Jefferson School District

Official Minutes of the Special Meeting
Of the Board of Trustees
December 1, 2020

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

Present virtually: Debbie Wingo, President; Phil Raya, Vice President; Dan Wells, Clerk; Brian Jackman, Member; Pete Carlson, 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 6:30 PM
- b. Roll Call to Establish Quorum –
- c. Approval of Agenda-
- d. Pledge of Allegiance

MSA (Wells/Raya) – Approve the agenda

Ayes – 5	Nays – 0	Absent – 0	Abstain – 0
Carlson, Jackman, Raya, Wells, Wingo			

II. PUBLIC COMMENT – There were no public comments that were not related to a specific agenda item.

III. EDUCATIONAL SERVICES

3.1 JSD Opening to In-Person Instruction Update-
Google Forms were used for public comment for this virtual meeting. Dr. Bridges read all public comments received for this agenda item:

Urvashi Sparman:
I truly believe that we should continue distance learning for those families who wish to do so for the health of their families. On the districts website, 43% of families want to continue distance learning that is almost 50%! Also, 83% of teachers want to continue distance learning. For those students who need to return for many reasons should be allowed to return and have done so already. We should avoid the surge of cases that will come about from the Thanksgiving, Christmas, and New Year's holidays. People will not adhere to Covid19 safety precautions during the holidays. I implore you to understand this point and allow us to remain on distance learning as the board is not even meeting in person for this meeting. In addition, only 2% of families want to enroll their children in JVA. To force these families to dis-enroll and then enroll in the JVA would be shutting them out of the routine that is set up now and would completely isolate them and this can cause even more mental challenges. The kids have already adapted to the current distance learning model and can continue to do so until we are in a lower tier. Please do the right thing.

Heather Zogorski:
I'm in disbelief that we are here yet again discussing the option of returning to school. I said during the last meeting that school is essential. I cannot stress this enough. I would like clear and truthful reasons as to why we are not back. I don't want to hear Covid numbers or an argument that if we doing this meeting on zoom then why should we be in class. We all know the numbers and after living like this for the past 9 months we can all agree to disagree on numbers and opinions. We need

to move on with our lives, the survival rate for this is 99%! I understand there are two different views on this and everyone is entitled to their own. However, I also believe that there is VERY little grey area here. You are either at home, and staying home having groceries and essentials delivered or you are comfortable being out and about in public in a safe manner. With this, I feel that the teachers and staff who do not feel comfortable being in their classroom at this point should be given another option. They can take over a class that is 100% DL, there has to be an option for them to work at home while there are in quarantine. Because if they honestly do not feel safe at school with their class in person then that's what they should be doing. They should not be with other family members outside of their home or out shopping. For those teachers that do want to be back in the classroom now should be given the chance to resume as normal. Our children, your students, need to be back in school learning where they are meant to be learning with the professionals who are meant to be teaching them. I understand that there are students whose parents would chose to continue DL for the remainder of the year. That is also perfectly fine. Those groups of students should be put into classes together with a teacher who does not want to come back, forming a new class. Is this ideal to change students and teachers at this point, no, but it's an option that should happen. Let us come back.

CJ:
Hello Dr. Bridges, thank you for your time. I don't know what else to say other than that we need to be given the option to come back to school, in person, on a daily basis. I understand that the hybrid model isn't ideal for a variety of reason. Fine, then come up with something else! Those of us who want to and feel comfortable coming back should have the opportunity. Those that do not, can continue distance learning for the remainder of the year. We also need to be given more info, other than numbers, as to why we are not back? Do teachers not feel safe in their classroom? If so, do they not go to Target or Home Depot (where there are many, many more people) I don't feel that anyone has a leg to stand on in saying that they don't feel safe/comfortable if they are also out and about and/or socializing with other people. You are a teacher and this is your job, so go do it. We all need to live our lives and move on at least a little from this. Education is one of the most essential parts of our lives and at one point we were lucky enough to have the opportunity to have it. Having a kindergartener on the computer for 2.5 hours a day is not what we should be doing. It's not enough and it's not the best scenario to learn these important fundamentals. A year ago how much did we all read about restricting screen time, yet here we are for hours each day. Teaching to read via zoom…I don't even know where to start with that. Parents doing more than helping with math (that they have no clue how to do because for some reason it was changed) is not constructive. The kids and families that want to be in class and feel it is necessary need to be. Others can continue DL or find something that works for them. We need what works for us to happen and its time us to be heard and understood and listened to and given an opportunity.

Patty Hillstead:
Thank you, Dr. Bridges, for your encouragement to "release the anxieties of our world and focus on the treasures you have to be thankful for"; however, this Thanksgiving Break my focus was continually brought back to the anxiety of bringing even more students back into our classrooms as cases soar and we remain in the purple tier. Even though it is not ideal, our students are receiving daily quality lessons which encompass our District curriculum as teachers and students have adapted to Distance Learning. Providing consistency and routine for our students is critical during these ever-changing weeks and I believe returning to school too quickly could result in school closures and a disruption in their learning.
As I spent Thanksgiving away from my loved ones, sending air kisses to my grandchildren and children through video calls, I am reminded that very soon my colleagues, my students, their families, and myself will be exposing ourselves to uncertainty which can be averted by realizing the importance of health and safety for everyone.

I am truly blessed to have my family safe and healthy. As my family and loved ones continue to take the necessary precautions and sacrifices to remain safe and healthy, my expectation is that our

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Jefferson School Board will also take all precautions and make sacrifices to keep our family of educators, support staff, administrators, students, and their families safe.

Thank you for your strong consideration of postponing the start date of January 4, 2021, to a date in the future.

Jeanine Cruz, Jefferson Teacher's Association President:
At the November board meeting, you were told that staff were able to give input to how we reopened our schools. And this was true; however, we were asked by the district to give input back in May. Things have changed dramatically since May, and JTA leadership felt it was imperative to survey our staff again to determine how the unit felt regarding reopening our schools.
The results of our survey are as follows: There were 88 unit-members that responded to the survey. The first question asked how the staff felt about opening our schools on January 4th, with the options of the hybrid model or full instruction model, as this were the given scenarios that the Board was going to decide upon. This was an even 50-50 split amongst the unit. The next question asked how the unit felt if we were to return in January, and the county was still in purple, what would be the preference of how to reopen our schools. 83% want to stay in Distance Learning, 13.6% want to return to 100% instruction, and 3.4% want to return to school in the hybrid model. There were also 39 written responses regarding individual concerns.
The reoccurring theme across the majority of the responses are: that as teachers, we know that these models are not the best way to teach our students. However, people want to return when it is SAFE to do so. We need to look at the science behind how is the safest way to proceed during this pandemic, and not give in to the pressure placed on our schools by the parents and the community. We have high risk staff, and COVID cases in San Joaquin county are on the rise. Most of us were not able to spend the Thanksgiving holiday with our families for this reason.
We hear every year that Jefferson School District prides itself on putting our families first. It is our hope that when you vote this evening, that you consider what is best for the safety of everyone. The priority should be the health and safety of the students, teachers, and all staff.

Heather Maloy:
I would like my kids go back to school. They are being highly impacted by the current situation. Please let our kids be kids.

3rd Grader:
My class thinks the school should open back up. One reason is because it is hard to type fast and do all of our work on the computer. Another reason is because we need to be with our teacher so that we can learn better. Finally, when we go to school in person we get more education because we stay longer. All of the students would be very thankful to you if you can open Monticello back up. Thank you.

Kindergarten Student:
I want to go back to school because I want to see my teacher. I want to learn in my classroom with friends. I also want to play on my playground. Thanks.

Jennifer Murphy/Hawkins Teacher:
I am writing to you tonight to discuss reopening options. This is my 21st year teaching with the Jefferson School district. I have just finished my second week of "zooming" and "rooming" after months of distance learning. This has been very challenging overall as a kindergarten teacher. I am asking that we reopen as planned in January. Distance learning and trying to zoom with children in my classroom is in my opinion not conducive to learning. I currently have only 2 students in the classroom but am struggling with assisting them as needed because I am trying to also address the 22 on the screen. Trying to split teach as I am being asked to do does not do justice to the teaching or the learning we all deserve. I believe bringing all students back would allow me to put the children first because I could focus my attention on teaching ALL students. This would be much more conducive to learning than a hybrid because I would not have to worry about zooming and teaching

kids in my room at the same time. Such a hybrid would not allow me to teach the necessary safety protocols effectively and the normal routines and procedures because I would be dividing my time between screen and room. If you chose to not open completely, please consider a model with NO ZOOM and ROOM. Then I can be present and teach the children in my room, something they need desperately after being physically out of school since March. Along with being able to sufficiently teach safety protocols, school routines I would be able to reteach skills to bridge the learning gaps. Please consider returning all students with a modified schedule to help ease the transition and ensure safety. A full return with a 11:45-12:30 dismissal and Wednesday still online. If this is successful, then go to an all week/ all day schedule. If you decide on a hybrid model, please consider no Zoom model so I can teach the students in my classroom.

A teacher/Anonymous:
Dear JSD board members,
I know that you have been faced with many difficult decisions during this time and I appreciate the considerations of the board. I know that many of tonight's comments will be from teachers that do not feel that we should open schools for a variety of personal reasons. I as well am conflicted with knowing that there is risk, but I ask you to greatly consider the needs of our students. As educators we have always stood behind what's in the best interest of students. I am now seeing firsthand the greater need of our students. I have been fortunate enough to have a small group of students back in my classroom and as a teacher, this is my why. I am reminded of how important school is to these students, having the structure and accountability, the commeraterie of students and teacher, just simply a discussion with others without being on mute.
Distance learning is not beneficial academically or emotionally, it's a band aid. I believe teachers are doing the best they can to deliver the best instruction, but we know there is no comparison to what we do in the classroom. There is no guarantee of learning when students are not in our classroom. There are constant distractions many times not in the control of the student. Many outside factors are taking precedence over school in the home. The academic loss is enormous as well as the emotional toll this is taking. We will see the effects of this learning loss for a very long time to come.
I ask that you take in consideration the needs of our students, just as some teachers need to take into consideration their own needs at this time. If it is not safe for them to return, they need to weigh their options. Families will also need to make their own considerations as to what is best. School is essential, teachers are essential, and we need to move forward and move to reopen schools whether it be in hybrid or in full, if our county allows. Our students are our first priority.

Matt Gordon:
This issue has divided us all. We are divided between coworkers, friends, and family. I'm not going to tell you what you should do because I am on the other side than what most people in California are for. I am though, on the same side as all children and the parents who are struggling to teach their kids. The children are suffering tremendously. It's not about just getting back to class to learn. It is about them interacting with their friends and teachers. The interactions they experience in school is what teaches our kids how to be viable citizens in society when they grow up. It teaches them to overcome their fears and learn how to deal with confronting situations in person and not through a computer which we all know, is easily to hide behind.

4th grader:
I want to go back to school because this is my last year at Monticello. I also want to go back to school to see my friends in person instead of on the computer. I miss being around other kids. I also learn better in a classroom. I have many distractions at home with siblings and internet issues. Please let me go back to school. Thank you.

Jill Finton/Teacher and Parent:
My personal children and most of my students are suffering in distance learning. It is hurting them academically, mentally, and socially. We cannot keep doing this to them. I think we should reopen 100% ASAP!

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Anonymous:
I would like to start off by thanking the hard working, innovative teachers and staff who have done a phenomenal job with distance learning thus far. As a parent and teacher, I have been extremely impressed with their continuous efforts of engaging and teaching their students through these incredibly challenging circumstances. But, although I am grateful, this has certainly gone way past the point it should have and our district needs to start putting our children's educational and mental health needs at the same level of importance as their physical health.

We are at the point of this pandemic that it is clear, thanks to numerous studies, pediatrician's research, and data from schools world-wide that children are NOT susceptible to COVID-19 like we all believed in the beginning. Rather the opposite, children not only rarely contract this virus but furthermore their rate of transmission is minimal. We are NOT keeping our children safe by keeping them home, we are hurting them! And it is time we open up our schools.

Parents have spoken, and survey after survey have shown many families want their children back in school. Please allow those students to return and those who do not want their child to return may continue their child's distance learning education.

Thank you.

Anonymous:
Please agree on an answer for applying for the wavier and if it's approved will we use it? Or with a heavy heart I will have to remove my kids from this school. Not because I don't love having them from home but for my kid's mental health and education.
Thank you!

Patti Cannon:
Dear Board Members,
San Joaquin County has returned to the purple tier due to the dramatic increase of positive Covid 19 cases. Our entire state has seen the same exponential increase daily.
I would like to ask that you allow the Jefferson Teachers to remain in the distance learning/ teaching model until our county returns to the red tier. I think it is the safest thing for every person who is a part of our district, including the children and their families, the teachers, the classified staff, administration and all of our families as well.
Thank you for your consideration.
Patti Cannon

Christopher Fleckner:
I was very dismayed by some of the public comments at the last board meeting. As such, I wanted to express my gratitude to my daughter's teacher, school, district and school board for rising to the challenges of this wholly unprecedented and difficult time.
I am thankful for:
-My daughter's teacher, for going above and beyond to maximize this distance learning experience.
-Her school, for providing a multitude of events for those missing the social aspects of a traditional school year.
-Her district and school board for taking a pragmatic and empathetic approach to the education of our students.

We know that distance learning is not a full substitute for regular in-person instruction, and we all want to see our students return to their classes the way they were before.

However, I feel many parents do not understand that even when schools reopen it won't be the way it was before. Until a vaccine is widely available there will be no recess playgrounds, no assemblies, no cafeteria, no hands-on student collaboration, nothing that resembles the way schools used to be.

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The difficulty of deciding when and how schools fully reopen is astounding, and I thank the board for following what guidance there is for the safe reopening of schools. While this year has been difficult for everyone, it is temporary, and I for one am grateful to have my student in such an excellent district during this time.

Julie Bogetti:
We should reopen. Two days ago even Dr. Fauci said schools should reopen (ABC's "This Week Show"). Our students are suffering, not learning, and most are not completing their distance learning work. It's been almost a year.... too long. We are doing a huge disservice to these kids.

Amber Foster:
As a mother of 4 children all home distant learning, this is wearing on them physically, emotionally and educationally. We need to get our kids back to school!

Paul Fern:
Jefferson Board members, COVID-19 cases are rising in San Joaquin County. According to the San Joaquin County Public Health Department, 1,116 new cases have been confirmed in the last week. Dr. Fauci and other health care experts expect numbers to continue to rise due to Thanksgiving gatherings. This is NOT the time to reopen our schools. Please do not gamble with the lives of our students and staff. Consider reopening after the holidays and flu season. The end of Covid is in sight, let's be patient and keep everyone safe during this volatile time. It's the prudent thing to do.

Sophia Posten:
Re open school to children who are ready

5th Grade student:
Hello,
I am in 5th grade and I would like my voice to be heard in regards of returning back to school. I think it is unhealthy for us young children to stare at a computer screen for so many hours with just a short break. I also think it is not healthy because we stare at a computer screen for so many hours per day. I miss being in the classroom with my friends, and I miss interacting with people. I feel that this is very important. It is hard being that we don't see anyone, or talk with one another. I really hope this letter is being seen, and my voice is heard. I really would like to go back to school.
From,
5th grade student

Jeanine Cruz:
We are in the middle of a pandemic, and we need to make decisions based off of that and the science that goes with that. As a public school teacher for the last 23 years, I know this is not ideal for anyone, but we are making it work. I've worked harder than I've ever worked. I've sacrificed time with my family to keep them safe. I invite you to come and see what we do on a regular basis to make this situation work for our students. We are all doing the best we can right now in these unprecedented times. Please join us for a day, or a session. Come watch what we do on a regular basis. Watch as we learn and grow together with our students and their families. We are making progress and students are successful. I need the board to put our family's health and safety first, and do not send us back to school in a hybrid or full instructional model until it is safe to do so. Safe means when we are not in the purple tier, and COVID cases are not spiking. We must wait. It's what is the safest for all involved.

Kelly Shook/Teacher:
I want to take the time to thank you for listening to staff, students and families in order to make the best possible decision. I am a teacher that has had "at risk" students in my classroom for the last 2 weeks' school has been in session. I love seeing the students beaming faces in the classroom, but it is hard to maintain fluid teaching when the "at risk" students in the classroom NEED any and all of my attention. Attention they are seeking by calling out, getting out of their seat or refusing to do work

independently. Teaching 5 year olds to put their pencil onto their paper is much different than a 6th grader watching his or her teacher on the computer. We need to remember in these special circumstances that one size does not fit all. If the decision is to return, primary grades need to have a morning/afternoon or Asynchronous schedule. Teachers need to be able to focus their attention on ALL of the students in the classroom or ALL of the students online.

Ava Crivello:
Hi! I'm in the 6th grade. First I'd like to thank you all for voting to go back to school in January. During covid I have learned to wear a mask, wash my hands more, and stay away from people that are sick. I want to go back to school if it's twice a week or all week. I just want to go back to school to see my friends and actually meet my teachers. I just really don't want to miss out on all the fun things that we will do in the future. We already missed science camp and other fun activities. Our teachers have done an amazing job teaching us and making it fun. But, if we are at school then the teacher would be there to see what we did wrong. Also if we are on zoom it is hard for some kids because their internet isn't always the best. At school we would all be able to learn so much more. Please take this into consideration.
Sincerely,
6th grader from Jefferson school

Concerned Parent:
I am a parent of 3 students in JSD schools and teacher in another district. I understand how it feels to be a parent/teacher to your own children and teacher to my students. Sometimes at the same time. It is crazy and we have survived, so far. We are in a time like no other. I am not sure if there is an answer or correct way to open back up. As a parent I feel confident that JSD can open up safely for students. As a teacher, I totally understand the uncertainty, fear and anguish the JSD teachers are feeling. I am too feeling the same way. The reason why my own children attend JSD schools and not where I teach, is because JSD does it right. I am confident that when the schools open back up in January it will be in a thoughtful manner. As a teacher I am not sure which way of learning any district should open to in person learning in. Getting to my point, the JSD schools need to open up to in person learning in January. Either in full, hybrid or some combination of both. The students need to be back in school. The academic, social, mental, and emotional loss that these students have endured is at time incomprehensible. It will take years for the students to get back to where they left off. Not to mention the students that will never recover from this loss. Distant Learning in my opinion was result of a shutdown. It should not be continued unless we are forced into another shutdown. Again, I will ask that you open the JSD schools back up for in person learning. Please put the students first.

Zachary Gama/6th grade student at Hawkins:
Please I would like everyone to go back to school because there are too many distractions at our homes. I have been able to go back to school for two days and it was great. Thank you for letting me go back to school. If anybody is having inconvenience of distractions at home I think they should say, so we all know how many people are having trouble.

3rd grade student:
Hello,
Please let me go back to school. I really miss it, and my friends. I want to go back to school so I can get more help from my teacher. She does a good job, but it is hard sitting for so long on the computer.
Sincerely,
3rd grade student

1st grade student:
Hello,

I really want to go back to school. Starring at a computer is so hard for me. I really miss all my friends. It is really hard to do math. It is really hard for me to stay focused. I hope we get to go back soon.
From,
1st grade student

Jolene Golarte:
At the last meeting the board agreed that if the county was red or orange we go back full schedule January 4th and if we were in Purple we would use the waiver for K-6 still back 1/4/21. The parent survey was giving 4 different options and now no mention of the waiver to get our kids back January 4th. This is ridiculous at this point. If something is said and agreed to at a board meeting it should be stuck to. AGAIN, Gavin Newsom's kids are back in school as so many thousands in our area. Where is the school stories on the news? The mass ICU patients from kids being back in school with their teachers?? Exactly, there are none. Jefferson needs to make this right just like so many local schools have chosen to do. Put the kids first and get them back where they belong. Mountain house, Manteca Unified, all local private and charter schools didn't have one problem staffing their classrooms with teachers who want to teach their students. What is the problem here?? The problem is there is too many options being put out there. Either go back to school or let those parents home school their kids and teachers can fill a different teaching position. Enough is enough.

I would also like to share a small message my son who is in 6th grade wrote - -

When I logged on one day I was really confused on why there was kids in class. I was also mad when I heard that some just haven't been doing this distance learning and they get to go back before me. Me and other kids don't get to go back and we have been doing the best we can even though we hate it. I don't like distance learning and I'm not learning like I do in school. This makes me really angry since I love school and moved to this nice neighborhood and can't go to school. I feel like summer break is happening right now and I haven't made any friends and don't know what people like and what the school is about. I now have to wear glasses from being on the computer so much. This isn't fair. All kids should be able to go back.

5th grade student:
I would like to return to school. I miss my friends and teachers. I want the proper education. It's frustrating when my computer or the internet is not working. I have had to repeat assignments multiple times because of the problems that happen. I really want to be on campus.

Grit Walther/5th grade Traina teacher:
Please keep us in distant learning. Students and teachers have the right to put safety before test scores. How can students learn if we have to go back and forth between being quarantined and in-class instructions if we open to direct instruction? Many schools go back-and-forth. Right now, we have parents/ families with COVID-19, so students will not be able to join. There will be many more. In addition, teachers will not be able to teach if they need to stay at home due to exposure. Can we limit exposure? No, simply not. Students will walk in groups to and from school. Then we social distance them when they walk in the hallways, just to squeeze them all into one windowless room with less than 1 ft. distance. Students who don't want to wear a mask will be "educated and asked to wear a mask", meaning they can expose all of us until they feel like wearing a mask. Students will go into other groups during school hours, mixing cohorts. And, a cohort of 100 or more students is simply not stopping the spread. I am concerned that teachers become super-spreaders. Please, keep students safely at home. Only because the district brought back students quick enough during a lower infection time, does not mean we are safe! If we would open up (and please don't even consider hybrid), parents who see the danger for their child would have to join JVA, which is a complete different program and could cause many students to fail.
Please listen to the over 80% of teachers, who love and miss their students, keep the school closed, stay 100% in distant learning, even if this is for a whole school year. What is more important, a healthy child or a test score?

Please make a safe decision.
Thank you.
Grit Walther

Davin Sardi:
I am a 5th grade student at Jefferson. I am new to the district and really want to go back to school so that I can make more friends. I feel like I learn more in a classroom than behind a computer at home. Please vote for us to go back.

Stephen Day:
One's education depends on intrinsic motivation. If a student is so motivated they will learn under any circumstance; as is demonstrated by the overwhelming number of students who are learning at a reasonable, and expected, rate through distance learning. Students who are not intrinsically motivated, may be able to complete school tasks, but are not learning how to think for themselves and are simply performing. Last spring, when we initially adopted a remote learning teaching dynamic, I had just as many kids who began to flourish, as I did who we want to call "at risk" today. They found themselves suddenly supported by parents who were also at home, some enjoying academic success for the very first time as a result of the one on one that our circumstance has forced upon them; and one we cannot replicate in any of the "return to school" models we are currently considering. It seems fool hearted to make a decision to return to school after only considering those deemed "at risk", regardless of how one interprets the phrase. Now with the county's return to "widespread" status, the expectation of a spike in new cases as a result of the holidays (and with our winter holidays to follow very soon after), and a pending "stay at home" order from the governor's office, we have a chance to avoid repeating mistakes of other communities and districts, and continue to provide the stable structure for learning that our kids need. With all due respect to our trustees and their ultimate decision, I would like to suggest tabling the decision to return until after the holidays, and after San Joaquin County has returned to "red status" with a continuous trend downward. Offering our community false hope is a disservice to all and undermines the fragile structure and stability that we currently depend on. Anything less, in my opinion, would equate to academically harming just as many students as it would benefit, simply for the sake of appeasement and appearance.

D.G.:
If we return to school I would be so thankful! I would get to see my teacher and not work all day on my computer. Plus I wouldn't get frustrated when I got kicked off because of internet. Or frustrated when I have to use the computer to do a worksheet instead of talking with my class.
3rd grader Monticello

Larry Griffith:
I understand that the district feels that it has a good distance learning program that is working. I would like the board to consider the effects that distance learning and this pandemic is having on the children. I have seen my daughter go from being a great student that takes a lot of pride in her work and strives to maintain good grades. Since distance learning has started, I have seen a steady decline in that pride for her work and her drive to complete her work. Please look out for the kids and let those that want to go back to school, have that opportunity. Assess temperatures upon entering classes and send kids and teachers home if they are sick. I ask you again to stand up for our kids.

Stephanie Huiras/Teacher, Jefferson School:
After only a week and two days of teaching small groups of students in person, I have already witnessed masks being pulled down in the hallways and being worn improperly in the classroom by middle school students. This is easily caught and corrected quickly in small groups. Small groups also allow for all of my students to remain 6 feet apart while in the classroom. Distancing cannot be guaranteed with groups that are any larger. Even with all safety precautions in place, bringing more people together indoors is increasing the risk of transmission and gambling with the health and safety of our staff, students and families. I am concerned about bringing more people onto our campuses

especially after the holidays, where gatherings are more likely to take place. If our county is still in the purple, widespread tier by January, we should remain in distance learning. It was stated before and should be stated again, that if our staff and board meetings are taking place over zoom, our classes should be as well.

Zoe Gama/2nd Grade Student at Hawkins:
I want to go back to school because I get frustrated and distracted at home. I don't know what is happening on my zoom meeting sometimes and then I get behind on my work and that makes me sad every day. I love my teacher and hope she is safe if I get to come back. Thank you.

Anonymous/Parent:
Let me begin by saying I feel the teachers our family has come across are doing a great job with distance learning. That being said, I believe there is no substitute for in person instruction and distance learning does not cut it for our children. Schools have returned to being open across the world with little to no problems. Most of the European Union has opened schools back up and kept them open with or without 2nd waves of the virus.

On Sunday, our country's leading expert, Dr. Anthony Fauci said that the default position of schools should be open for in person instruction. In addition, he said that the spread from children is very small. This has been confirmed by countless studies. There are no studies or data that I am aware of that contradicts this position.

I am asking the board to let experts like Dr. Fauci and parents to decide what is best for our children's health and to focus on decisions that are best for our children's education. Our county's COVID cases are still well within the limits to apply for a waiver. That is what must be done for the best education possible. You are not health experts. California has some of the most restrictive COVID 19 requirements in the country, if they will let us open then they have decided for us that it is safe for our children.

Frank Austin/Parent:
I was shocked to learn of the vote to fully reopen schools and take a hybrid model off the table. At the October meeting, the Superintendent suggested "we look at it in November and then really look at it in December." Why was this decision rushed into at the November meeting? This is not only asinine, but also dangerous. COVID is spiking and cases in schools are rising elsewhere where schools have opened without effective protocols in place. When we look to other countries, which was referenced at the last meeting, or cities where schools have successfully reopened, those communities have rigid measures in place limiting other activities in order to prioritize schools - this has not happened here. In New York City, where elementary schools are reopening in the midst of a surge, it is because there are protocols in place, in addition to mask, social distancing, ventilation and group size requirements, that include WEEKLY covid tests for teachers, and families that return must consent that children can be tested. Can the district confirm that all - not just a few - of these protocols and policies are in place here? And if not - there should be no consideration of reopening. Additionally, what plans are in place for teaching staff who have known underlying health conditions that would place them in high-risk categories? What plans are in place for children who live in households with people who are in high-risk categories? We are in the middle of a global health crisis - a reopening plan must actually be planned, undertaken responsibly, and with the safety of teaching staff, not only children, at the center. I implore you to first ensure all of these protections exist, get past the biggest surge we have seen in California and our community, and then reconsider how and when in-person learning will resume. Thank you.

Diane Silva:
Dear Board Members,
I would like to ask you tonight to thoughtfully consider how you plan to have us reopen. At the last board meeting you made the decision to have us open with full classes for a full day. You explained that you didn't think the hybrid model would be effective. The hybrid model does present its own

DRAFT

challenges but so does returning full classes. I would like to ask you to reconsider that we stay on distance learning if we continue to be in the purple tier come January 4th. It is not going to be safe to have 25+ students in a classroom. I mean if you think about it the state is asking us not to gather for the holidays and yet you have decided that it's ok to put 25+ people in a room. And not 25+ adults that may or may not know how to social distance and wear a mask but 25 students who no matter how much we try won't be able to successfully social distance and wear a mask for 6 hours a day. Our classrooms are not made to space out students no matter what our district thinks.

If you have been following the news (and who doesn't these days) our entire state is nearly back in purple and we are on the verge of a lockdown again unfortunately. We are still worse than when we closed in March. At a previous board meeting Mrs. Wingo you used the statistics to help you decide to stay on distance learning and I hope that you will look at the numbers and science again tonight. I ask you to think about OUR students and staff and not what others in our county or other counties are doing. I'd finally like to ask that you listen to your heart and decide what kind of environment you would like to put our staff and students into. Every workplace uses the phrase "Safety First" and shouldn't schools use it too.

Valerie Robertson/6th grade teacher at Traina:
With the infection rate and deaths from Covid-19 exploding across the country, the idea of returning to 100% in-person in early January is, I feel, premature and could, in fact, cause great harm to our school community. We owe it to the students and parents, as well as the greater Jefferson family, to wait until a vaccine is available and to continue to provide distance learning until then.

Jamie McKeon/A Jefferson School Substitute Teacher & Parent of 2 Students at Hawkins:
Stated word for word from the cdc " The unique and critical role that schools play makes them a priority for reopening and remaining open, enabling students to receive both academic instruction and enable the provision of other critical services and supports. By strictly implementing mitigation strategies, schools will be able to meet the needs of their students and community, while reducing the risk of COVID-19 spread." When we completely shut down schools the only risk we are thinking about is getting Covid. We need to look at the adverse impact on students' social-emotional, behavioral and mental health. Many are suffering and it will only get worse. We need to safely transition back to in person school January 4th. The truth is we do not have a magic number of how many cases per day would be safe for us to re-open! There is no consensus on what it should be and varies from state to state. The data is pointing to most cases contracting COVID-19 at home not at school. With proper safety precautions we can go back to school safely.

Amy Reynolds:
I have 2 children enrolled in Monticello. We are very eager for school to open back up so our kids can get back in the classroom.
Thank you

Lea Austin/Parent:
I recognize that many families are out of options, and that many children, including my own are stressed and not faring well under these circumstances. They want to be back in school, want them to be in school, and no one is hailing distance learning as a model to aspire to. But that does not mean opening now is the right thing to do. The response to covid has been a failure on the part of federal & state governments, creating conditions in which parents have no or few options and no financial relief to stay home while protecting their jobs - but it cannot fall to schools to remedy these broader failures. Data have demonstrated that rates of community spread matter - when community spread is up, cases connected to places where children gather be it child care or school go up. Child care settings in California can offer some insight. Covid cases among those connected to child care have risen 138% since mid-July, and among children in child care, the increase is 200%. Given the conditions in California, the projections of reaching ICU capacity before Christmas, and a lack of a community and district plan to prioritize school with the proper policies and protocols, including testing, schools should absolutely not be returning to in-person learning on January 4th.

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What do teaching staff have to say? Have they been surveyed this school year to inform plans? Do we know how many have risk factors for severe illness or death from covid that have been identified by the CDC? I heard discussion at that last meeting about responding to what community members want - teachers and school staff are part of our community! I also heard at the last meeting that teachers do their job and bring kids back to campus. Teachers are doing their job, and doing so under incredibly stressful and challenging conditions - no one would opt for these circumstances. There is no perfect response to this crisis, but opening January 4th is certainly a poor response.

Concerned Parent:
I am hoping that at this board meeting our voices are heard. It is time to let our children go back. I have been speaking to other parents, and it saddens me that they will be pulling their child out if we don't return. I couldn't imagine already going through this chapter in their life, and now uprooted from the community that they have been a part of for so long. I don't understand why we have got to this point? How have we come to the point where what is best for our children is no longer the priority? Our children are failing. My children are not thriving like they would in the classroom. It is not just the academics, but the social connection with students. I could make this comment go on and on, but in the end all I want is for you to understand, and hear a parent's voice yearning for their children to return full time back to school.

Concerned Parent:
I feel it's important for our kids to go back to school. We as educators have a job to keep our kids/students safe. This doesn't mean just physical health. It means mental health too, which is equally important. Many students are struggling right now because they don't have the social aspect of education. Suicide is on the rise and this scares me as a parent. The survival rate of Covid is extremely high. It's a virus that isn't going anywhere so we need to learn how to live with it. Even though the schools have been amazing and my children's teachers are awesome, they still aren't getting the education they would get if they were on campus. They deserve the best education and it's not happening. I fear for the repercussions distant learning will have on my children's ability to stay at grade level. I ask myself, how long will it take for my children to gain the knowledge they have lost in 8 months of school. 8 months! I worry that when they can go back teachers will be pressured to "teach more" and students will be pressured to "learn more" in a time frame that is unrealistic. I understand and respect people who are scared of the virus but hopefully there is an option for those parents and students. I understand and respect some teachers are worried too but teachers are essential and so is education. I know most of you already have your minds made up but please consider reopening our district. I am not afraid and either are my children.

END OF PUBLIC COMMENTS

Dr. Bridges shared data regarding statewide transmission spread by category with the largest category of COVID spread coming from general community spread. He noted that the current purple tier may get more restricted. The State may change data elements that are being review and looked at as well. Last week, the State required masks for anyone above age 2, JSD campuses are already following this guideline. Late this afternoon, Dr. Bridges was provided information that Governor Newsom is likely to issue a three week stay at home/shelter in place order later this week.

One of the questions asked was if we return to purple would JSD have to apply for a waiver? Both state and local health officials have provided in writing that the District does not have to apply for a waiver. Our district is considered open at this point. If the board wants to open January 4th and the county is in the purple tier, we do not have to apply for a waiver.

Schools may remain open and staff will still be able to come to school in a shelter in place situation as they are considered essential. Currently within the county, schools that are open have continued to stay open and maintained students on campus. Another similar question is that if a district is

considered open at this time, the county is in purple and board decides to back to distance learning, districts may pause their open status.

Dr. Bridges shared information from California Department of Public Health top doctor Dr. Galli. Most transmissions in school are from adult-to-adult. He stressed that the most important thing is that schools/staff remain vigilant, continue to have ongoing training and do not let our guard with protocols down. Dr. Bridges shared trends of the tier designation from late August 2020 through November 24, 2020, as well as a breakdown of case rates for San Joaquin County cities and zip codes.

Dr. Bridges shared the information received from the recent parent survey sent out. The survey asked parents which instructional model they would prefer for their students? The options for parents were; full-time in person instruction, hybrid in-person learning, current distant learning, and Jefferson Virtual Academy (JVA).

Parent Survey responses were shared, 43% prefer to remain in distance learning, 31% prefer full-time in-person instruction, 24% prefer the hybrid model where social distancing is possible, and 2% of parents prefer JVA. Data from the parent survey was further broken down by grade level. Distance learning was consistently the highest model preferred and the next closest learning option was full-time instruction. The only time that the hybrid model outpaced distance learning was at the 8th grade level. Based on this information, 55% of families want to return in-person instruction. Under this model, students would still be on a reduced schedule to ensure social distancing. The remaining 43% of students would attend school through distance learning 5 days each week via Zoom. The bell schedules would match those of the in-person instruction students. Parents would need to commit to this model through March 1, 2021. 2% of JVA students would continue as is.

Mrs. Wingo noted that before she opens for questions, she understands how hard teachers are working. She thanked the staff for all of their hard work. Mrs. Wingo noted that she sees that parents, students, need to be back in school. Mrs. Wingo stressed that the Board needs to do what they think is best for the entire community, and this decision weighs heavily on her. Mrs. Wingo noted she has not made a decision yet but she is erring toward caution.

Mr. Carlson indicated that he likes the proposal with options for families who want to stay home and options for families who want to come to school. Mr. Carlson's biggest concern is teachers with preexisting conditions and how we can accommodate that. The last thing he wants to do is put people who are more vulnerable at risk. Mr. Jackman added that if we look at the two models and understand that we have teachers with higher risk categories, how do we shift them around as we cannot hire more staff to accommodate this. Dr. Bridges indicated that the District is looking at this as a personnel matter, as this refers to personal cases of staff members.

Mr. Wells is looking at this situation not from a personal perspective but rather he is looking at this for the greater good. Mr. Wells recognizes that none of this is ideal but our number one issue is safety. Our mission is to educate students but we shouldn't be doing this at the price of their safety. Mr. Wells noted that we are given mandates and data but no funding to do what we should be doing. Mr. Wells thinks that moving forward and adding students to campus in a purple tier doesn't make sense to him. Mr. Wells concurs that distance learning is not the best way to teach. Yet he indicated that we are all having to make other sacrifices. Mr. Wells would love for us to wait two weeks until we get back.

Dr. Bridges added that the District has a staff testing program. Tests are shipped to the employee's home. For those employees who don't have insurance through work, the District is picking up the expense for the tests.

Mr. Raya indicated that he is trying to recall properly categories with the least amount of spread were schools and homes. The typical spread in schools has tended to be between adults. He asked for

clarification on site screening and the precautions being taken at the school sites. Dr. Bridges noted that all staff are required to self-screen daily and report this back to their site/district. Dr. Bridges noted that across the nation the most successful screening for students is to have parents screen students at home.

Mrs. Wingo noted that she is not comfortable bringing students back when we are in purple. Her feeling is that we should look at it in January. When the Board meets on January 12th, if we are in red and things are in decline, we can open in some capacity as soon as the following week. There is a definite benefit in getting students back but we have to be cautious.

Mr. Jackman noted that the Board can make a different motion. Dr. Bridges commented that if the board wanted to open to everyone while we are in the purple tier, we must allow for more social distancing. We could bring back families who want to come back to school and allow families who want to stay at home to continue to do so. If we bring everyone back in purple, that would mean we would have lots of kids in classroom. Dr. Bridges agrees with Mrs. Wingo, that this would not be the best option.

Mr. Jackman asked what some of the logistic issues are. Dr. Bridges indicated that he has spoken to site administrators and advised them to tell staff that we need to start preparing classrooms at this time. Students are going to return to classes at some point and there is no reason for teachers not to start this process now. The District has purchased hospital grade ventilation systems for every single classroom which will be in each classroom well before the December break. PPE's are already in place, as well as procedures and protocol. The only other thing that we would need to know is what parent surveys/choices will be. We would need this in writing to be sure we are fully prepared.

Mr. Wells asked for clarification of the process or determination as to why cohorts were brought on. Dr. Bridges clarified that the District brought back one small subset of students in the cohort model and then county went to red, at that point the District was not required to follow the cohort model. The students who were brought back were those students who received specialized services, either through a specialized classroom, language supports, foster, or homeless youth. The District brought back students who met one of these categories and were failing in distance learning. Last Monday we brought students back in the above categories whether they were failing or successful, if they wanted to return. Dr. Bridges noted that the best approximation is that we have 210 total students back district wide.

Dr. Bridges indicated that we were not returning to in-person instruction in full or hybrid until January 4th at the earliest. The question tonight is if we are still purple on January 4th, what does the Board want to do?

Mr. Wells motioned to table tonight's action until at least December 15th. Mr. Carlson seconded the motion.

Mrs. Wingo feel that we are going to be having a similar discussion in two weeks, and she is opposed to this motion, she feels this should be looked at in January. Mr. Carlson noted that we can table this motion for two weeks. This gives the Board time to digest the information received tonight. Mr. Wells noted that he prefers to table the decision until January. Mr. Jackman feels that we do have the data. For those who want to return to school we need to provide that option. Mr. Jackman's concern is for the teachers in the district that are at a high risk. Can we support them and make sure that they are comfortable and supported to get kids back in place where they are learning? Mr. Jackman noted that for those who want to go back to school we need to provide that option.

Mr. Raya agrees with Mr. Jackman; he notes that it is very clear we have a split community. If the District provides options for people to bring kids back who want to come back, and let students who wish to remain home may still do so. If the colors continue to go down, we can bring them all back.

Mr. Raya is leaning toward the District opening. Mr. Carlson agrees and noted that Dr. Bridges' model allows parents to do that, but noted that it doesn't hurt us to wait two weeks to make a decision.

The Motion to table this decision until December 15th by Mr. Wells and seconded by Mr. Carlson was rescinded. The Board will reconvene December 15th to discuss this item again. Dr. Bridges asked for clarification whether it was alright to continue with the process to get classrooms ready for students. The Board agreed that at some point kids are returning and that we need to be prepared for students to return.
No action was taken as this item was tabled

ADJOURNMENT – MSA (Jackman/Wells) 8:23 PM

Respectfully submitted,

James W. Bridges
Secretary to the Board

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Jefferson School District

Official Minutes of the Regular Meeting
Of the Board of Trustees
December 15, 2020

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

Present virtually: Debbie Wingo, President; Phil Raya, Vice President; Dan Wells, Clerk; Brian Jackman, Member; Pete Carlson, 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 5:32 PM
- b. Roll Call to Establish Quorum – all Board members were present
- c. Approval of Agenda-
- d. Public Hearing

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

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 – 6:33 PM
Welcome from Board President Mrs. Wingo
Reorganization of the Board & Oath of Office – P. Carlson, D. Wingo
Pledge of Allegiance

In Closed Session-

MSA (Jackman/Carlson) - Approved personnel action for certificated employee 12091; The Board also approved the personnel action for classified employee #'s 12092, 12093, 12094, 12095, and 12096.
Roll call vote was as follows:
Ayes – 5 Nays – 0 Absent – 0 Abstain – 0
Carlson, Jackman,
Raya, Wells, Wingo

Superintendent's Report – Dr. Bridges thanked Dena Whittington, Nick Watson and Sam Hagler for working on a major technological project that will be continuing over break; they are coordinating the installation of white boards and wall mounted projectors for TK-4 classrooms across the District. He also thanked the teachers for their flexibility for allowing the construction companies to install the new equipment in the afternoons and evenings. Dr. Bridges has been working with PJHM and our attorneys to select a general contractor for Corral Hollow Elementary School, he hopes to bring this forward to the Board in March. Dr. Bridges shared the sad news with the Board and community of the passing of Sheri Leri, a former librarian at Jefferson School, and Cindy McCune, the longtime librarian at Hawkins School. Dr. Bridges ended by wishing everyone a safe and Happy Holidays.

DRAFT

Oath of Office – Dr. Bridges administered the oath of office to Peter Carlson and Debbie Wingo, each of whom will serve another four-year term. Dr. Bridges thanks both Mr. Carlson and Mrs. Wingo for entering into another term of service as board members. Dr. Bridges and the Board recognized Mrs. Wingo for her support, expertise and leadership over the past year during this difficult time.

Reorganization of the Board
MSA(Jackman/Raya) nominate Dan Wells as Board President. Phil Raya was selected as Vice President and Brian Jackman was selected as Clerk. 2021 Committee Representatives were confirmed as presented:
Roll call vote was as follows:

Ayes – 4	Nays – 0	Absent – 0	Abstain – 1
Carlson, Jackman, Raya, Wingo			Wells

III. PUBLIC COMMENT – Google Forms were used for public comment for this virtual meeting. There were no general public comments.

IV. APPROVAL OF THE CONSENT AGENDA
4.1 Minutes – Regular Board Meeting November 10, 2020
4.2 Warrants – November 2020
4.3 Financials – November 2020
4.4 Precision Civil Engineering, Inc., Proposal for Land Surveying Services
Roll call vote was as follows:
MSA (Wingo/Raya) approve the consent agenda as presented
Roll call vote was as follows:

Ayes – 5	Nays – 0	Absent – 0	Abstain – 0
Carlson, Jackman, Raya, Wells, Wingo			

V. EDUCATIONAL SERVICES
5.1 JSD Opening to In-Person Instruction Update
Mr. Wells advised that we will adhere to Board Bylaws regarding public comment, the total time allotted for discussion for one item shall not to exceed 20 minutes. Dr. Bridges read the following Public Comments which were received via Google Forms prior to the meeting:

Name: Frank Austin, Parent
Do not reopen school on Jan. 4th. I am calling on the board to delay in person opening, and reassess AFTER we understand where the county is post-holiday. Across our community, too many people are not following health orders - as of Saturday our ICU capacity in the county was 0%, there is still no organized testing and tracing plan in place for the community or school. It does not make any sense to have come this far, only to open school in the middle of the worst and most dangerous period of this virus we have experienced, putting staff and families at great risk. I absolutely want my children back at school - distance learning, despite the best effort of teachers, is a daily struggle and my children are not doing well with it - BUT I want school to open when it is relatively safe to do so, and when we have minimal likelihood of closing back down because of cases in the classroom and school, which will only serve to be more disruptive and make children more anxious. I am not rejoicing over a closure, but it's the best among a bunch of terrible options.
At the last meeting, Dr. Bridges stated he was observing stay at home orders - going out just two times a month for groceries. Good for him, and we should all be taking this so seriously, but that same ability will be taken away from teachers if they are forced to return to the classroom in the height of the pandemic. And people saying teachers should not go to the grocery store to purchase goods if they are unwilling to return to the classroom - classrooms in which they would be in

DRAFT

concentrated contact for hours per day, is a ludicrous comparison that I would hope the board would not take seriously. Please, wait. Do not move forward with a January 4th reopening.

Name: Anonymous
I'm in third grade. I do not like school online. But I don't want to go to school until I won't get sick or get my mom or grandma or teacher sick

Name: Concerned 6th grade student
Hello, I'm a sixth grader at a school in the Jefferson School District. I am very concerned about the schools opening so kids can be on campus. The covid cases are very high right now and I don't think opening schools is the best option. Teachers and students would be risking their lives just to be on the school campus's when we are doing the same learning we would be doing at school, at home. Opening schools could be very dangerous. It would put more stress on the teachers and even students. Even going back to school on January 4th isn't the best idea either. Students and teachers would have just been hanging out with family and friends from the holidays and covid cases could rise as a result.

Name: Concerned Parent
Good evening members of the Board,

Tonight, I have one simple question and it's not when are schools going to reopen, but rather, why are schools even open at all right now? Children should not be on campus, even in small groups. In these unprecedented times when we are back under a stay-at-home order, cases are rising rapidly, there are zero ICU beds available in our county, and a recent study led by Princeton University which consisted of half a million people, stated that children are super spreaders of the disease, why are students, teachers, and staff still on campus at all? The teachers have been doing a phenomenal job teaching students virtually. My child is thriving doing distance learning. Why put lives at risk and why disrupt the consistent, SAFE learning the children have been receiving thus far?

At the last Board meeting when the Superintendent, Mr. Bridges, presented the results of the survey that had been sent to families in November, it was not only unfair, but completely wrong for him to skew the results by combining the families that want their children back on campus full time and those that wish to have their children come back in a hybrid model. Those are two very different choices and scenarios. Easing back into things with smaller class sizes, under a hybrid model, is NOT the same thing as coming back 100% full time. Please respect the families' decisions. The results and graphics shared that evening, clearly showed that a majority of the families chose to remain on distance learning. Parents deserve choices for their children. Tracy Unified School District heard the outcries of parents and responded by offering several choices for the families. We can't make a one size fits all decision. Please give parents and families choices and allow the families who wish to continue with distance learning for the remainder of the school year, to do so. Thank you!!!

Name: Lea Austin, Hawkins Parent
Although I desperately want my children in school, one in particular is not doing well at home, it's just not the prudent thing to do at the height of this pandemic.

As both a parent and a researcher by profession, I take issue with how some data were presented last meeting and used to move reopening. The parent data was misrepresented. Staying in distance learning was the highest single option parents selected @ 43%, but Dr. Bridges conflated any form of in-person learning by turning in-person and hybrid into 1 category - stating most people chose in-person learning and using this to support full reopening - only 24% said all in-person; 31% hybrid. The data do not tell us whether parents who said hybrid would opt for full-time in person or distance if hybrid is removed. It's likely this group wouldn't just move into one or the other category, but between the two. And Mr. Jackman stated the facts are indisputable -

it's fine to open. This is easily disputable. Studies show that while children up to age 8 are less likely than adults to transmit the virus, adults can transmit it to kids and each other, perpetuating the chain of transmission, and data show that rates of community spread matters to cases in schools. I'm not sure why adult transmission or well-being is assumed to not matter for reopening; schools only function because of the adults.

Experts, even Dr. Fauci, agree it's best for children to be in school, BUT with mitigation strategies that include: low community rates, ensuring teachers with health risks are provided options for remote work or paid leave, routine required testing for staff, and options for children and families with health risks. As a community, we have to make choices - we can't on the one hand demand that the city defy public health orders (which is happening), continue social gatherings, then expect schools to be wide open. It's devastating, but this virus just doesn't allow us to have it all. School should not open on the 4th.

Name: Amber Foster, Parent
As a parent of 4 children ages ranging from 2nd-7th grade this distant learning has taken a toll on my children's education as well as their happiness. It's hard to watch your children who once loved going to school to now watching them struggle to open the Chromebooks. I know everyone is trying their best but at the end of the day these kids HAVE to go back to school not only for their education but for their mental state. We as parents should be able to make the choice to send our children back if we are comfortable in doing so!

Name: Jill Finton, Parent & Teacher
I have 3 children, 2nd grade, 7th grade, and 9th grade. Distance learning is going ok for my older 2 children. They are doing fine with it. My 2nd grader on the other hand it is not. It is a constant struggle to get him to do his work. He loved school and now he hates it. I understand both sides of this but if anything I think parents/students should be given the choice to send their students back to school full time if they are comfortable doing so.

Name: Concerned Staff Member
I am compelled to express my concern over the upcoming decision to open up school to all students in January. With the medical experts saying that we are about to see very tough times in the next 6-8 weeks, I find it unsafe to bring the students back to school on January 4th. Having heard the term practicable used for our future classroom setting is so disappointing. Practicable has no limit or standards, you can make any scenario practicable but it would not mean it is safe. With cases exploding in the Central Valley and California, and our own local Sutter Gould Hospital as of last night having zero ICU beds available, it makes no sense to open in 3 weeks. We should be trying to curb the virus, not adding fuel to the fire. Perhaps children have higher rates of survival, but many of our staff will not. What about the people we may spread it to like our families and loved ones? Jefferson District has always prided itself to be like a family. Changes over the years have eroded that a bit, but let's not be the district that doesn't put safety first for students, staff and families.

Name: Christina Gomes, Parent
Dear Dr. Bridges and Members of the Board,

First of all, I want to say, I realize this isn't an easy decision for you and I appreciate all the information and statistics you cover during these meetings before making a decision. As we watch the news, our State and our region are currently in the midst of a tragic second wave of the pandemic with ICUs reaching their capacities. I am not sure what exactly you plan to decide tonight but it is hard to imagine our children coming back on campus when our covid cases are at times nearly triple the amount of our worst numbers we had last Summer. I understand that everyone has different opinions on this and I realize some teachers as well as students may feel they have a better handle on distance learning than others. I believe distance learning should be an option for students until the end of this school year. There is light at the end of the tunnel as a

vaccine will gradually be released to the public but for the average person we will not have access to those vaccines until late Spring. I truly think that is when life will become normal again and we all hope our kids have a normal school experience sooner than later. I have 3 children in this school district and one a high school student at Kimball and TUSD will be offering distance learning throughout the rest of the school year as an option for those not ready to return and when we return to a safer tier, children that are ready will go back to campus. Distance learning doesn't offer the same benefits and socialization as in class instruction but it offers regular support and interaction with their teacher. Please keep distance learning an option for the remainder of the year for those that don't feel ready to return if or when our county reaches the red tier or better as it is the safest option for our families. Again thank you for listening to our concerns.

Name: JSD Teacher
Dear board members,

The message I heard from the last few board meetings was, "Let us open schools in a safe manner while promoting learning." You did not want to mix teaching in-person with Zoom teaching, but wanted some solution for "at-risk" students and "at-risk" teachers. I heard how impressed you were with the teaching staff for mastering the new medium of Zoom and that students were learning well.

In middle school the "at-risk" students roam each class period with different teachers where other students have just been in. Since opening to "at-risk" students in October, the district has had many COVID quarantines. We have asked families within our communities to not mix households for the holidays. Schools are a part of this community, why are we mixing so many households daily?

We are educators who should know our history. The 1918 Spanish Flu pandemic started also in March. 195,000 Americans died in October 1918. In the Fall of 1918 there were civilian groups fighting to not wear masks, businesses and churches asked not to be put on restriction, parents begged officials to open schools. By Thanksgiving the officials relaxed restrictions of masks, opened businesses, churches and schools. The cases skyrocketed right at Thanksgiving and by December hospitals overflowed, schools and businesses closed again. There were several more spikes that winter. By summer 1919 675,000 Americans died from the pandemic.

Let's learn from history and care for our students and teachers without exposing them to too many households. 83% of your teaching staff want to teach virtually if we are in the purple tier in January. Allow us to teach virtually as you have expressed we do such a good job of. Thank you for your continued concern for Jefferson students and staff.

Name: A very concerned parent
As much as I miss my students on campus and my own children miss going to school I must say we are very scared to return to in person instruction. There are no protocols in place to warn or inform an employee if another employee has contracted COVID outside of the place of employment. There have been a few cases where this has happened. This potentially exposes many employees and students on campus. We are at 0% capacity in our hospitals in San Joaquin County. With January and February being the two months that we usually see many cases of the common flu can we imagine what it would look like for COVID? The safest place to be during these winter months is at home, not only for our students but our teachers and staff as well. Please consider the well-being and safety of everyone around us these coming weeks and we hope the correct choice that will benefit our community is made today.

Name: Anonymous
I am back here for the third time to express how essential our children's education is. I cannot believe that we are still at home, forcing our children to learn via Zoom and on google docs. I don't want to hear numbers and cases and ICU percentages. I want to hear that you feel that our

children's education is as essential as us parents feel it is. Those of us who want to be back need to be given the chance, those who do not feel comfortable should now just agree and sign off to finish the year distance learning. Only one side is being given what they want hear and it's more than time that the rest of us are able to give our children the education they so much deserve. No one seemed to care last year when a teacher sent their sick child to school which then took out almost half of the TK class with the stomach flu. We have a virus that will probably be here forever that has a 99% survival rate that, as shown in the last meeting, has a rate of spreading in schools of only 1%. Oh and now a rushed vaccine that isn't approved for anyone under the age of 16. Delaying a start date only feels like it will go on forever...we will have holiday weekends, super bowl and then spring break. You cannot keep delaying a start date and denying our children a quality education. Hybrid is not the answer, full time in person is what we need, please.

Name: Fed up Parent
I'm in disbelief that after 9 months, there is still no plan to get these kids back to school Safely. Teachers are in limbo not sure how to move forward. I find it appalling that Mrs. Wingo is so opposed to our school opening, even though her own school has been open and working great! She even said that the same method her school uses is what our district is trying to adapt. If it works so great, then why would she want to hold us back?! I agree teachers are working harder than ever, but so are parents at home with multiple children in the school system. When is enough enough?! I have read comments from parents and teachers, and one teacher left a comment on a post about kids going back to school and said "how sad of this person to tell us to get different jobs cuz we don't feel comfortable in the classroom" Well, how will that same teacher have a job if parents keep pulling their kids/students out of this school district to put them in a district that allows in person learning. I know many parents who have left, and many, many on the fence about leaving, myself included. It breaks my heart to even have to consider this option, but at the end of the day, it's my kid's mental health that is the most important. The numbers and data show that kids are less likely to get this sickness or spread it. Where is the options for these kids to go to school?! We have appeased the many of people who wanted to stay home and distant learn. When is it our turn to get to go to school. Yes, it will be different, I have prepared my kids for that, but they want that. They want to be in school learning in a classroom setting and learning with their classmates. And I found it so hypocritical of many of the staff to claim they want to continue distant learning, when they are out there living their best life, going to parties, out to dinner every weekend, it's all over their social media pages.

Name: Anonymous
First off, I would like to thank the board members for taking the time to read these comments during a time where communication is the utmost important. My primary concern is the health and safety of our staff members and students. Over the last month or so with students back we have had a glimpse of what it will be like if we open back up completely. I can say without a doubt I do not think we are at a place where we can or should open the school back up completely without putting our health at sever risk. Several kids have already been pulled out of class due to being "sick". There is little transparency into what is actually happening with sick children and staff. Parents want their children to come back to school, but do they fully understand what the risk to not only their children but also their teachers and staff is? The environment that the students will come back to is not what they remember, nor is it as safe as we would all like to think. Even with the tremendous amount of effort going into setting up safety protocols, it is still not adequate for the onslaught of students to return. I keep hearing that the transmission is the lowest in schools and children. Then I ask is it zero? Because any amount of unneeded risk is too much in my opinion. One person or student sick is too much if it could have been avoided. I also hear that those with high risk will be looked at and evaluated individually. What about those that are not high risk? Are we not to have the same options and rights as our counterparts? It is not just the individual that needs to be considered but it's our family members, wife, husbands, moms, and dads that may also be high risk and who's health would be in jeopardy if we were to increase our risk at school. Considering all this, I ask you to please reconsider opening the school

back up in January. We have made it this far, a few more months should not be too much to ask for. Thank you for your time and consideration.

END OF PUBLIC COMMENTS

Mr. Wells thanked to the people who commented and apologized to those whose comments were not able to be read.

Dr. Bridges provided an update to the county's data that showed the dramatic changes that have occurred since the board meeting two weeks ago. On December 1st, the case rate was 13.2 per 100,000 residents in San Joaquin County and a testing positivity rate of 5.6%. As of last week, the case rate was 24.4% which almost doubled. Dr. Bridges was shocked to see that as of today the adjusted case rate almost doubled again to 55 per 100,000 residents. Testing positivity rate is now at 15.1%. Back in October, the adjusted case rate was 4.9% and testing positivity rate was at 3.3%.

As of last Friday, Dr. Bridges' recommendation at the time was that we return a hybrid model for grades TK-3 starting January 19th. The January 19th date would allow for a holiday surge to happen and for the District to watch that trend line. Students in grades 4-8 would return in a hybrid model on January 25th. He was also going to recommend if we reach the orange tier by March 1st, we could propose bringing all students back at that time while still providing distance learning to those who want it.

Dr. Bridges noted the goals throughout the meetings from parents, staff and board. To provide in person instruction as much as we can while still having social distancing, the provide a five days per week distance learning option, and to continue to provide a completely virtual option for JVA families, providing equivalent instructional minutes in all program, to minimize unstructured time on campus.

Dr. Bridges presented an instructional model for an AM/PM hybrid model for grades TK-3. Families who want to come to school have the option to come to school in the mornings. In person students would have ELA and Math in the morning and would be dismissed before lunch. In the afternoon, these students would have independent practice. For students who select distance learning, their independent practice time would be in the morning. And after lunch they would have live instruction would be in the afternoon. Dr. Bridges described the possible core cohorts that could be used for grades 4-8th. Dr. Bridges suggested creating a distance learning core and on campus cores. In both of the models, the students would not be eating lunch on campus. The proposed hybrid model would be similar to what is happening now but would have more students. Dr. Bridges noted the difference is right now, teachers have students rooming and zooming and with these models, that won't happen going forward. Dr. Bridges noted that first and foremost, the lesson we are learning from other districts is that we are going to need to remain flexible and maintain a distance learning model throughout the school year. We are going to have to have a system in place in case there is the necessity to quarantine.

Dr. Bridges stressed that the biggest impact we are seeing now is around isolation and quarantine periods. Currently with staff and students both. If a staff or student has symptoms (for example, fever, worsening cough, muscle aches, vomiting, running nose, difficulty breathing, etc.) reported to us, we are directed by county health to isolate students or staff for a 10-day period. There is no process for returning those individuals to the classroom early. This impacts the district greatly when we have staff out for a 10-day period due to a reported Covid like symptom. The District could potentially have an issue January 4th if staff is unable to return to work and we are not able to find substitutes.

Mr. Wells asked if it would it be worthwhile to consider the possibility of considering holding off small cohorts coming back until we institute the hybrid programs the 19th & the 26th? This could alleviate the concern about the spread over the holidays.

Mrs. Wingo was in favor of waiting until the January board meeting. She was hoping for January 19th return but the numbers are frightening. Mrs. Wingo cannot see bringing back kids under these conditions. She recommends keeping these students at home and addressing this in January to bring them back. She proposes keeping the students in distance learning until after January 4th.

Mr. Raya indicated that he doesn't feel comfortable bringing kids back. He noted it would be seemingly irresponsible at this point, seeing where we are. Mr. Jackman just wants to see kids back in classrooms, but he noted that there is a spike we can't ignore.

Mr. Wells noted that we don't want to continue on campus small cohorts at this time until we can institute a safe hybrid plan for any and all students who want to return. We are aiming for timing of January 19th for the TK-3 grades.

Mr. Carlson indicated that he likes the hybrid plans, it is not best for the kids but it is best for this situation. He indicated that he is all for getting the kids back in school. Even one month ago, the numbers were dramatically less than they were. In good conscience Mr. Carlson stated he could not vote for students to return until the numbers have to dramatically drop. When we get to that point, the hybrid proposal is a workable solution. Mrs. Wingo and Mr. Jackman concur.

Mr. Well wanted to be sure the Board provides direction to discontinue existing small cohorts, on campus, confirming that students will not report to on campus school this week. Mr. Wells also addressed the hybrid model. The concern he has now is the start for TK-3 on January 19th with the next group starting on January 26th.

No action was taken as the Board determined to table this item until next month

5.2 Inter District Attendance Transfer & Enrollment Information- Dr. Bridges shared the changes in inter district transfers throughout the years for the Board and public. Enrollment throughout the years was also shared. Tom Hawkins and Anthony Traina Schools both have smaller numbers currently. The District will continue to monitor enrollment especially with the new developments in Tracy Hills and Ellis.

5.3 Student Enrollment – Same enrollment, seeing stability

VI. PERSONNEL SERVICES

VII. BUSINESS AND FACILTIES

7.1 November 2020 Budget Adjustments -

MSA (Wingo/Carlson) approve the November 2020 Budget Adjustments as presented

Roll call vote was as follows:

Ayes – 5	Nays – 0	Absent – 0	Abstain – 0
Carlson, Jackman,			
Raya, Wells, Wingo			

7.2 2020-2021 First Interim Report- CBO, Dena Whittington presented the 2020-21 First Interim report. Ms. Whittington indicated that every year this is the time that we do our First Interim Report. This is the first opportunity to update the Board and public since we updated our budget. The changes to the General Fund revenues were shown. Ms. Whittington shared that June 30th our budget was presented and a 45-day revision budget was updated. Again when the District closed the books, we updated current year revenues as there was new information. The projections have stabilized for the current year. The main source of revenue is LCFF funding which has also stabilized this year. The District received $200K from state and over $1M from federal governments.

District expenditures were shared, the majority of which are salary and benefits for staff. A comparison of the groupings of expenditures was also shared which showed the changes the District has seen in expenditures. The COVID funds came in multiple grants and were all earmarked with different goals or target uses. Using this funding the District was able to restore our librarian positions, fund the JVA stipends, and provide professional development for certificated staff at the beginning of the year. An additional custodian position was added, as well.

Ms. Whittington shared a breakdown of current expenditures. The District purchased online curriculum, Zoom, DocuSign, and stocked up on PPE's. Once the general population and students return the District can last one year with what we have on hand. The District has deployed OptiClean air scrubbers to sites, upgraded our phone system, and is outfitting K-5 classrooms with projectors and white boards. The District is offering mail in testing every eight weeks for staff, the cost of which will be paid for with these grants.

The District has one deadline coming up in the next couple of weeks where we need to expend the largest grant related to the COVID pandemic. The District is on track to have funds must be spent by December 30, 2020. The next report will be Second Interim.

MSA (Carlson/Jackman) approve the 2020-2021 First Interim Report as presented by CBO Dena
Roll call vote was as follows:

Ayes – 5	Nays – 0	Absent – 0	Abstain – 0
Carlson, Jackman,			
Raya, Wells, Wingo			

7.3 LCFF Budget Overview for Parents 2020-2021 –
MSA (Jackman/Wingo) approve the LCFF Budget Overview for Parents 2020-2021 - as presented
Roll call vote was as follows:

Ayes – 5	Nays – 0	Absent – 0	Abstain – 0
Carlson, Jackman,			
Raya, Wells, Wingo			

7.4 Annual and Five-Year Report on Developer Fees and Capital Facilities Fund
MSA (Wingo/Carlson) approve the Annual and Five-Year Report on Developer Fees and Capital Facilities Fund as presented
Roll call vote was as follows:

Ayes – 5	Nays – 0	Absent – 0	Abstain – 0
Carlson, Jackman,			
Raya, Wells, Wingo			

7.5 2019-2020 Bond Disclosure Annual Report
MSA (Wingo/Raya) approve the 2019-2020 Bond Disclosure Annual Report as presented
Roll call vote was as follows:

Ayes – 5	Nays – 0	Absent – 0	Abstain – 0
Carlson, Jackman,			
Raya, Wells, Wingo			

7.6 Resolution 2020-12-01, Approve RFP for Proposals for Pre-Construction and Lease-Leaseback Services- Dr. Bridges stated that the past two major construction projects have been lease leaseback projects. PJHM had advised looking into other methods. Ms. Whittington and Dr. Bridges have spent a lot of time researching other school districts and have had extensive meetings with our expert legal counsel. Based on all of the information presented, the recommendation is that we continue to use the lease leaseback methodology.
MSA (Carlson/Jackman) approve Resolution 2020-12-01, Approve RFP for Proposals for Pre-Construction and Lease-Leaseback Services as presented
Roll call vote was as follows:

DRAFT

Ayes – 5 Nays – 0 Absent – 0 Abstain – 0
Carlson, Jackman,
Raya, Wells, Wingo

VIII. BOARD DISCUSSION AND REPORTS

8.1 Board Meeting Calendar of Regularly Scheduled Meetings, 2021-2022

MSA (Wingo/Carlson) approve Board Meeting Calendar of Regularly Scheduled Meetings, 2021-2022 as presented

Roll call vote was as follows:

Ayes – 5 Nays – 0 Absent – 0 Abstain – 0
Carlson, Jackman,
Raya, Wingo, Wells

8.2 Items for Next Board Meeting – School reopening plan

ADJOURNMENT – MSA (Jackman/Raya) 8:26 PM

Respectfully submitted,

James W. Bridges
Secretary to the Board

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