

Jefferson School District
Official Minutes of the Special Board Meeting
Of the Board of Trustees
July 16, 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; Pete Carlson, Member; Brian Jackman, 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; Emily Stroup, Ken Silman, Alyssa Wooten, Christina Orsi, Principals; Celli Coeville, Administrative Assistant

I. OPEN SESSION

- a. Call to Order at 6: 34 PM
- b. Roll Call to Establish Quorum – all members were present through virtual meeting
- c. Approval of Change to Agenda-
MSA (Carlson/Raya) – Approve Agenda
Roll Call Vote as follows:

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

- II. PUBLIC HEARING – Google Forms were used for public comment for this virtual meeting. The District received four public comments related to agenda item 3.1. Dr. Bridges read all public comments into record before item 3.1 was discussed by the Board of Trustees.

III. STUDENT SERVICES

3.1 Reopening of Schools for the 2020-21 School Year:
Dr. Bridges read the following Public Comments which were received via Google Forms prior to the meeting, He noted that the District will post answers to the comments received in Public Comment on the Jefferson School District website. The four public comments received are noted below:

Jaqueline Simmons:

Will there be an option for distant learning for the entire year for those who would prefer to keep their kids home for the entire school year?

Morgan Trumbo:

Patterson is delaying their start of school year to after Labor Day so they don't have to start off in distance learning format. Is that possible for us? That way the kids have the opportunity to meet their teacher in person. Also, will there be a TK class this year? How will that work in the hybrid model for 4/5 year olds where this is their first school experience?

Daphne Jones:

Why can't there be two separate options for school opening? One where students are in class and one for independent study. Children should be able to be in class if they would like.

Lyndee Fisher:

I would like the 2020-2021 school year to open full time in the classroom. Our kids are missing out on curriculum. They are not learning like they should. This will take years for our kids to get where they need to be academically. Some parents are not able to help their child, many parents work full time and are not home to teach their children and why not have them go to school when there are 0 deaths for children due to Covid. Take extra measures to sanitize if needed or wear masks for the ones who need it but don't go 100% online. If you go online, many kids won't learn and many of them will be left home alone while their parents work. I want to see our kids go to school. They need the social aspect too.

Superintendent Bridges stated that at our June meeting and over the summer, the District was cautiously optimistic and working toward beginning the school year with a traditional learning model. Throughout the summer, all school superintendents of San Joaquin County, along with San Joaquin County Superintendent of Schools, James Mousalimas, have been meeting weekly while closely monitoring the pandemic. Dr. Maggie Park from the San Joaquin County Office of Public Health along with San Joaquin County Superintendent of Schools, James Mousalimas, have worked tirelessly to provide for a safe reopening of schools in person. Unfortunately, due to the skyrocketing infection rates and hospitalizations, it is clear that the pandemic is far from being under control.

On July 13, 2020 Dr. Park and Superintendent Mousalimas issued a joint press release recommending that San Joaquin County schools start the new school year with 100% distance learning. On July 14, 2020, the district received "Amendment #1, 2020-2021 School Year Planning: A guide to Address the Challenges of COVID-19" from the San Joaquin County Office of Education. Dr. Bridges read Amendment #1, which recommends that schools begin in 100% distance learning at least through the end of August 2020.

Dr. Bridges shared an updated presentation that contained a month to month comparison of the COVID-19 pandemic with data from when the Board last met in June 16, 2020 compared to July 14, 2020. Dr. Bridges noted that our case doubling rate is 12 days and San Joaquin County is 5th in the state of California for cases of coronavirus. At this time, there are no ICU beds for children in San Joaquin County and cases for ages 0-17 for San Joaquin County is 9.1% in July. California state positivity rate is also measured. The positivity rate should be under 5 %, and San Joaquin County's rate is 12.3%, which is double Los Angeles County's rate currently.

Dr. Bridges shared guidance from California Assembly Bill 77 (AB 77) which is a trailer bill for the District's budget. This bill highlights what distance learning is required to look like. There is a new requirement of daily attendance, and daily attendance tracking for all students. Another item from AB 77 is to provide more direct "live" classroom instruction which includes teacher and peer engagement. The District is required to meet normal state instructional minutes. Grade level standards need to be provided and the quality of instruction provided has to be equivalent to in person instruction. During distance learning, the District is requiring is that we utilize traditional grading. The District will loan Chromebooks to all students, and provide Wi Fi hotspots for those who need them. Our goal

is to check out a Chromebook to every child, which is also a state requirement. A “grab & go” lunch will need to be provided for those who need them.

After distance learning, the next step will be a hybrid learning model where only half of the students will be allowed on campus at a time. The District will have an A/B Hybrid model where students will attend 2 days/week and virtually 2 days/week. With no students on campus on Wednesday, the District will deep clean on Wednesday to ensure staff and student safety. When the District receives the necessary approval for students to return to campus, we will re-survey the community before the hybrid plan is finalized. Families will be given as much advance notice as possible as to which days their child is expected to attend, and we will do our best to keep members of the same household on the same A or B schedule.

The last learning option, the one that the District is striving for, is a traditional model with precautions. Regardless of the model that we are providing, we will still give parents/students the choice to remain in distance learning model for those families who prefer their students to remain home.

Dr. Bridges responded to the comments and questions from members of the Board. He confirmed for Mr. Carlson that the District has a process to handle Chromebook issues if they should arise. Mr. Wells asked about bandwidth issues that families may have encountered, was curious if a recording would be available for families who may have connectivity issues. He wanted to ensure that there were provisions for families if they had issues logging in or accessing their live instruction. Dr. Bridges indicated that this is something that the District will need to address. Mr. Wells also had questions regarding Special Education students. Dr. Bridges indicated that we are still waiting for guidance from our County Office regarding Special Education students. Mrs. Wingo asked if resource students will be getting instruction and have their educational minutes met and Dr. Bridges confirmed that their needs will be met. Mr. Jackman had a question about how Kindergarten and TK were going to be handled in the distance learning model. Dr. Bridges noted that we are trying to find ways to possibly use a modified Bridge Camp for TK/K students and parents to come in on an individual basis to see their classrooms. Dr. Bridges indicated that there aren't any accommodations that will be made based on grade level.

Mr. Jackman and Mr. Carlson expressed frustration about students not being able to be in the classroom, and find the situation heartbreaking. Mrs. Wingo noted that we can compensate for the lost learning after this is over, and added that she can't see risking the health of our community and staff. Mr. Raya noted that the District will error on the side of caution. Mrs. Wingo reiterated that starting the year in distance learning isn't anyone's wish, but we have to do it. Dr. Bridges added that the District is committed to bringing our students back to school as soon as we can do so safely.

Reopening of Schools for the 2020-21 School Year-
MSA (Wells/Raya) approved that the District follow the guidance of San Joaquin County Office of Public Health and the 2020-21 Reopening of Schools to begin the school year in distance learning as presented

Roll call vote as follows:

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

3.2 Draft Guide for the Safe Reopening of Schools – This guide is based on San Joaquin County Office of Education guidelines. This guide is in draft form and is intended provide staff with procedures to follow when the district can return to in person instruction. Although this is only a draft, Dr. Bridges wanted to provide the Board and public an opportunity to see what the District is working on. This guide is based on California Department of Public Health and San Joaquin County Public Health Services guidance for the safe reopening of schools.

IV. BUSINESS AND FACILITIES

4.1 Resolution 2020-07-01, Designation of Applicant’s Agent Governor’s Office of Emergency Services (OES) Form 130 – This allows the CBO and Superintendent the ability to sign for the District’s FEMA claims to recoup funds during the pandemic. MSA (Carlson/Raya) approve Resolution 2020-07-01, Designation of Applicant’s Agent Governor’s Office of Emergency Services (OES) Form 130 as presented

Roll call vote was as follows:

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

4.2 Resolution 2020-07-02, Approval for Immediate Procurement of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) During the COVID-10 Pandemic- Dr. Bridges explained that this resolution gives the CBO and Superintendent a chance to make necessary purchases of PPE with state and local funds for items that are used during the pandemic without going through the lengthy bidding process. Mr. Raya made a motion to approve all three resolutions from items 4.2, 4.3 and 4.4 for the immediate procurement of PPEs, disinfecting supplies and technology equipment during the COVID-19 pandemic. MSA (Raya/Jackman) approve Resolution 2020-07-02, Approval for Immediate Procurement of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) During the COVID-10 Pandemic as presented

Roll call vote was as follows:

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

4.3 Resolution 2020-07-03, Approval for Immediate Procurement of Disinfecting Supplies During the COVID-19 Pandemic
MSA (Raya/Jackman) approve Resolution 2020-07-03, Approval for Immediate Procurement of Disinfecting Supplies During the COVID-19 Pandemic as presented

Roll call vote was as follows:

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

4.4 Resolution 2020-07-04, Approval for Immediate Procurement of Technology Equipment During the COVID-19 Pandemic
MSA (Raya/Jackman) approve Resolution 2020-07-04, Approval for Immediate Procurement of Technology Equipment During the COVID-19 Pandemic

Roll call vote was as follows:

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

Board President, Mrs. Wingo closed the meeting by reiterating that she wants our families and the community to please know that we are committed to getting schools open as soon as we safely can. Teachers want to be back with students, students want to be back at school with their teachers and friends. Safety is our first concern and we appreciate the community's support during this time.

V. ADJOURNMENT – MSA (Wells/Carlson) 8:01 PM

Respectfully submitted,

James W. Bridges
Secretary to the Board