Jefferson School District

Official Minutes of the Regular Meeting
Of the Board of Trustees
March 9, 2021

(Due to COVID-19, this meeting was held virtually for the public through a Zoom webinar)

Present: Dan Wells, President; Phil Raya, Vice President; Brian Jackman, Clerk; Pete Carlson, Member; Debbie Wingo, Member; Jim Bridges, Superintendent

In attendance virtually: Dena Whittington, Chief Business Officer; Nancie Castro, Director of Human Resources and Curriculum; Angelica Thomas, Director of Special Education; Sarah Steen, Curriculum Coordinator; Christina Orsi, Ken Silman, Emily Stroup, Alyssa Wooten, Principals; Celli Coeville, Administrative Assistant

I. OPEN SESSION

a. Call to Order at 5:34 PM
b. Roll Call to Establish Quorum – all Board members were present
c. Approval of Agenda- there were no changes to the agenda
d. Public Comment on Closed Session Items

MSA (Jackman/Carlson) – Approve the agenda as presented-
Ayes – 5 Nays – 0 Absent – 0 Abstain – 0
Carlson, Jackman,
Raya, Wells, Wingo

e. Closed Session Adjourn to Closed Session for the purpose of discussing matters expressly authorized by Government Codes 3549.1, 54956.7, 54956.8, 54956.9, 54956.95,54957, 54957.8, Education Codes 49079(c), 48912, 48918

f. ADJOURN TO CLOSED SESSION

II. RETURN TO OPEN SESSION – 6:30 PM

Welcome from Board President Mr. Wells
Pledge of Allegiance

In Closed Session-

MSA (Jackman/Wingo) - Approved personnel action for certificated employee #'s 12112, 12113 and 12114; The Board also approved the personnel action for classified employee #'s 12115, 12116, 12117, 12118, 12119, 12120 and 12121.
Ayes – 5 Nays – 0 Absent – 0 Abstain – 0
Carlson, Jackman,
Raya, Wells, Wingo

During Closed Session, the Board of Trustees also discussed the evaluation of the Superintendent.

Superintendent's Report – Dr. Bridges reported that he is pleased to announce that the District opened to in-person instruction for grades TK -6 on March 3, 2021. We have 865 students back on campus and expect to have 296 more 7-8 grade students once the county is in the red tier. At this time, we anticipate bringing 7-8 grade students back no earlier than March 22, 2021. District wide we have 50% of students in person and 50% in distance learning. Once the 7-8 grade students come back, the District will have 51 % of students in person and 49% in distance learning. Dr. Bridges noted that Jefferson School currently has 49% of their students in person, Tom Hawkins School has 53% of their students in person, Monticello School has 54% of their students in person and Anthony Traina School has 44% of their students in person.

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Dr. Bridges indicated that as of March 3, 2021, 95% of certificated staff have received the first dose of the Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine, and second doses will begin next week. Overall 70% of the staff members have received the first dose but this number may be skewed as substitutes were also contacted regarding immunizations. Dr. Bridges shared COVID data through February 26th. The District has had seven site staff members and one in-person student test positive for COVID and one class has had to quarantine due to a COVID exposure. To date the JSD COVID Testing Facility has conducted over 70 tests so far.

III. PUBLIC COMMENT – There were two public comments for items not on the agenda. Dr. Bridges read the following Public Comments which were received via Google Forms prior to the meeting:

- Jefferson School District's Sunshine Proposal 2020-2023 Contract
- Jefferson Teachers Association Sunshine Proposal 2020-2023 Contract

Lea Austin/Hawkins Parent:

After reviewing the agenda for this meeting, unless I misread it, I am perplexed that school opening is not on the agenda. I would like to think Superintendent Bridges sees it as a responsibility to provide a community update on school and district operations and climate, especially in the context of the pandemic. As Superintendent, here are some questions you could share answers to, and as board members, request answers to: What proportion of students are on each campus and remaining in distance learning? What procedures are happening daily? If a teacher is reporting that the safety precautions are not being followed (as was stated at a previous meeting when just a limited group of students were on campus) what are schools and the district doing to respond? How many positive cases have been connected to each school in the district? How many, if any, staff have had to quarantine? What practices are proving most effective? How is the split schedule working for teachers? For families? What, if any, unanticipated challenges and/or benefits are schools experiencing? I recognize that school has only been considered reopened for a handful of days, but in actuality, some students have been on campus for months and many of these are questions that could have been routinely answered for months.

A standing item of a Superintendent's report on every agenda would offer a great opportunity to provide transparency to the community with updates on what is happening across the district and in schools, and when relevant at the county level, highlighting challenges, successes, and opportunities as we remain in the health emergency but also beyond. I hope this is considered for meetings going forward. Thank you.

Tom Hawkins Parent:

I would like to thank the Board for providing flexible learning options during the year. We have been very satisfied with the Jefferson Virtual Academy (JVA) option and hope that it will be continued also next school year (regardless of COVID situation then). I think it will be useful for the school district families in several ways, e.g. as it provides:

-flexibility and safety for families regarding COVID and other health issues (in case COVID is still around in August this year)

-opportunity as a Gifted and Talented program (e.g. as it allows moving at a faster pace)

- alternative school choice for those who (for whatever reason) feel that the current traditional school environment is not the best approach for them.

I think this is a great opportunity for the school district to establish permanent Virtual Academy program and thereby provide the above-mentioned benefits within Jefferson School District.

Mr. Carlson publicly commended Dr. Bridges for the job that he has done for this District during the pandemic and for the job that he continues to do every day to keep students, teachers, and support staff safe and healthy. Mr. Carlson stated that this has been an unbelievable obstacle for the District and the country to get over and Dr. Bridges has stepped up and been the leader that this District needs.

Mrs. Wingo echoed Mr. Carlson's statement and added that there was no playbook for this situation for school districts, municipalities or hospitals, and that this pandemic is something that none of us had ever experienced before. She noted that we put safety first and Dr. Bridges has gone above and beyond to establish a safe working environment for our staff, while also ensuring that students will be safe when they return. The Board knows everything that has transpired and what Dr. Bridges has done. Mrs. Wingo stressed that the Board appreciates all that Dr. Bridges does and that he has the full support of the Board. Mrs. Wingo said that our District schools are as safe as they possibly can be at this time and that is largely due to Dr. Bridges' tireless efforts on behalf of the District. Mr. Raya, Mr. Jackman and Mr. Wells all thanked Dr. Bridges for all he has done and continues to do.

Mr. Wells thanked the public for the comments that were submitted.

IV. APPROVAL OF THE CONSENT AGENDA

4.1 Minutes – Regular Board Meeting February 9, 2021 and Special Board Meeting February 17, 2021

4.2 Warrants – February 2021

4.3 Financials – February 2021

4.4 Surplus- School Buses

MSA (Carlson/Raya) approve the consent agenda as presented.

Ayes – 5 Nays – 0 Absent – 0 Abstain – 0

Carlson, Jackman,
Raya, Wells, Wingo

V. EDUCATIONAL SERVICES

5.1 Student Enrollment- We are up five students from the time of the report.

VI. PERSONNEL SERVICES

6.1 Jefferson School District's Sunshine Proposal 2020-2023 Contract

MSA (Jackman/Raya) accept the Jefferson School District's Sunshine Proposal 2020-2023 Contract as presented

Ayes – 5 Nays – 0 Absent – 0 Abstain – 0

Carlson, Jackman,
Raya, Wells, Wingo

6.2 Jefferson Teachers Association Sunshine Proposal 2020-2023 Contract

MSA (Carlson/Jackman) accept the Jefferson Teachers Association Sunshine Proposal 2020-2023 Contract as presented

Ayes – 5 Nays – 0 Absent – 0 Abstain – 0

Carlson, Jackman,
Raya, Wells, Wingo

6.3 CSU Stanislaus, School Administration Field Experience Agreement

MSA (Raya/Carlson) approve the CSU Stanislaus, School Administration Field Experience Agreement as presented

Ayes – 5 Nays – 0 Absent – 0 Abstain – 0

Carlson, Jackman,
Raya, Wells, Wingo

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VII. BUSINESS AND FACILTIES

7.1 February 2021 Budget Adjustments -
MSA (Wingo/Jackman) approve the February 2021 Budget Adjustments as presented
Ayes – 5 Nays – 0 Absent – 0 Abstain – 0
Carlson, Jackman,
Raya, Wells, Wingo

7.2 Resolution 2021-03-01 Approving Close of Escrow and Acquisition of Real Property for K-8 School Site, Tracy Hills–
MSA (Carlson/Jackman) approve Resolution 2021-03-01 Approving Close of Escrow and Acquisition of Real Property for K-8 School Site, Tracy Hills as presented:
Ayes – 5 Nays – 0 Absent – 0 Abstain – 0
Carlson, Jackman,
Raya, Wells, Wingo

7.3 2021 Transportation Update – CBO, Dena Whittington provided an update to the Board and the public regarding the JSD Transportation Department. Mrs. Whittington indicated that we are currently transporting students and outlined what the current student ridership for the District. The buses are cleaned and disinfected after each drop off and proper distancing/seating is taking place as well. Ms. Whittington shared the advances in technology that began with our previous MOT, such as the installation and implementation of the Zonar System, GPS equipped vans/buses, and buses and vans being equipped with RFID card readers. RFID cards are given to students and the cards are scanned when students get on and exit the busses. MOT staff have been provided Chromebooks as well.

A breakdown of the current transportation department and fleet was shared, as well as the recommendation that the District surplus bus #3, #4 and #5. Mrs. Whittington noted that on the agenda tonight, she is asking for approval to acquire two new Thomas buses and one additional passenger van. The passenger van allows the District flexibility with drivers and has easier access to rural areas. Mrs. Whittington thanked our two drivers, Becky and Irma, for being so flexible during this year.

7.4 Acquisition of Two Thomas School Buses-
MSA (Jackman/Carlson) approve the Acquisition of Two Thomas School Buses as presented
Ayes – 5 Nays – 0 Absent – 0 Abstain – 0
Carlson, Jackman,
Raya, Wells, Wingo

7.5 Acquisition of 2021 Passenger Van -
MSA (Carlson/Wingo) approve the Acquisition of 2021 Passenger Van as presented
Ayes – 5 Nays – 0 Absent – 0 Abstain – 0
Carlson, Jackman,
Raya, Wells, Wingo

7.6 2020-2021 Second Interim Report – CBO, Dena Whittington reported on the Second Interim Report for the District. The District does not have a lot of changes to the financials from First Interim. The General Fund Revenue and Expenditures were shown for this fiscal year. Mrs. Whittington noted that the main change from First Interim was that the District Expenditures changed slightly. Due to the pandemic funds were moved to a different account to acquire science curriculum, as with the pandemic the professional development that the funds were initially slated for was not allowed to take place.

Mrs. Whittington noted that after the District's books were closed additional funds were released for COVID grants. This was called the Emergency and Secondary School Emergency Relief or ESSER

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II. The District's estimated funding will be $827,000 which can be used for PPE, testing, and additional learning opportunities for students.
MSA (Wingo/Jackman) approve the 2020-2021 Second Interim Report as presented
Ayes – 5 Nays – 0 Absent – 0 Abstain – 0
Carlson, Jackman,
Raya, Wells, Wingo

7.7 Acceptance of 2019-20 Jefferson School District Audit Report -
MSA (Wingo/Carlson) approve the 2019-20 Jefferson School District Audit Report as presented
Ayes – 5 Nays – 0 Absent – 0 Abstain – 0
Carlson, Jackman,
Raya, Wells, Wingo

7.8 Xerox Copy Machine Lease 2021-2024 -
MSA (Carlson/Wingo) approve the Xerox Copy Machine Lease 2021-2024 as presented
Roll call vote was as follows:
Ayes – 5 Nays – 0 Absent – 0 Abstain – 0
Carlson, Jackman,
Raya, Wells, Wingo

7.9 2019-2020 Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) Pure Pupil Expenditure – Ms. Whittington shared that this is the 2nd year the District has completed this federally required report. Components of per pupil expenditures were shared. Federal program expenditures were noted as well as state/local expenditures. As a District we are spending $9,933 per student. Mrs. Whittington shared a two-year average of the ESSA Pure Pupil Expenditure. She noted that over time these expenditure amounts will normalize.

7.10 Award of Category Two E-Rate RFP No. 2020-11-02 -
MSA (Wingo/Jackman) approve the Award of Category Two E-Rate RFP No. 2020-11-02 as presented
Ayes – 5 Nays – 0 Absent – 0 Abstain – 0
Carlson, Jackman,
Raya, Wells, Wingo

VIII. BOARD DISCUSSION AND REPORTS

8.1 Items for the Next Board Meeting- Employee of the Year recognized, PJHM Architects may be in attendance if allowed to present Franklyn Cole School plans.

ADJOURNMENT – MSA (Carlson/Jackman) 7:20 PM

Respectfully submitted,

James W. Bridges
Secretary to the Board

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