



# JEFFERSON COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION

## Minutes of Special Meeting of December 17, 2019

**Special Meeting** of the Jefferson County Board of Education held at VanHoose Education Center, Stewart Auditorium, Louisville, Kentucky, on Tuesday, December 17, 2019, at 5:00 p.m.

### BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:

Chairwoman Diane Porter	Vice-Chair Chris Kolb
Mr. Chris Brady	Mr. James Craig
Mrs. Linda Duncan	Mr. Joseph Marshall
Mr. Corrie Shull	

### STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT:

Superintendent Martin A. Pollio, Ed.D.  
Kevin Brown, General Counsel  
Angie Gilpin, Assistant Secretary to the Board

### WORK SESSION

#### I. Call to Order

Chair Porter called the December 17, 2019, Special Meeting of the Board of Education to order at 5:06 p.m.

#### II. Recommendation for Approval of Memorandum of Agreement with the Kentucky Department of Education for the Release of JCPS General Counsel Kevin C. Brown to Serve as Interim Commissioner of Education of the Commonwealth of Kentucky

**Order #2019-220 - Motion Passed:** Superintendent Martin Pollio recommends the Board of Education approve the attached Memorandum of Agreement with the Kentucky Department of Education and authorize the superintendent to sign same. The recommendation passed with a motion by Mr. James Craig and a second by Mr. Chris Brady.

Mr. Chris Brady	Yes
Mr. James Craig	Yes
Mrs. Linda Duncan	Yes
Dr. Christopher Kolb	Yes
Mr. Joseph Marshall	Yes
Ms. Diane Porter	Yes
Mr. Corrie Shull	Yes

### **III. Work Session: School Safety**

Dr. Pollio initiated the presentation. Minerva Virola, project manager; and Amy Dennes, chief of staff; provided a summary of the current safety proposal and requested feedback from Board members to determine the next steps.

Mrs. Duncan questioned the uniform and wanted to ensure an officer's firearm would not be easily accessible by another individual. She requested a policy be put in place quickly determining whether or not the officers will be armed. She stated that she cannot support putting unarmed officers in schools.

Mr. Brady wanted to ensure that there will be cross-training to improve collaboration between school safety officers and local police departments. He was curious to know what type of firearm and ammunition will be used by safety officers. He was concerned with preventing collateral damage. He also questioned the use of nonlethal weapons, specifically Tasers. He questioned the equipment on officer vehicles and wanted to ensure officers will be able to move quickly between schools in case of emergency.

Dr. Kolb wanted more information regarding the day-to-day expectations of officers and their relationship with students and families. He suggested a reporting structure through School Culture and Climate. He wanted to ensure that officers are not involved with routine disciplinary issues. He requested continued monitoring and frequent Board updates. He wanted to ensure that only highly qualified and committed individuals are hired and steps are taken to prevent turnover. He stated that he understands the logic and principle regarding carrying firearms but he questioned if the negative effects of having a weapon in school outweigh the potential benefit. He has not heard a powerful argument that leads him to believe a firearm is necessary.

Mr. Shull questioned how a candidate profile will be used in recruiting and hiring to ensure they are making an informed selection while looking for any potential implicit bias. He asked what the expectations will be around officers acting as mentors to students. He also asked about collaboration with local police departments. He questioned the plan to keep officers abreast of the many outside issues faced by students at home and in their community.

Mr. Craig was satisfied with the proposed organizational chart structure. He requested a written statement clearly articulating the Board's vision for the School Safety Unit. He suggested a paragraph be included in policy delineating this vision. He was satisfied with the proposed uniform. He preferred a softer policy regarding armed officers and suggested including principal voice. He hopes principals will be a central component in hiring and evaluating. He was more comfortable with a shoulder holster making a weapon less visible than a belt holster. He wanted to ensure the hiring process would not be rushed to make certain the right people are hired. He requested feedback regarding whether or not the temporary solution that has been put in place is still the correct solution. He questioned ECE training for officers and requested frequent updates including data on officer and student interactions. He suggested officers have access to a less-lethal weapon such as a Taser.

Mr. Marshall wanted to ensure that the officer's role is clearly defined to school personnel stating that officers should not and will not be involved with routine disciplinary issues. He suggested parent and student surveys. He requested an updated timeline. He was satisfied with the proposed uniform and stated that he would prefer to see more nonlethal weapon options. He requested more community conversations regarding arming officers with guns stating that he is not convinced but he is open to receiving more data on the issue.

Chair Porter requested input from the two elementary schools that previously had SROs in their buildings. She questioned collaboration and communication between departments. She also questioned the evaluation process. Chair Porter concluded by announcing that there will be multiple opportunities for community input.

**IV. Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 6:43 p.m.

**Order #2019-221 - Motion Passed:** A motion to adjourn the December 17, 2019, special meeting passed with a motion by Mr. Joseph Marshall and a second by Mr. Chris Brady.

Mr. Chris Brady	Yes
Mr. James Craig	Yes
Mrs. Linda Duncan	Yes
Dr. Christopher Kolb	Yes
Mr. Joseph Marshall	Yes
Ms. Diane Porter	Yes
Mr. Corrie Shull	Yes

---

Diane Porter  
Chairwoman

---

Dr. Martin A. Pollio  
Superintendent/Secretary

**THESE ACTIONS, ALONG WITH THE AGENDA ITEMS, MAKE UP THE OFFICIAL MINUTES,  
WHICH ARE ON FILE IN THE OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY**