 99.5% participation rate in I-Learn.
- The I-Read retake window opens. We will have the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> grade students who have been working on remediation take this test prior to the window closing. As a reminder, 2nd-grade students who do not pass the first time are allowed to retake the test one time. 3rd-grade students who do not pass are able to retake the test twice. Students will test every year until they pass, or until they move on to 7<sup>th</sup> grade.
- We are pleasantly surprised by the summer school enrollment numbers. Parents are handling the changes very well. We are predicting 150 students will attend. As you may remember, last year we held a hybrid program with the Boys and Girls Club. If you wanted to attend the Boys and Girls Club portion of the program (free of charge), you had to stay all day. That is why we ended up hosting traditional summer school from 8 am to noon every day. This year, the Boys and Girls Club considered the feedback we provided and determined it was best to allow the students who wanted to leave at noon to do so.
- We had a lot of interest from our staff to work summer school as well.
- High school summer school will run as usual.

2. Superintendent's Report – Mr. Christopher Winchell

Mr. Winchell reported the following:

- We have a lot of extra events going on! If you have looked at the calendar for the entire school year, it has been a weird one. We had an extra week before Thanksgiving, we were short a week before Winter Break, and now it seems like we have a very short May, before Graduation.
- Senior awards night will be held on Monday, May 12<sup>th</sup>. We've distributed substantial in scholarships to graduating students over time and this year will be no different. On May 14<sup>th</sup>, we will hold our Teacher of the Year and Retirement Celebration. We encourage everyone who can attend to attend. We do a great job of celebrating our students at John Glenn, and we want to carry that over to celebrate our Teachers, Staff, and Retirees.
- The Business Office Staff will be attending the IASBO Annual Meeting beginning tomorrow. Mr. Bendy will be honored as the Region 2 Business Manager of the Year at the banquet on Thursday. We are so lucky to have someone like him overseeing our corporation's financials.
- It is the time of year when personnel are beginning to change over. Over the last six years we have averaged around 40 staff changes throughout the summer. Think about 40 people exiting, and 40 people entering. That is 40 staff members to take out of the payroll system, take out of Harmony, Canvas, and all other operating systems, and then we have to add 40 new staff members right back in their place. It is a huge undertaking to not only interview countless potential employees, but to then get them ready to work for the first day of school. It is a huge operational process to turn that much staff over. We are very blessed that we are able to fill all of our open positions, and that people want to work at John Glenn and become part of our mission.
- Congratulations to Aimee Egger, the nurse at North Liberty Elementary School. She has been recognized by the State Health Department for her work in Vaccinations. All but four students at NLES have completed their vaccination paperwork.
- The State has finished its Budget. Inside that budget is every school's Complexity Formula, which is also known as the "School Run". The state is getting a more complex in how they present the school runs, and this year, they have included textbook rentals in the school run. Those who do not entirely understand how school funding works might think they are receiving more new money than they truly are. The State has claimed that they have increased funding by 2% to education, but you have to remember that it is an increase of 2% to ADM, which would be us, but also to vouchers and charter schools. At John Glenn, we pride ourselves on understanding school funding down to the granular level. If our student count is the same as in September 2024, we have approximately a 1.8-2% increase over the next two years in State Funding. We do not have as many kids as we did in September, but that is not unusual. We tend to be up in September and then down in February. We have never been able to determine why, but we are confident we will gain students. We are very conservative when we build our Budget. We are starting to analyze how the changes will affect the operational side of our budget. Remember that the ADM funds the educational side of our budget, which is approximately 75%. Local tax levies fund the other 25% and operational items. Senate Bill 1 was a massive overhaul of how taxation, local levies, and local AV will be treated and calculated in the future. There will be a new funding technique as a result of passing SB1. We are still analyzing the impact on John Glenn. If it does not change at all, we will have to raise our tax rate by \$0.26 to get the same levy in four years that we are getting today. We worked hard to lower our tax rate from \$1.01 to \$0.91. This is a very complex process that we will have to navigate. We have received some feedback from local Senators that leads us to believe that some of the language in SB 1 will change, so we will continue to monitor the situation closely. The State projected a \$300,000 circuit breaker loss, but when we received our actual circuit breaker loss, it was much closer to \$400,000. If you are not familiar with the term circuit breaker, back in 2009, the Governor pushed for tax reform, and therefore, they added tax caps. Primary residences are capped at 1% of your value in taxes, second homes are up to 2%, and there is an additional category for up to 3%. Any taxation over these caps does not occur. It is a credit to the homeowner, but a loss to the schools. When we build our budget, we plan for this.

- We have received a lot of information on the Greene Township School from South Bend. They have shared utility bills and some blueprints, and we are thankful to Superintendent Eid for being so open with the school's information. Our goal is to try to quantify how much it would cost us to take over Greene School as is. We will then take it a step further to see how much it would cost us to complete renovations. We want to ensure we are making sound financial decisions, so we will proceed with caution.

BOARD COMMENTS/QUESTIONS

Mr. Egger commented that Mrs. Kaser is doing a great job with the arrival and dismissal procedures at WES. She serves the students well by welcoming them, being the crossing guard, and helping kids get where they need to be. He went on to say that we are extremely blessed to have administrators who do not hesitate to jump in and do whatever task needs to be done.

UPCOMING EVENTS

- May 7<sup>th</sup> – ISBA Spring Meeting at Swan Lake 5:30 Networking, 6:00 Dinner, 6:30 Meeting
- May 7<sup>th</sup> through 9<sup>th</sup> – IASBO Annual Meeting
- May 9<sup>th</sup> – WES Fun Fair
- May 12<sup>th</sup> – Senior Awards Night
- May 14<sup>th</sup> – Teacher of the Year and Retiree Celebration – 3:30 at JGHS
- May 15<sup>th</sup> – 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Celebration at NLES
- May 20<sup>th</sup> – 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Celebration at WES

NEXT MEETING DATE:     May 20, 2025            7:00 P.M.   JG Admin    Regular Session

ADJOURNMENT

Mrs. Christine Carson called the meeting adjourned at 8:10 P.M.

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

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

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