

School Board Meeting – September 16, 2025 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 September 16, 2025, at the John Glenn Administration Building. Board members present were Christine Carson, Jared Egger, Kathy Jaworski, Ryan Knowlton, Christian Mattix, Todd McGaughey, and Carissa Smith. Superintendent Christopher Winchell and seven observers were present in person. The meeting was also available for virtual attendance.

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

Walkerton Elementary School

- Donations
 - Falcon 500 Kindergarten, 1st Grade, and 3rd Grade
- Fundraisers
 - 6th Grade Candy Bar Sales

John Glenn High School

- Donations
 - 1Body Fitness \$200 Fallween
 - VNR, Inc. \$250 Fallween
 - Broeker Enterprises \$100 Fallween
 - Anthony Borrelli \$52.25 Drama
 - Daniel & Elizabeth Drotar \$100 Drama
 - Angie Foresman \$26.38 Drama
 - Keith & Marlene Hadden \$100 Drama
 - Roger & Shirley Hamilton \$300 Drama
 - Sarah Knowlton \$26.38 Drama
 - Randy & Sharon Lemert \$50 Drama
 - Maggie Hesters \$26.38 Drama
 - Joshua Neff \$1035.50 Drama
 - Garrett O’Dell \$26.38 Drama
 - Adam Pearish \$250 Drama
 - Cassie Phelan \$259.25 Drama
 - Sandy Savoie \$52.25 Drama
 - Dawn Scamehorn \$52.25 Drama
 - Debbie Walter \$1553.50 Drama
 - Debbie Walter, in Memory Of Tom Walter \$2000 Drama

Mr. Christian Mattix made a motion to approve Donations and Fundraisers as presented, and Mr. Ryan Knowlton seconded the motion. The motion carried with a vote of seven to zero.

PUBLIC COMMENT

No Public Comment was made at tonight's meeting.

CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS #1 – 4

1. Approve Minutes – September 2, 2025 – Regular Session
2. Approve Vouchers 105854 through 105916
3. Approve Personnel Recommendations

Retirements/Resignations

- | | |
|-----------------------|--|
| a. Stephanie Reynolds | Student Council Sponsor, Urey Middle School |
| b. Hannah Ciula | Assistant Volleyball Coach, Urey Middle School |
| c. Bethany Smith | Technology Club Sponsor, Urey Middle School |

Appointments

- | | |
|-------------------|--|
| a. Katie Simmons | Student Council Sponsor, Urey Middle School |
| b. Kylie Jasinski | Cafeteria Staff, North Liberty Elementary School |
| c. Connor Shreve | Football Assistant Coach, Urey Middle School |
| d. Lexia Pearish | Anti-Bully Club Sponsor, John Glenn High School |

Transfers

- | | |
|---------------------|---|
| a. Anthony Borrelli | Transfer from E-Sports Assistant Coach to E-Sports Head Coach, John Glenn High School |
| b. Patrick Wolff | Transfer from E-Sports Head Coach to E-Sports Assistant Coach, John Glenn High School |
| c. Sean Haas | Transfer from E-Sports Assistant Coach to E-Sports Head Coach, Urey Middle School |

4. Approve Transfer Students

To date, we have 95 new transfer requests for the 2025-2026 school year, including the one student presented for approval at tonight's meeting.

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

NEW BUSINESS

1. Approve School Improvement Plans

Mr. Winchell noted that the state statute requires us to make three-year school improvement plans. By statute, we are required to have a plan that outlines our current student academic status and goals to improve it. They are required to be updated every three years, but here at John Glenn, we update them annually. These plans are designed by a team of teachers, union representatives, and administrators, and should be seen as joint recommendations from the union and administrative teams. Each year, these teams review the test scores and academic progress of students and decide what our points of emphasis are going to be for the next year. Each building has its own unique set of goals based on these points of emphasis. Mr. Ryan Knowlton made a motion to approve School Improvement Plans, and Mr. Jared Egger seconded the motion. The motion carried with a vote of seven to zero. Mrs. Kathy Jaworski thanked the teachers and administrators for their hard work to complete these detailed plans. Mrs.

Christine Carson asked if there was a plan down the road to set up a template of sorts so that each building's School Improvement Plan was formatted similarly. Dr. Fuller added that the State has just released a template for schools to use, but unfortunately, it was released too late to make that change to it this year. It is definitely something that we will be looking into in the future.

2. Approve Advertisement of 2026 Budget

Mr. Winchell explained that statutorily, school boards have three very important, specific duties. One is to hire and/or fire a Superintendent. Second, is to pass new and update old policy, and third is to approve an annual budget. Tonight, we will provide you with an overview of the 2026 Budget and seek permission to advertise this budget per statutory open door laws, in anticipation of bringing it back at our next meeting for official approval. Remember, we receive approximately 70% of our revenue from our student count. The remaining 30% comes from our local tax dollars. In the process of approving this budget, you are approving an appropriation, or permission to spend money, and you are also approving our authority to collect and spend those tax dollars. It is important to highlight that just because you have an appropriation to spend the money, it does not mean you have the funds available to spend. That is not a concern here at John Glenn because we monitor our spending and appropriations very closely each month.

Mr. Tom Bendy, Business Manager, provided a very thorough overview of the 2026 budget.

1. The 2026 Budget begins to reduce spending due to the anticipated loss of revenue in the next few years, due to Senate Bill 1 (SB1).

a. Education Fund Appropriations: The appropriation has been reduced by 3.65% from our 2025 Budget, mostly from padding to our special education programming and curricular material expenditure lines. Now that we have formed our partnership with Laville Community Schools, we know what our expenses are for special education, and no longer need to pad them for unexpected expenses. In addition, we are increasing teacher compensation and benefits to adjust to the new legislation, moving from 62% to 65%. This ever-moving target requires additional padding to ensure we meet this obligation. In the 2024-2025 fiscal year, our expenditures came in at 64%. Every 1% is equal to approximately \$165,000. As we shift budget dollars to teacher compensation, we must reduce expenditures in non-teacher budget areas. This could include expenses for classified staff, technology, media resources, instructional supplies, and office supplies. We anticipate transfers from the Education Fund to the Operations Fund to remain at \$2,100,000, 12.79% of our fund formula's expected revenue. The funding formula revenue projections were calculated using 1950 as our student ADM. The total 2026 Education Fund Appropriation is \$15,190,374.

b. Debt Service Fund Appropriations: This appropriation has been reduced by 22% due to debt payments falling off in 2025. The total 2026 Debt Service Fund Appropriation is \$3,004,402.

c. Operations Fund Appropriations: This appropriation has been reduced by 2.53%. This reduction is a result of reduced revenue due to SB 1. Circuit Breaker increased estimates to \$680,700 in 2026, up from \$381,902 in 2025. This is a primary result of the new Homestead Credit, which is estimated to reduce our revenue by \$254,000. The budget reductions are in bus replacement and maintenance of facilities. As this fund tightens up, we will look to reduce operational expenditures that impact day-to-day operations the least; this would include budget line items like furniture, equipment, facility upgrades, and technology infrastructure. The total 2026 Operations Fund Appropriation is \$6,152,245.

d. Rainy Day Fund Appropriations: This appropriation will remain the same for 2026. Total Rainy Day Fund Appropriation is \$500,000.

e. The total 2026 Budget Appropriations for 2026 are \$24,847,021, which is down 5.95% from 2025.

2. 2026 Advertised Budget Levy:

a. We are advertising a Debt Service Levy of \$2,894,221. We anticipate this levy will be reduced slightly due to fund operating balance caps.

b. We are advertising an Operations Levy of \$4,396,962. We anticipate this levy will be reduced slightly due to fund operating balance caps. We are also estimating a reduction in revenue of \$680,700 due to circuit breaker caps.

c. Total Advertised Budget Levy is \$7,291,183. This compares to our 2025 Budget Actual Levy of \$7,366,180. Our levy will be lower due to debt service payments falling off.

3. 2026 Advertised Tax Rate:

a. We are advertising a Debt Service Tax Rate for Legacy Debt (debt prior to the Greene Township Annexation) at \$0.4525.

b. We are advertising a Debt Service Levy Tax Rate for debt with Greene at \$0.0822.

c. We are advertising an Operations Fund Levy Tax Rate at \$0.6466.

d. Total 2026 Advertised Tax Rate - \$1.1813.

e. If we receive all levy funds advertised and our assessed value remains the same for 2026 as for 2025, we could anticipate final tax rates to be near the following:

i. Debt Service – Legacy (omits Greene Township) - \$0.3406

ii. Debt Service – All JG (includes Greene Township) - \$0.0617

iii. Operations (includes Greene Township) - \$0.4852

iv. Total 2026 Estimated Final Tax Rate - \$0.08875 (\$0.5469 for Green Township). This number would decrease if we see AV Growth; this number would increase if we see AV Reduction.

Mr. Christian Mattix made a motion to approve Advertisement of 2026 Budget, and Mr. Ryan Knowlton seconded the motion. The motion carried with a vote of seven to zero.

REPORTS

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

Dr. Fuller reported the following:

- The I-Learn checkpoint window opened yesterday. The state allows a very large testing window. We have made our plan so that students can be assessed, so that we can get it submitted in a timely manner. This will allow us to receive feedback and make adjustments as needed. The most important thing is that students are assessed on standards that are in each window.
- Similar to last year, students can retake the I-Learn checkpoints. It is not mandated, but may be valuable.
- We have continued our professional development with our staff. Our partners at I-Ready sent someone to meet with all of our K-6 teachers to disaggregate the data from their first round of I-Ready testing. We are working on getting Urey scheduled as well.
- We did our first Special Education Professional Development at the high school last week. Thanks to Mrs. Hannah, who did a wonderful job covering all the new mandates and

requirements, as well as offering some important reminders to best serve our students. She will be at North Liberty this week to meet with their staff.

- We have been working with our partners at Brainware to trial using the Brainware software for third-grade students who have not passed the I-Read to help with remediation. We already use this software for the fourth grade and some middle school students, and we are excited to trial this for remediation in third grade. Our Brainware representative was able to meet with the third-grade team to explain how this will work. Mr. Winchell added that the State had opened up a Digital Learning Grant, which we applied for and could have used on expanded Brainware Software. Unfortunately, we were not awarded this grant because we have already been using the program.
- Mrs. King and Mr. Groves do an excellent job of working closely with the bus drivers. Tomorrow we will hold a professional development with the transportation team to cover de-escalation techniques and student safety, to hopefully give them a few additional tools when getting students to school.
- Thursday, our new writing curriculum, Top Score, will be hosting a virtual professional development for all of our staff, K-8.
- A big shout-out to Mrs. King and Mrs. Clark. We have a very robust substitute teacher pool, with 36 substitutes. We have recently streamlined this process, and it seems to be working very well for us.

2. Superintendent's Report – Mr. Christopher Winchell

Mr. Winchell reported the following:

- We continue to be off to a great start of the school year. We are through the first round of progress reports already, and we are on the downhill slide to the first set of grades.
- I went to the CTE Consortium meeting. We have really tried to have an east group, which is held at Plymouth, and then a west group that is held at Knox. We have tried to duplicate programming at each of these locations so that students have an equal opportunity to participate. The auto-tech class has only been offered at Knox for many years. Our current students had a choice if they wanted to attend in Plymouth or if they wanted to attend Knox. In the future, all of our students will go to Plymouth for this program.
- Additionally, with CTE, occasionally, a school will start a new program. Culver has recently started a Dental Hygiene program, which has grown from 4 to 8 students. Our students may have the opportunity to join this program, but they will have to provide their own transportation, as we currently only transport to Knox and Plymouth.
- We recently completed a walkthrough at Urey Middle School with Barton Coe Vilamaa and Haggerman to begin the lengthy process of starting a project wish list, which we will then whittle down to what exactly needs to be done/we can afford to do. We are watching the legislation very closely to determine how our opportunity to bond will be affected. It is our intention to, at the next meeting, bring an audit of our last Master Facilities Plan. In 2019-2020, we created a 5-year and 10-year project plan. We have been very fortunate that we have been able to complete many of these projects already. We look forward to bringing this audit to you at your next meeting.
- At the school boards conference, we met with some teammates from SBCSC. They are still very interested in selling us the Greene Township School Building. We are interested in purchasing it for a very fair price. It appears that some portions of the building have been put on the Historical Registry. If that is true, that could prevent anyone from tearing this building down or remodeling. We will do more investigating.
- We had the pleasure of attending the Walkerton Town Board meeting last week. They had Baker Tilly in attendance to report on their potential budget for 2026. With the circuit breaker issues due to Senate Bill 1, it is even more important that all of the taxing units do activities together. Our taxing unit includes both the towns of Walkerton and North Liberty, the libraries, the fire departments, etc.
- Collective Bargaining is right around the corner. We will meet for our first formal session on Thursday. With all of the changes, we have meet informally a few times to get things started.

- TAG (Teacher Appreciation Grant) guidance has finally been released by the State. It is still not very clear, but it is still our intention to apply for the grant. We are continuing to work with the Union to decide what we think the appropriate criteria are. The deadline is October 3rd, and we will be working diligently.
- You might remember, the last time we did a bond, we had a credit rating, or what's called a bond rating. We had a follow-up rating call this week, and we are happy to report that our underlying rating improved from an A to an A+.
- As you know, a few of us attended the ISBA Conference this weekend. We had a great time and heard from a couple of great keynote speakers. We heard from Dr. Jenner and appreciated her passion and excitement for growing kids academically. We also heard from Dr. Taylor, who is the IAPSS Executive Director. He is stepping down at the end of this year after 47 years in education. It was unique to hear how, in his work, he wasn't the one who impacted the students, but the students were the ones who impacted him. In summary, the emphasis was on making the best decisions for kids, with their saying, "All in for All Kids". Another big topic was school board teamwork. A plethora of new superintendent topics were also covered. Events like this are great for the topics they cover, but also for the camaraderie that we have with those in our same positions around the state. At the end of the conference today, we all agreed that our battle cry here at John Glenn is to protect our traditions, challenge the status quo, and always make decisions that are best for kids. Mr. Egger added that there are so many great things happening statewide, and it was fun to celebrate that fact. We are also very blessed with our great corporation. Mr. Knowlton also added that ISBA is partnering with Indiana University to provide a micro-credentialed program to learn about school finance. This is very exciting and will be very helpful.

BOARD COMMENTS/QUESTIONS

UPCOMING EVENTS

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

ADJOURNMENT

Mrs. Christine Carson called the meeting adjourned at 8:15 P.M.

PRES. _____

SEC'Y. _____
