Board of Trustees Board Meeting – July 15, 2025

The Board of Trustees of Joliet School District No. 7 held a regular meeting on July 15, 2025 at 6:30 p.m. in the Joliet School Library. Board Members present were Amanda Dinsdale, Dawn Blain, Ken Adams, Kelly Carrington, Kathy Grewell and Kraig Krook. Also present were Clark Begger, Superintendent; Mandi Hernandez, MS/HS Principal; Joey Richert, K1-5 Principal; and Felicia Smith, Business Manager/Clerk. Visitors in attendance were: Sam Smith, Emily Fanus, Steve Taylor and Tammie Grewell.

Amanda Dinsdale called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. followed by the Pledge of Allegiance. Ms. Dinsdale welcomed guests and asked for public comment. There was no public comment.

III. Reports

a. Facilities – Mr. Taylor updated the Board on: weed spraying; summer projects: landscaping, parking lots, football field fertilization, LED upgrades, classroom paint and carpet, steps up to the crow's nest, outside lighting upgrades, playground changes, football field well repair, boiler pump in the high school and well motor pump.

b. Elementary Principal – Mr. Begger updated the Board on: elementary teacher hiring update; kindergarten enrollment numbers.

c. MS/HS Principal – Mrs. Hernandez updated the Board on: 2025-26 master schedule; registration; fall sports coach/parent meetings will be 08/11/25; first day of practice will be 08/15/25; basketball tournament by Joliet alumni.

d. Testing Data – Mr. Begger reviewed the latest high school testing data with the Board.

IV. Consent Agenda: Claims Warrants ACH 99599-99298 & 52425-52497; Payroll Warrants ACH 83487-83437 & 65077-65174; Activity ACH, voided checks, checks 17741-17750; Minutes: 06/17/2025 regular board meeting; Routine Records Management; New/Disposed Library Book List. Dawn Blain made a motion to accept the consent agenda. Kraig Krook seconded the motion. There was no board discussion and no public comment. The motion was unanimously carried 6-0 (B).

V. Action Items

A. New Business

1. Personnel

[Karin Williams and Jennifer Ingraham were added to the meeting via phone]

Superintendent Begger recommended the Board approve the hiring of John Counter as the High School/Middle School Activities Director (Game, Event and Programming Supervisor) for the 2025-26 school year.

Kelly Carrington made a motion to approve the hiring of John Counter as the High School/Middle School Activities Director (Game, Event and Programming Supervisor) for the 2025-26 school year. Ken Adams seconded the motion. There was no board discussion and no public comment. The motion was unanimously carried 8-0 (B).

Trustee Voting Key: (E) Elementary Vote; (H) High School Vote; (B) Both Districts Vote

Superintendent Begger recommended the Board approve the hiring of Mandi Hernandez as the High School/Middle School Activities Director (Administrative Supervisor) for the 2025-26 school year.

Kelly Carrington made a motion to approve the hiring of Mandi Hernandez as the High School/Middle School Activities Director (Administrative Supervisor) for the 2025-26 school year. Dawn Blain seconded the motion. Ken Adams would like "coach evaluation" added to the job description for the Administrative Supervisor. There was no public comment. The motion was unanimously carried 8-0 (B).

Superintendent Begger recommended the Board approve the hiring of Victoria Ward as the High School/Middle school Head Cheer Coach for the 2025-26 school year.

Dawn Blain made a motion to approve the hiring of Victoria Ward as the High School/Middle School Head Cheer Coach for the 2025-26 school year. Kathy Grewell seconded the motion. There was no board discussion and no public comment. The motion was unanimously carried 8-0 (B).

Superintendent Begger recommended the Board approve the hiring of Jordan Grewell as a teacher for the 2025-26 school year.

Ken Adams made a motion to approve the hiring of Jordan Grewell as a teacher for the 2025-26 school year. Kelly Carrington seconded the motion. There was no board discussion and no public comment. The motion was unanimously carried (Dinsdale, Blain, Adams, Carrington, Ingraham, Krook and Williams-yea; Grewell-abstain).

[Karin Williams and Jennifer Ingraham left the meeting]

Superintendent Begger recommended the Board approve the hiring of Jayne Nelson as a teacher for the 2025-26 school year.

Kathy Grewell made a motion to approve the hiring of Jayne Nelson as a teacher for the 2025-26 school year. Dawn Blain seconded the motion. There was no board discussion and no public comment. The motion was unanimously carried 6-0 (B).

Superintendent Begger recommended the Board approve the hiring of Mikaela Raville as a teacher for the 2025-26 school year.

Kelly Carrington made a motion to approve the hiring of Mikaela Raville as a teacher for the 2025-26 school year. Kraig Krook seconded the motion. There was no board discussion and no public comment. The motion was unanimously carried 6-0 (B).

2. Type E Vehicle Purchase – The Transportation Committee has discussed the purchase of a Type E Ford Expedition for several months and has agreed to recommend to the full Board the approval of the purchase. Information regarding the vehicle was provided in the Board packet.

Ken Adams made a motion to authorize the purchase of a Type E Ford Expedition vehicle. Kraig Krook seconded the motion. There was no board discussion and no public comment. The motion was unanimously carried 6-0 (B).

3. Non-Resident Enrollment – The information regarding out of district students who have applied for enrollment in Joliet Public School was provided in the Board packet. Superintendent Begger is recommending that student #3 be admitted.

Dawn Blain made a motion to approve the out of district enrollment of student #3 listed. Ken Adams seconded the motion. There was no board discussion and no public comment. The motion was unanimously carried 5-0 (B).

4. 2025-2026 Teacher; MS/HS Student and Elementary Student Handbook Approval – The Policy Committee has met and reviewed the Handbooks and made appropriate changes. Redline versions of the handbooks were provided in the Board packet.

Ken Adams made a motion to approve the draft 2025-26 Teacher; MS/HS Student and Elementary Student Handbooks. Kelly Carrington seconded the motion. Kathy Grewell stated that she felt it would be prudent to add "I agree to follow all district policies" to the last page the Teacher Handbook. Tammie Grewell offered public comment on how it would be helpful to have the location of the school policies in the handbook. The JTA would also like to be included in the reports section of Board meetings. Ken Adams requested that the motion be amended to add the statement regarding following policies to the last page of the handbook and include the web address where the policies are located. The motion, as amended, was unanimously carried 6-0 (B).

5. Policy

MTSBA released a collection of new policy updates that are required based on new state law. Many of the laws go into effect on July 1. The policies being considered this month are time sensitive. Policy Committee met on July 8 to begin review of required upates. The Policy Committee is recommending that the Board of Trustees approve the first readings of:

Policies 5251, 3655, 5120P, 5122, 5430NF1, 2335, 3310, 5255, 3416, 2158, 2165, 2165NF1, 3110, 3121, 3650, 2050, 3141, 1009FE, 2600, and 2150.

Dawn Blain made a motion to approve the first reading of policies 5251, 3655, 5120P, 5122, 5430NF1, 2335, 3310, 5255, 3416, 2158, 2165, 2165NF1, 3110, 3121, 3650, 2050, 3141, 1009FE, 2600, and 2150. Kelly Carrington seconded the motion. There was no board discussion and no public comment. The motion was unanimously carried 6-0 (B).

VI. **Discussion/Informational Items** – Mr. Begger provided the Board with the following information: Policy 3210-Equal Education; 2025-2026 handbook work; 06/06/25 activities committee minutes; 06/16/2025 transportation committee minutes; 06/17/2025 budget committee minutes; 06/18/2025 activities committee minutes; 06/24/2025 hiring committee minutes; 06/24/25 policy committee minutes; 06/26/25 activities committee minutes; 06/26/25 hiring committee minutes; 6-12 master

schedule; hiring/staffing update; enrollment update; open house planning and superintendent's schedule.

VII. **Correspondence** –None.

VIII. **Suggested Topics for Next Regular Agenda:**
Final FY26 Budget Adoption
Hire Coaches
Substitute Teacher Approval

IX. **Executive Session** – Amanda Dinsdale determined that the discussion relates to a matter of individual privacy that clearly exceeds the merits of public disclosure and closed the public meeting and went into Executive Session. Mrs. Hernandez, Mr. Richert and Mrs. Smith were excused from the meeting.

Executive Session began at 7:59 p.m. The trustees returned to regular session at 8:36 p.m.

X. **Next Board Meeting Date**
Special Board Meeting—Budget Adoption and August Business – August 12, 2025 in the library
Note: because of the special Board meeting, there will no regular August Board Meeting

XI. **Adjournment**
Ms. Dinsdale adjourned the meeting at 8:38 p.m.

Approved 08/19/2025 Clerk _____

Board Chair _____

Trustee Voting Key: (E) Elementary Vote; (H) High School Vote; (B) Both Districts Vote