Jefferson School District

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

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

Present virtually: 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 5:37 PM
b. Roll Call to Establish Quorum – all Board members were present
c. Approval of 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 (Wingo/Raya) - Approved personnel action for certificated employee #'s 12104 and 12105; The Board also approved the personnel action for classified employee #'s 12106, 12107, 12108, 12109, 12110, and 12111.
Roll call vote was as follows:

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

During Closed Session, the Board of Trustees also discussed negotiations with JTA and the evaluation of the Superintendent.

Superintendent's Report – Dr. Bridges thanked CBO, Dena Whittington, for all of her work setting up the Jefferson School District COVID-19 testing location which will open next week. The District is finalizing the set up and the lab will be open 2-3 days per week for staff and students who would like to receive tests.

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The District has been notified that San Joaquin County of Education (SJCOE) will begin immunizations for Phase 1B starting next week. SJCOE is working with local school districts to develop a vaccination site for school staff to begin the immunization process.

San Joaquin County Office of Education acquired its own Science Camp, Sky Mountain. Sky Mountain is located at the top of the north fork of the American River in Placer County. Finally, Dr. Bridges reported that sites will be holding virtual TK-K Round Ups on Wednesday, February 24, 2021 for our incoming TK and Kindergarten students.

III. PUBLIC COMMENT – There were eight 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:

Anonymous:
Dear Board Members,

I write to you today to plead for the safety of myself, my family, my peers, and my students. We are days away from a potential return to the classroom with students. There are ways to return safely, but if safety is your first priority, return should be delayed. We are not ready. We are not ready as teachers, as a site, or as a community. This virus is now more contagious than ever. We are not vaccinated. We don't even have an appointment to begin our vaccinations. Without vaccinations, we are putting ourselves and our families at risk each day we enter our classroom. Teaching, while being in a constant state of fear, is no way to teach at all. Imagine trying to do the most important job in the world, with the threat of a deadly virus swirling around you. This is not a setup for quality education.

Most teachers I've heard from plan to make no changes to their daily routine for students once they return. Student will be doing the assignments on Chromebooks, just while sitting in the classroom instead of safely at home. There will be no manipulatives, art projects, recess, snacks, group work, etc. There will be masks, loud air filter machines, forgotten Chromebooks, instruction time spent on hand washing, and plenty of frustration. To keep themselves and their families safe, many teachers plan on keeping six feet of social distancing in place around students until they are fully vaccinated.

I implore the Board to place the health and safety of our staff and students first. Thank you.

Anonymous:
Are students going back to school on February 16th?

Anonymous:
Opening schools before every single teacher, faculty member, administrator, and staff member has been fully vaccinated is wrong. Educators and staff are essential, but they are not disposable or expendable. Now that a vaccine exists, there is absolutely no reason to force teachers to return and risk their lives until each who wants it has received the vaccine. And honestly, at this point, why even return? I'd understand if it were November or maybe even January, but March? We are talking about bringing 50% of the students back for just three months. Is it really worth it? Is it worth the headache of trying to reconfigure classes, schedules, protocols, etc. It is a logistical nightmare. Is it really worth risking lives? Not only that, but I think many parents, students and board members are under the impression that when students return the quality of instruction is going to improve because the students are in the classroom, when in fact many teachers are planning to teach exactly the way they are now. With 50% of the students still Zooming, teachers will still be teaching to their computers not to their class. With the new strains of the virus being more contagious, it's not worth risking lives and opening the schools back up so that half the students can sit in the classrooms for half the day. Once students realize that school is not what it used to be, that they cannot socialize with their friends, cannot get up out of their desks, are still stuck in front of a computer, and have to abide by even more rules and protocols, they are going to wish they were back at home learning via

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Zoom. It just doesn't add up. Either wait until teachers are fully vaccinated or just finish the last trimester in distance learning.

Anonymous Teacher:
Jefferson School District Board Members, I appreciate the District trying to navigate everyone's varied opinions and needs. That is not to mention the constant changes from State or Federal directives. This year has not been easy to plan. But I do not understand the rush to place more children on campus when we are not prepared nor safe. We do not have weekly COVID testing for staff in place. Teacher's mail-in COVID tests have been stalled. We have not started vaccinating teachers. We stopped taking student temperatures at school daily. We do not have students in cohorts; they mix each period moving through classrooms. Students do not sit six feet apart. All of these things are recommendations from CDC, the state health department and state education guidelines for safe reopening. We may hear as early as tomorrow, a plan from the President with guidelines for how schools reopen safely. Why are we in a hurry to open schools unsafely on February 16th? What if we open and then we have to close because we have not met the guidelines? Why not postpone until we hear the President's guidelines and can be sure we are following them?

Lea Austin/Parent:
It is my understanding that school opening decisions were based on the expectation that the county would have moved out of the purple tier based on positive case rates and ICU capacity, and that school staff would have access to the vaccine. As of today. The county remains in the purple tier, the positivity rate remains substantially higher than the State and there is one available ICU bed. I don't see this on the agenda for this meeting. Please address how the current tier factors into school re-opening and whether teachers have been able to get access to the vaccine. While I am grateful the District has maintained a complete distance learning option, whether my kids are in-person or in distance learning, I still share a concern for the well-being of their teachers. I would appreciate, and I think it is incumbent upon the District to provide, transparency about how decisions related to the safety and well-being of staff are factored into in-person learning and how their own health risks are being accounted for. Thank you.

Teacher from the District:
Dear Board Members,
In 1775, John Locke wrote "Common Sense". Locke wrote that all individuals are equal in the sense that they are born with certain "inalienable" natural rights. That is, rights that are God-given and can never be taken or even given away. Among these fundamental natural rights, Locke said, are "life, liberty, and property." Locke believed that the most basic human law of nature is the preservation of mankind. To serve that purpose, he reasoned, individuals have both a right and a duty to preserve their own lives. The first natural right is life, meaning the main right of every person is to stay alive and be healthy. It is in your hands, as the governing body of the school, to protect all people in the district, including teachers and other adults working on campus. With the numbers not going down quick enough, vaccines not available to teachers as actually promised, there is only one solution: another month of Distant Learning with reconsideration of returning to classrooms in your next meeting. If the state wants teachers to return to class, let's use common sense. First provide safety, aka both vaccines, then return students into our classes.

Christina Jaques:
Let me start by saying that I appreciate how cautious the District has been, and how they've prioritized the safety of our school families and staff. I would like to ask the Board to please continue to prioritize safety by ensuring that all school staff who want the COVID vaccine have received their first dose before having, potentially, a class full of students return in person or wait until San Joaquin County is out of the purple tier, whichever comes first. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Anonymous Parent:

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I would like to personally thank the board members from the bottom of my heart for finally voting to do the right thing for our children and voting to re-open our school district to in-person instruction. My kindergartener is eager to step foot in his classroom and finally not have a computer screen between him and his beloved teacher, make eye contact with her and many of his peers, and start in-person learning. I've been a little concerned that we haven't received any communication from the District since the survey was mailed to families. I hope this lack of communication is because the District is busy finalizing safety protocols and plans for re-opening on the approved date of February 16th, and not a sign that the voted return date is being pushed back. I am aware that the teachers have not yet had the opportunity to be vaccinated, however that is not a reason to stop us from moving forward with in-person instruction. The CDC and California Health Department have both clarified this should not be a prerequisite to be open for in-person instruction. I look forward to hearing more information from the District soon on how we can make sure our students return to school as safely as possible and help support the hard-working teachers who continue to put their students first through every step of this pandemic. Thank you.

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

IV. APPROVAL OF THE CONSENT AGENDA

4.1 Minutes – Regular Board Meeting January 12, 2021 and Special Board Meeting January 29, 2021

4.2 Warrants – January 2021

4.3 Financials – January 2021

4.4 Surplus

MSA (Raya/Jackman) 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 2019-2020 School Accountability Report Cards (SARC)- Dr. Bridges thanked the sites and Sarah Steen for their hard work. Every school year the site administrators put the accountability report cards together along with Sarah Steen and her staff. The SARCs provide information for each of the schools, their programs, and shows their progress.

5.2 Site Specific Emergency Operations Plans –The Board thanked the principals for their time and efforts, and appreciated the detail in their site specific emergency plans.

MSA (Carlson/Wingo) approve the Site Specific Emergency Operations Plans as presented

Roll call vote was as follows:

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

5.3 Student Enrollment- We are up ten students from last meeting.

VI. PERSONNEL SERVICES

6.1 Certificated and Classified Seniority List- Dr. Bridges noted that each year we must provide this information publicly. He thanked Nancie Castro and Vicky Ochoa for putting this information together.

VII. BUSINESS AND FACILTIES

7.1 January 2021 Budget Adjustments -

MSA (Wingo/Jackman) approve the January 2021 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 Award of Category One E-Rate, RFP NO. 2020-11-1–
MSA (Carlson/Wingo) approve the Award of Category One E-Rate RFP NO. 2020-11-1 as presented:
Roll call vote was as follows:
Ayes – 5 Nays – 0 Absent – 0 Abstain – 0
Carlson, Jackman,
Raya, Wells, Wingo

7.3 2020-2021 Second Interim Assumptions –
MSA (Jackman/Wingo) approve the 2020-2021 Second Interim Assumptions as presented
Roll call vote was as follows:
Ayes – 5 Nays – 0 Absent – 0 Abstain – 0
Carlson, Jackman,
Raya, Wells, Wingo

7.4 Williams Act Quarterly Reporting- there were no complaints during this reporting period.

VIII. BOARD DISCUSSION AND REPORTS

8.1 2021 Ballot for CSBA Delegate Assembly
MSA (Wingo/Carlson) Approve Candidates George Neely and Christopher "Kit" Oase for the District's 2021 Ballot for CSBA Delegate Assembly as presented
Roll call vote was as follows:
Ayes – 5 Nays – 0 Absent – 0 Abstain – 0
Carlson, Jackman,
Raya, Wells, Wingo

8.2 Policy Revision, BP/AR/E 6173 Education for Homeless Children –
MSA (Raya/Carlson) Approve the revised BP/AR/E 6173, Education for Homeless Children as presented
Roll call vote was as follows:
Ayes – 5 Nays – 0 Absent – 0 Abstain – 0
Carlson, Jackman,
Raya, Wells, Wingo

8.3 Items for the Next Board Meeting- Sunshine with JTA, Board Members reiterated that they would like to meet in person. Summer School options were also mentioned.

ADJOURNMENT – MSA (Carlson/Jackman) 7:00 PM

Respectfully submitted,

James W. Bridges
Secretary to the Board

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Jefferson School District

Official Minutes of the Special Meeting
Of the Board of Trustees
February 17, 2021

(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; Ken Silman, Emily Stroup, Principals; Celli Coeville, Administrative Assistant

I. OPEN SESSION

a. Call to Order at 6:30 PM

b. Roll Call to Establish Quorum – all Board members were present

c. Approval of Agenda-

MSA (Carlson/Jackman) – Approve the agenda as presented-

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

Carlson, Jackman,
Raya, Wingo, Wells

d. Public Comment for Items on the Agenda: Dr. Bridges read the public comments received via Google Forms:

Anonymous/ Parent & Teacher:
I was speechless last Friday night after reading the email notifying Jefferson School District Families that the voted and approved re-opening date would not happen. The amount of work that went into planning and preparing for our students to finally return safely to their campuses for in-person learning was so quickly thrown out the window. Teachers put in hundreds of hours preparing for this day, stressed parents had made plans, re-arranged their work lives and careers in order to allow their child to return, and our poor students by far received the biggest blow through that careless decision. These precious children who have been told for 11 months to keep doing their best, work hard, ignore your frustrations, and who had finally been given the promise they've been hoping for of returning to their school was snatched from them like a bully taking away their cherished stuffed animal. This is wrong! Your board exists to represent the best interests of our Jefferson community, you need to stand behind your decision and not be bullied by the teacher's union. I'm pleading to you now as a mother and a teacher, do the right thing. Open our schools and allow our children to return to their school for in-person instruction. The CDC and California health officials have stated over and over children need to be in school, please do not wait another day. Some of our children are on the edge about to fall into an extremely dark place, if you do not act soon, we may never be able to pull them back out.

Jennifer Moore/Mother of 3rd and 5th Grader:
To Dr. Bridges and the entire JSD Board:
We are now coming up on 1 year of having our kids out of school and off of the school campus. Our children haven't seen the campus, the principal, their teachers, their classmates for an entire year! Do you understand what this has done to our children? My 3rd grader has now given up after last week's promise to open. It's me keeping him going, nobody else. He doesn't trust the school any longer. This is due to the back and forth decisions. "Come back to school, no don't. Come back to school, no not yet. See you Tuesday. Never mind, no plan to see you." This is also due to the lack of help he gets and the lack of education he gets. Two hours behind a screen online is not enough and will never be enough, the teachers know that and he knows that. My 3rd

grader is done. Once again, JSD has made me the bad guy and my son has lost the will to continue to push forward for the sake of his own education. That is where we are at. Open the Schools! Fight the Union! Please keep our children at the forefront of your decision making process and do everything in your power to provide an in-person education. They are the future. This has to be fixed.

Anonymous/A teacher who cares:
I am disappointed how the district handled last Friday. It was not the teachers' (aka union) fault that the district chose not to follow guidelines. The union informed the district much earlier, but was ignored. Why is the district working against teachers? We have the same goal: getting students back to class, but safe and in compliance with all guidelines.

Heather Maloy:
Please open Jefferson School District. Our children need to be back in school. My children were devastated when they found out they weren't returning Tuesday.

Lea Austin/Parent:
I stand with our teachers. Please remember that teachers are part of our community too - they are not abstract beings; they don't exist for the sole purpose of being in service to us or our children. They are mothers, fathers, spouses, and caregivers too. They have their own health worries, some with underlying conditions that make them more susceptible to getting sick or dying from COVID, some live with others who are at high risk. From every teacher I know, they are desperately missing their students and the daily life of the school community. They are working harder than ever in these conditions - distance learning is not a break or a walk in the park. As a community, I implore us all to assume good intentions from one another, including our teachers. And before making decisions that demand teachers' place themselves in harm's way, carefully consider the science.

The CDC, it's director and leading experts have issued guidance & statements that schools should be the last to close and first to reopen and that in order to do, in-person instruction should be prioritized over broader community reopenings, extracurricular activities and the like in order to minimize transmission risk. All we have to do is look around town, or scroll through social media to see this guidance not being followed - schools have not been prioritized. Restaurants are open, people are gathering and socializing, rarely have I seen masks at playgrounds where school-age children and their families gather.

The CDC further recommends that part of mitigation measures allow teachers with higher risks to have other options to remain employed and work remotely. This district has yet to explain what those measures look like here. At a minimum, the district should assure that school staff have access to vaccines, options to remain remote for high risk staff, and that community transmission is lower before broadly reopening.

Frank Austin/Hawkins Parent:
I stand with our teachers. The rush to reopen on paper in November setup reopening before all - not just some - of the safety mitigation measures are in place. As a community, we are demanding teachers show up for reopening, but we have not ensured to the best of our ability, their safety. Look at downtown on a Saturday afternoon, parks on sunny Sunday, or social media feeds. The CDC recommendations to stop or limit other interactions in order to prioritize school openings are not being heeded widely enough in our local community, and many are intentionally disregarding them.

I understand that other businesses need to operate and that plenty of others have to work in-person during this pandemic - I am one them - and this is placing pressure on schools to reopen. But the conditions of other workers are not justification for placing teachers in unsafe conditions, especially when distance learning is an option. At the very least, in addition to the other measures already put into place for ventilation and PPE, we should be out of the purple tier, all school staff

should have access to the vaccine, and high risk staff should have options for other work arrangements. While maintaining distance learning for most students is in no way ideal, it does provide an alternative for now. I am glad for the teachers that they have a union that stands up on their behalf to protect their well-being. If more workers had this, we'd likely be in a very different situation with more protections for workers across occupations in the middle of this health crisis.

Ashleigh Dec:
Kids need to be in school!

Kristen Gama/Tom Hawkins Parent:
I know for certain that the staff at our school works incredibly hard for these kids. This difficult school year has shown that this school can rise above adversity. I am so thankful for this community.

However, I have seen a disturbing decline in the mental health of my children and others in our community. Zoom is not a suitable substitute for in person learning, even if it means something different from what we are all accustomed to. Any amount of social interaction for learning will bring improvement. I have already seen this improvement since one of my children returned to campus. I realize it is difficult for some of our best teachers, due to health issues, to return to in person teaching. The majority of parents who are desperate for a reopening of our schools are not angry with the teachers who are hesitant to be back. I think we all understand where you are all coming from, as many of us had to go back to work already into very crowded places where we are at risk every day so that we can feed our families. Grocery store workers, healthcare workers, law enforcement, mechanics, teachers who teach at private schools, and I can keep going.

USA today reported this morning that scientist believe COVID is here to stay. We must move forward in opening our schools. I am begging everyone who is fighting against the reopening to please see that it is our children who are at stake here.

Wren Pinette:
Our kids need to be back in school, this is devastating to them and their future. We are going to have an entire generation of kids with problems. Please!

Anonymous Teacher:
After a very long weekend of seeing our profession, work ethic, right to paychecks, and desire to return to school questioned, and at times ignorantly attacked on social media, I'm writing in for the first time to express my disbelief regarding how information went out last Friday. The district knew for many weeks the JTA had concerns about the district not meeting the new January 14 county guidelines and had been asked to provide documentation for the district's position. But of course parents and the community did not know this. Nor was it communicated to the public that it was the district's decision, not JTA to postpone the opening. With the timing and wording of the letter, it put all the blame and responsibility on the teachers and JTA, opening us up to an extreme backlash. My team left school on Friday apprehensive but eager to welcome students back. We'd worked for weeks getting to that point. We looked into our screens and told them how excited we were to have them back, scheduled special Zoom meetings with parents so they were fully prepared and informed, and spent many extra hours working to plan and organize for yet another new format of teaching. As a veteran of this district, I have given my heart and soul to my kids and their families. To be thrown under the bus by a very misleading and inaccurate letter in which the district took no responsibility for its decisions was truly disheartening to say the least. I can't wait to have kids back in my room and I hope in the future, parents will reach out looking for better understanding and facts before bashing those most respected teachers on social media.

A Concerned Parent and Teacher:
I have two questions that I would like addressed. First question, why did the communication about opening the schools and then closing the schools come so late? I remember Dr. Bridges stating that the staff and district families would have two-week's notice. On the survey, it was clearly stated that school might open on 2/16 and 3/1, but the families would get time to prepare. We received notification from the principals two days before opening on 2/16. Then we received zero days before a three-day weekend that the schools were closed again. Second question, why did Dr. Bridges and the Board wait until Friday, 2/12 to give the Union documentation that the JSD was open? It is sad that Dr. Bridges waited so long and then blamed it on the teachers and the Union. I am not sure if the District will ever be able to remove this black mark. Now teachers are the bad guys. This is not what the teachers wanted. They want to go back to school when the county states we can go back!

Jaxson Gama/ Tom Hawkins 4th Grade Student:
Zoom is not a good idea for kids to learn. We are at home and it looks like we're doing a good job on the camera but really we could easily get distracted with drawing, YouTube, or our brothers and sisters who may be at home with us. Then we end up with missing assignments and get discouraged with ourselves. Many of us have parents who work from home and they cannot always remind us to stay focused. I hope to be able to go in person back to school very soon.

Jeniene Cruz/President of Jefferson Teacher's Association:
No one wants to go back in classrooms with students more than educators, who know there is no equal substitute for regular in-person learning. For that to happen, there must be multi-layered safety measures in place, which includes following California Department of Public Health guidelines. At the time of the cease and desist letter, these guidelines were not met, and the pandemic remains out of control in the County. After multiple attempts to bargain in good faith, it is so disheartening that our superintendent and the school board members would rather put the safety of students, educators, and entire community at risk. At this time, we should be leading by example and collaborating together in the best interest of our students. That has been Jefferson Teachers Association's goal from the beginning of this pandemic, and it continues to be so.

Adeana Maloy
Children belong back in school! Give teachers the vaccine. Everyone is suffering from lack of socialization and education face to face.

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 – 8:03 PM
Welcome from Board President Mr. Wells

In Closed Session – The Board of Trustees discussed with legal counsel potential litigation.

III. EDUCATIONAL SERVICES
3.1 Board Action on School Reopening

Dr. Bridges read the following statement:

The Jefferson School District Board and I remain committed to bringing students and staff back to school safely. A few districts in San Joaquin County brought students back to in-person instruction in November. Even during the surge in December and January these districts were able to maintain the safe in-person operation of their schools. Jefferson School District (JSD) took a more

conservative approach, looking for lessons learned and using the time to put more safety measures into place for students and staff.

While many of the districts open to in-person instruction have chosen full-day schedules, JSD selected a partial day schedule to avoid having students on campus during unstructured activities such as lunch and recess where the possibility of transmission is higher. JSD also upgraded HVAC filters throughout the District and went even further by purchasing hospital grade HEPA filtration units for each classroom in the district to improve air circulation per CDC recommendations. When it was recommended that school districts provide staff with asymptomatic COVID testing, we contracted with Quest labs to have tests sent to staff member's homes. However, only 30% of staff members took advantage of the free testing. On January 14, 2021 when CDPH updated their guidance again to recommend voluntary staff and student asymptomatic COVID screening weekly, the District contracted with the State's testing lab. The JSD COVID testing facility will have a soft opening Thursday, February 18, 2021. It will be open for staff the following week and students when they return to in-person instruction. Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) was purchased for each school site, which includes surgical masks, hospital grade hand sanitizer, gloves, mechanical barriers, and signage. Finally, in partnership with San Joaquin County Public Health Services and San Joaquin County Office of Education (SJCOE), educators throughout the county are beginning to receive COVID-19 vaccines this week. What we do know is JSD continues to go above and beyond other school districts across the state that have safely reopened to in-person instruction.

Based upon all of the safety measures put in place, it was clear that JSD schools were safe to continue the Board's phased opening to in-person instruction on February 16, 2021. Despite the negotiated Memorandum of Understanding with the Jefferson Teachers Association, on February 12, 2021 students, families, dedicated teachers and the District were blindsided by the cease and desist letter from the California Teachers Association (CTA) Legal Department in Sacramento on behalf of the Jefferson Teachers Association (JTA). The District responded to this letter with supporting documentation received on February 12, 2021 from San Joaquin County Public Health Services. The letter states that Jefferson School District is considered open and could continue its phased opening plan. When the District did not receive a response from CTA/JTA it had no choice but to notify parents and heartbroken students of the fact that school would not be able to start on February 16, 2021 as planned. The District wanted to make sure parents had time to plan for childcare and other necessary arrangements. The District hoped to receive a response from CTA/JTA accepting the supporting documentation from the local health authority. Instead on February 16, 2021 JTA leadership requested additional legal documentation further challenging the ability of the District to continue its phased opening.

Jefferson School District does not believe it is in the best interest of our students to litigate with the California Teachers Association the nuances of what the word "open" means or who has the legal authority to constitute a school district "open" for in-person instruction. For this reason, the Board has decided to set an opening timeline that is clearly defined and defensible without further legal action. San Joaquin County's adjusted case rate is currently 25.1 cases per 100,000. It is expected this will drop well below the required 25 cases for 100,000 on February 23, 2021. The District will be required to wait five additional days before it continues its phased opening plan. For this reason, in-person instruction for TK-6th grade students that requested to return to in-person instruction will begin March 3, 2021. The District will continue to work with CDPH to determine when it is eligible to bring in-person instruction for 7th and 8th grade students.

MSA (Jackman/Carlson) motion to direct the Superintendent to plan for a March 3rd reopening for TK -6 grades or as soon as it is legally permissible.

Roll Call Vote:

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

Mr. Wells thanked the public for attending and thanked them for their patience during this difficult time.

ADJOURNMENT – MSA (Jackman/Raya) 8:11 PM

Respectfully submitted,

James W. Bridges
Secretary to the Board

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