

AJCHS #81

March 16, 2026

MINUTES

The Anna-Jonesboro Community High School held its regular meeting on March 16, 2026. Upon roll call at 6:01 p.m. the following members were present: Mrs. Johnson, Mrs. Plott, Mr. Houseman, Mr. Massey, and Mr. Leek.

On motion by Mr. Houseman and seconded by Mr. Massey to approve the Agenda as presented. All members present voting yes. Motion carried.

On motion by Mr. Houseman and seconded by Mrs. Plott to approve the Consent Agenda which contained the following items: approval of board minutes on 2/17/2026; approval of closed session minutes; approval of payment for bills, acceptance of financial reports, and renew IHSA membership. On roll call, all members present voting yes. Motion carried.

Recognition of visitors and correspondence, Public Comments: Matt Denny

Items from Student Council: Kansas Craig spoke about the recent Blood Drive, they set a new school record with collecting 103 units of blood and she spoke about the LEDSC Convention.

Items from Teachers: The Varsity and JV scholar bowl teams won first place on the Mississippi side of the conference championship in February. At the varsity level, Brian Thompson and Drake Bible were named to the all-conference team. The Math Team competed at the ICTM Regional Math Team Contest on February 28th at Herrin High School. The Algebra Team and the Freshman/Sophomore 2-Man team finished third. The Geometry Team, Algebra 2 Team, Pre-Calculus Team, Freshman/Sophomore 8-Man, Junior Senior 8-Man, Junior/Senior 2-Man, and Oral Team all placed third. The Calculator team placed second. The team finished third overall. The next competition is SIUC Math Field Day on March 24th. Mrs. Miller and Ms. Webb hosted the 8th graders on February 20th with the assistance of Mrs. Followell and the band; Mrs. Chamness, Coach Meisenheimer, and the cheerleaders; FFA; NHS; Mr. Page; Mr. Rice; and Brad Stamp. The 8th graders learned about various A-J programs and extracurricular, took tours of the building, and chose their classes for next year. This concluded work on gathering course requests, and master scheduling will soon be under way. Mrs. Miller and Ms. Webb also took 70 freshmen and sophomores to Shawnee Community College's Career and Technical Education day, where students were able to tour the college and learn about the various career certificates and degrees offered. Upcoming events include a visit from our Illinois Student Assistance Commission representative on March 16th to speak with juniors about the new One Click College Admit program and March 19th from 5-7 in the school library to talk to parents about the financial aid process and how to read and compare financial aid offers, a FAFSA completion workshop for senior parents on March 24th from 3:30-6:00, and Freshman Night, which will also be March 24th at 5:30. Finally, we would like to congratulate Foster Needling, who is this year's recipient of the SIU Chancellor's Scholarship. Fine Arts: 12 Band students were selected for River to River Honor Band, held on February 23. This is an annual event for the bands of the Conference schools. Students are nominated by their own band director, and then final selections were made by the host school (Benton this year). 10 AJCHS students were selected for

Concert Band (Zoey L., Anastasia K., Riley L., Lucas T., Jordan G., Preston K., Isabella M., Brianna G., Gabriel E., Elliott P.), and 2 were selected for Jazz Band (Grant L., Elias H.) Band and Choir students participated in IHSA Solo and Ensemble contest on March 7. Nearly all Choir students and about half of Band students participated. Overall, AJ students earned 15 First Division and 5 Second Division ratings. A band quartet including Grant Lingle, Elias Harner, Elliott Poulos, and Nolan Hubbs earned a "Best of Day" award from their judge. The Spring Musical *Seussical* was March 13-15, including 2 preview shows for K-8 and AJCHS students. The show had a cast and crew of about 30 AJCHS students and about 20 junior cast in grades 4-8. In addition to the singing and acting, students did the vast majority of work painting backdrops, designing/building/painting props, running lights and microphones, and managing the back of house. Overall, the show was a fantastic success! The directing team and students are all very grateful for all the support they receive from the Administration and School Board. Art Club attended Marion High School's annual "Trash the Runway" event where students create runway-ready outfits out of recycled materials. Leading up to the event, students worked hard after school and out of school to create their looks. A special congratulations to Zoe Weir and Sailor Waters who earned the Best Fit to Theme award for their design, "Monarch". Congrats to the ACES team, who placed 2nd in their regional competition. Individual winners were...Biology: 3rd - TJ Taylor and Zoe Chen Chemistry: 1st - Tyler Haywood, 2nd - Brian Thompson, 3rd - Grant Lingle Math: 2nd - Lucas Tehandon and TJ Taylor, 3rd - Adam Clark and Zoe Chen Physics: 1st - Grant Lingle, 2nd - Tyler Haywood. Mrs. Stokes' Resource, Mrs. Howell's Civics and Mrs. Morrison's REACH classes are working together on the "The Giving Project" to raise money for charity. Each student will research and pick the charity of their choice for their part of the donation. Students will be making a video to explain why they chose their charity, how the donation was used, and what they learned from the project. The students will be raising the money for this project through a cinnamon roll sale, bake sale, and donations. The students will be doing all aspects of the fundraisers including baking, packaging, and selling. We will be putting out a pre-sale order form for staff. Thank you all for your support in advance. The students are really looking forward to this project! We want to thank our Board and Administration for allowing us to attend the Beta Convention. Beta Club had a great showing during convention and walked away with these awards: Illinois State Beta Club President: Grayson Garner 1st place: Math: TJ Taylor 1st place: Creative Writing: Mariel McGrath 1st place: Accessorized Design: Lucas Tehandon 1st place: Robotics: Zach Taylor, Drake Bible, Edwin Thompson, Sam Smith, Kale Waller, Mason Yates, Layne Murray 1st place: Quiz Bowl: TJ Taylor, Drake Bible, Dawson Brunner, Mason Yates 1st place: Math: Seth Cochran 2nd place: Drawing: Taylor Crews 2nd place: Campaign Skit: Mac Barnhart, Nati Corbit, Lucas Tehandon, Adam Clark, Tilman Dallas, Mason Yates, Kale Waller, Lauren Jackson 3rd place: Science: Grant Lingle 3rd place: Scrapbook: Brooke Sheffer 3rd place: Living Literature: Lauren Jackson. All Spanish students participated in "Locura de Marzo", which is a world-wide Spanish-language "March Madness" sort-of competition. Spanish students completed a bracket that predicted their winners and losers of the 16 artists and songs. Students listened to two popular Spanish-language songs each day, and then they voted on the song they liked best. One day when two Colombian artists were featured, Ms. Corbit prepared arepas (cheesy cornbread in the shape of a pancake) for her students. Ms. Corbit received feedback from one parent whose child wanted to make arepas at home. Ms. Corbit shared the recipe, and the family cooked arepas at home that night. This experience is significant because the ACTFL world language standards support teaching culture by emphasizing practices, products, and perspectives. The National Honor Society recently concluded its Penny Wars fundraiser, raising \$234.93 to support Operation Warm's campaign to provide new shoes for children in need. We appreciate the teachers who volunteered and all students and staff who contributed. Mr. Roberts placed first, followed by Mr. Page, Mrs. Sommer, Mrs. Followell, Ms. Burkhardt, and Mrs. Richbourg. The fundraiser concluded with the traditional pie-in-the-face event. NHS will continue its support of this effort with a sock drive later this semester. Mrs. Treece's physical education classes recently concluded the Global Games Unit. During this unit, students worked collaboratively in groups to research and select a game or activity from another country. A few countries

chosen were: the Netherlands, Finland, Ireland, and Brazil. Each group created a Google Slides presentation explaining the origin, rules, and cultural background of their chosen activity before teaching the game to their classmates. While many students were initially hesitant about trying unfamiliar activities, participation and enthusiasm grew throughout the unit, and students ultimately enjoyed learning and engaging in new games from around the world. Mrs. Treece was also recently elected to serve as a first-time delegate at the Illinois Education Association (IEA) Representative Assembly held in Rosemont, Illinois which she attended March 11th–14th. The assembly included more than 1,200 delegates from across the state. The experience provided an opportunity to learn about statewide educational initiatives, collaborate with educators, and engage in discussions that support public education and the teaching profession. Mrs. Treece described the experience as informative, inspiring, and a valuable opportunity for professional growth. In addition, Mrs. Treece is currently participating in the America's Favorite Teacher Campaign, a national competition that highlights the impact teachers have in their communities and classrooms. The tournament-style competition allows educators to share their stories while community members show their support through public voting. The grand prize includes \$25,000, a trip to Hawaii, a feature in *Reader's Digest*, and a school assembly hosted by Bill Nye the Science Guy. The program celebrates the important role teacher's play in guiding and inspiring the next generation. FFA has been very busy these past few weeks! We reactivated our Alumni Chapter and had a dinner where we had 50 people in attendance. Our alumni got a strong start by hosting an invitational livestock judging contest for the southern end of the state where FFA competed against 9 other schools and placed first. Ella Helton placed 1st individual as well. This past Saturday we attended the Section 24 livestock Judging contest where we competed against 100 other students from 30 teams and we placed 1st as a team at this contest as well. Our tractor raffle is also officially underway and tickets can be purchased online from our FFA Facebook page. This tractor has been fully restored by our students with parts donated from local businesses. All funds go towards future projects. FFA also hosted FFA week! During this week we had dress up days every day, a corn hole tournament between the lunches, and our annual kiss the pig contest. This year's "winner" was Mrs. Followell! Mrs. Massey, Mrs. Misener, and Mrs. Morrison have started the Wildcat Elevate and Celebrate committee. We started with a St. Patrick's Day spa basket and Texas Road House gift card that two lucky winners will win tomorrow at the end of the day. We also did a Shamrock Shout out board which is in the work room. We have and will continue to give small gifts throughout the year reminding them of how much everyone in this building is appreciated. We will also be raffling off a Blackstone griddle at the end of the year and the faculty and staff will all be entered at least once, but will also have more opportunities to gain more entries. We have some other fun things planned for the remainder of the school year.

Mr. Finders report was ACT testing that will take place on April 14th.

Ms. Stevens reported on IPA Model Student Handbook Update, Student Handbook Updates, IHSA Band Solo/Ensemble Contest, and Digital Hall Pass Trial.

Principal Rice spoke about Upcoming Dates, Attendance, 5 Essential Survey, Handbook Changes, Academic Intervention Data, Discipline Data, Southern Illinois Law Conference, and Freshman Orientation.

Superintendent Detering reported on the ROE Compliance Visit, School Calendar, Corridor Project Update, Bus Purchase, Weight Room Improvements, and Title 1 Grant; Washer and Dryer.

On motion by Mr. Houseman and seconded by Mr. Massey for the Board to enter into closed session at 7:12 p.m. for the following reasons (1) the purpose of appointment, employment, compensation,

discipline, performance, or dismissal of specific employee of the public body or legal counsel for the public body, including hearing testimony on a complaint lodged against an employee of the public body or against legal counsel for the public to determine its validity. 5ILCS 120/2(c)(1) Student disciplinary cases. 5ILCS 120/2 (c)(9). On roll call, all members present voting yes. Motion carried.

On motion by Mr. Houseman and seconded by Mrs. Johnson to return to regular session at 8:56 p.m. On roll call, all members present voting yes. Motion carried.

On motion by Mr. Houseman and seconded by Mrs. Plott to approve the 2026-2027 School Calendar. All members present voting yes. Motion carried.

On motion by Mr. Leek and seconded by Mr. Massey to approve Administrative Assistant contract On roll call, all members present voting yes. Motion carried.

On motion by Mr. Leek and seconded by Mr. Houseman to approve Maintenance Director contract. On roll call, all members present voting yes. Motion carried.

On motion by Mr. Houseman and seconded by Mrs. Plott to approve tenure for Dalton Browning, Rachel Brumleve, Jennifer Stokes, Reagan Morrison, Bernie Page, and Jessica Sawyer. On roll call, all members present voting yes. Motion carried.

On motion by Mr. Leek and seconded by Mr. Houseman to approve Matt Carey as Special Education Teacher. On roll call, all members present voting yes. Motion carried.

On motion by Mr. Houseman and seconded by Mr. Leek to approve Joel Dallas as Head Football Coach. On roll call, all members present voting yes. Motion carried.

On motion by Mr. Houseman and seconded by Mrs. Johnson to approve unpaid leave request for Heath Dawley from April 8 2026 to the end of the 2025-2026 school year. On roll call, all members present voting yes. Motion carried.

On motion by Mr. Houseman and seconded by Mr. Leek to adjourn the Regular Meeting at 9:13 p.m. On roll call, all members present voting yes. Motion carried.

Next regularly scheduled meeting Monday, April 20, 2026 at 6:00 p.m. in the High School Library.

Angela Johnson, President _____

Michael Houseman, VP _____

Stacey Plott, Secretary _____