

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.

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

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:

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
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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