Jefferson School District

Official Minutes of the Regular Meeting
Of the Board of Trustees
April 12, 2022

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

In attendance: Emily Stroup, Director of Human Resources; Monica Emeldi, Director of Special Education; Sarah Steen, Curriculum Coordinator; Tessa Bunch, Christina Orsi, Ken Silman, Alyssa Wooten, Principals; Celli Coeville, Administrative Assistant

I. OPEN SESSION

a. Call to Order at 5:35 PM
b. Roll Call to Establish Quorum – all board members were present
c. Approval of Agenda- The agenda was amended to change item 8.2 to an Action item.
d. Public Comment on Closed Session Items

MSA (Carlson/Wingo) – Approve amended agenda with item 8.2 as an Action item
Ayes – 4 Nays – 0 Absent – 0 Abstain – 0
Carlson, Jackman
Raya, 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 – 6:34 PM

Welcome from Board President Mr. Raya
Pledge of Allegiance
Superintendent's Report – Dr. Bridges is pleased to announce that in the past month the District has seen a steady decline of COVID-19 cases in the District. The District had nine student cases in March and so far only five cases in April. To avoid an uptick in cases on the return from Spring Break, the District is providing families with home rapid tests to administer voluntarily on Sunday before returning to school on April 25th.

Dr. Bridges provided a quick update on Corral Hollow Elementary School. The District team met with Integral Communities to discuss the budget, financing, and timeline of the new school. The District is finalizing the budget and funding sources and plans to have the project back into the Division of State Architects on Monday, April 18th. This will be followed with the District bidding the project May 29, 2022 and which will keep us on schedule for an August 2024 school opening.

Dr. Bridges was happy to announce that the District has its first school at the new science camp located in Sky Mountain this week. Tom Hawkins School left yesterday morning and ended up driving the last portion of the trip in the snow. Many students experienced snow for the first time at science camp.

In Closed Session-

MSA (Wingo/Jackman) - For certificated employees, the Board approved the employee #'s 12307,12308, 12309, 12310, 12311, 12312, 12313, 12314, 12315, 12316, 12317, 12318, 12319, 12320, 12321, 12322, and 12323; the Board approved classified employee #'s 12324, 12325, 12326, 12327, 12328, 12329, 12330, and 12331
Ayes – 4 Nays – 0 Absent – 0 Abstain – 0

Carlson, Jackman
Raya, Wingo

The Board also discussed the evaluation of the Superintendent

III. PUBLIC COMMENT – There were public comments for items not on the agenda:

Anne Corbiser/Teacher
Good evening, my name is Anne Corbiser and I am a teacher at Hawkins. These statements I present tonight are my own they are not part of the JTA Board on which I serve. A public health order was given August which ordered teachers to verify vaccination status or submit to weekly testing. When this order came out I did not agree with it but I did comply with weekly testing because it was better than giving up my sick days or facing disciplinary action. Here we are twenty-three weeks later with twenty-three negative tests taken never any symptoms. I've learned a lot during those twenty-three weeks. Once of the things that I learned during the COVID health emergency was that state police powers were given to the CDPH. But I've also learned that the police powers are limited by the protections contained in the California United States constitution. This means that any health officer must have adequate justification for their orders if it's to impact the liberties provided in constitutions. Disease control is generally considered adequate justification if there are sufficient facts to support it. The sufficient facts in the order were that 22.7 new cases per 100,000 people per day. The case rates were increasing tenfold, Delta variant was two times more contagious, the unvaccinated were more likely to get infected and spread the virus. Most current hospitalizations were among the unvaccinated and vaccination was the most effective means of preventing and transmitting COVID.

Twenty-three weeks later here are the facts as I know them. The Delta variant is no longer the main variant it is now replaced by Omicron which is two times faster. Governor Newsom reported that Omicron cases were declining by 66%, hospitalizations were decreasing by 48%. The CDC has come out to report that the fully vaccinated can spread and transmit the virus. In the United Kingdom they are now reporting that 9 out of 10 fully vaccinated are being hospitalized. In the vaccine adverse events report system they are now reporting over 1 million adverse reactions are being caused by the vaccine. On March 1 Pfizer released its clinical trial data from November 2020 to February 2021 in which it lists in 8-9 pages eight adverse reactions. This is sufficient data to show that the vaccine is not the most effective means to prevent infection. It also shows that the vaccine is capable of doing harm. The disease is also not able to be controlled. Governor Newsom came out to say that it's not going away and we need to be ready with tools and resources and supplies to work with it in the future. Thomas Jefferson once said, "there is no justification for taking away individuals' freedom in the guise of safety". That is just what the vaccination policy has done and can no longer be permitted to do. This justification used in this order in August is no longer sufficient nor valid at this time. The legislature has recently put on hold AB 1993 the employee vaccination policy. San Diego county has come out to say that it is ending its vaccination policy. I've heard that Stockton may be ending theirs as well. So I am asking when will JSD look into this policy and end it for us?

A number of community members and representatives from the Tracy Hills community requested information regarding the status of Corral Hollow Elementary School. The community was interesting in learning about the budget shortfall, communication of updates for the community, and had questions about modular versus brick and mortar construction and what grade levels will be available for students once the school is open.

IV. APPROVAL OF THE CONSENT AGENDA
4.1 Minutes – Regular Board Meeting March 8, 2022
4.2 Warrants – March 2022
4.3 Financials – March 2022
MSA (Carlson/Wingo) approve the consent agenda as presented
Ayes – 4 Nays – 0 Absent – 0 Abstain – 0
Carlson, Jackman
Raya, Wingo

V. EDUCATIONAL SERVICES

5.1 Student Enrollment – Enrollment continues to increase for the District, we have an increase of almost 200 students from last year.

VI. PERSONNEL SERVICES

6.1 Variable Term Waiver Request for 30-Day Substitute Basic Skills Requirements, P. Balamurugan

MSA (Wingo/Jackman) approve the Variable Term Waiver Request for 30-Day Substitute Basic Skills Requirement, P. Balamurugan as presented

Ayes – 4 Nays – 0 Absent – 0 Abstain – 0

Carlson, Jackman

Raya, Wingo

6.2 Interim Chief Business Officer (CBO) Contract- Dr. Bridges clarified that CalPERS had issues with the number of days being used as a divisor in the initial contract. The contract is being changed to reflect a $2.50 reduction which Mrs. Whittington is in agreement with.

MSA (Jackman/Wingo) approve the Interim Chief Business Office (CBO) Contract as presented

Ayes – 4 Nays – 0 Absent – 0 Abstain – 0

Carlson, Jackman

Raya, Wingo

VII. BUSINESS AND FACILTIES

7.1 March 2022, Fiscal Year 21-22 Budget Adjustments –

MSA (Carlson/Jackman) approve the March 2022, Fiscal Year 21-22 Budget Adjustments as presented

Ayes – 4 Nays – 0 Absent – 0 Abstain – 0

Carlson, Jackman

Raya, Wingo

7.2 Actuarial Study of Retiree Health Liabilities Under GASB 74/75-

MSA (Wingo/Carlson) approve the Actuarial Study of Retiree Health Liabilities Under GASB 74/75 as presented

Ayes – 4 Nays – 0 Absent – 0 Abstain – 0

Carlson, Jackman

Raya, Wingo

VIII. BOARD DISCUSSION AND REPORTS

8.1 Applicant Interview & Appointment to Board of Trustees, Applicant – Todd Wetherell-

Dr. Bridges provided a brief explanation of the process for this evening. He indicated that any time there is a Board vacancy close to an election the Board is required is to appoint someone to that position. The District has to announce the vacancy, has to post it in the newspaper and do a public posting which the District did. Applicants must be California residents, at least 18 year of age, registered voters in the state of California and residents of the District. This appointment will last until the election in 2022. The person who is selected for this position will have to run if they choose to continue on the Board for the next term. This position will be part of the general election. The Board is required to interview the candidate in a public forum which we will do tonight. We have one candidate, Todd Wetherell. Unlike interviews the Board may ask different and follow up questions if there is something specific that they would like additional clarification on. Once an appointment is made a vote will follow and the appointment will be posted for 30 days. The community has this time to review the appointment and if there are no objections, the appointed candidate will become the new board member at a May board meeting.

Todd Wetherell - Mr. Wetherell shared with the Board and public that he has been in the District since 1983 and he had two children attend JSD schools. Mr. Wetherell has a logistics background

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and he was a board member for twelve years for Jefferson School District. Mr. Wetherell stated that this district is a remarkable school district and this is a very close community and he would like to keep it this way. Mr. Wetherell helped to start Little League in this town, he coaches junior varsity hardball at Millennium High School. Mr. Wetherell wants to keep up the old school mentality of the Jefferson School District maintained. He noted that the role of a board member is a demanding job that requires forethought, cooperation with board members and Superintendent, and good communication. There were no follow up questions from the Board.

MSA (Wingo/Carlson) approve appointment of Todd Wetherell to Jefferson School District Board of Trustees
Ayes – 4 Nays – 0 Absent – 0 Abstain – 0
Carlson, Jackman
Raya, Wingo

8.2 Discuss Letter from Trustees to California State Legislators Supporting Parent Choice for COVID Vaccines for School Aged Students-
The Board moved item 8.2 up on the agenda for discussion after the Approval of the Consent Agenda item.

A letter to state legislators from the Jefferson Board of Trustees was presented to the Board and the public for review.

There were four public comments in support of the Board's letter from Zahra Aziz, Ashley Negron, Robyn Forester, and Keith Forester regarding allowing parents the choice to immunization their students for COVID.

Dr. Bridges asked if the Board had any edits for the letter. Mrs. Wingo indicated that she felt the letter needed to be more specific in the first two paragraphs. "Students" or "children" should be stated as opposed to "this population". The Board discussed language indicating the age of the students or that we are a TK-8 grade district.

MSA (Carlson/Wingo) approve the Letter as edited from Trustees to California State Legislators Supporting Parent Choice for COVID Vaccines for School Aged Students
Ayes – 4 Nays – 0 Absent – 0 Abstain – 0
Carlson, Jackman
Raya, Wingo

8.3 Items for the Next Board Meeting – Employee of the Year recognition. Dr. Bridges announced that Mr. Gary Pease, a teacher at Jefferson, is up for Teacher of the Year.

ADJOURNMENT – MSA (Jackman/Carlson) 7:05 PM

Respectfully submitted,

James W. Bridges
Secretary to the Board

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