



JEFFERSON COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION

Minutes of February 18, 2021, Special Meeting

Virtual Town Hall: Reopening Plan

Special Meeting of the Jefferson County Board of Education held via Video Teleconference on Thursday, February 18, 2021, at 6 p.m.

In light of the Governor having declared a state of emergency within the Commonwealth on March 6, 2020, as a result of the COVID-19 outbreak and in compliance with guidance issued by the Executive Branch on March 12 and 16, 2020, regarding the conduct of meetings of state boards and commissions during the emergency period, this meeting was conducted by video-teleconference and available for live public viewing online.

The guidance from the Executive Branch provided that all Kentucky Boards and Commissions take proper health precautions to mitigate the spread of COVID-19 and accordingly, with respect to the public attendance at meetings of said bodies, states “members of the public will only be able to view video-teleconferenced meetings remotely.”

6:00 p.m. Special Meeting: Reopening Plan Feedback from Families and Employees via Virtual Town Hall Question/Answer Session

The purpose of this meeting was to conduct a Virtual Town Hall regarding the District’s School Reopening Plan. Families and employees had the opportunity to ask questions and learn more about what it will look like when JCPS schools reopen.

The phone number to text questions to JCPS administrators during the event was shared on JCPS social media sites [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), [Instagram](#), and [YouTube](#) prior to the start of the town hall.

The Town Hall was streamed live on the JCPS YouTube channel at www.YouTube.com/jcpsweb.

Other than receiving reopening plan questions and feedback from families and employees, no business was conducted at this event.

Virtual Town Hall

The Town Hall Forum began at approximately 6 p.m. and Superintendent Marty Pollio made the following statement.

“Thank you for joining us tonight for our second virtual town hall meeting about what school will look like when we are able to return to in-person school. If you recall, our first one was back in mid-July and over the course of the past seven or eight months we have been through many difficult and challenging times, no doubt about it. But, we are so excited with the prospect of seeing our children again in our schools and we can't wait for that to happen.

Throughout the fall, we saw rising numbers throughout our community and the great thing is, now, we are starting to see a major decline in cases in our community and that is so exciting for the prospects of returning to school. We can't wait to see our faculty staff and students. As educators, we got into this profession so that we could work on a daily basis with our students and see them face to face with the excitement of learning opportunities, and I can't wait to do that again in the coming days.

Our educators are going to receive the second dose of the vaccine - it is amazing that here we are in mid-February we have already gone through the first dose of 13,000 employees. We are beginning the second dose starting tomorrow and over the next three weeks, we will go through that same cycle of repeating and ensuring that all of our employees get that second dose which once again will bring us closer to returning to in-person school. We are excited about that opportunity and we are excited to answer your questions tonight and seeing so many people joining us so that we can show you what in-person school will look like when we open our doors.

Here in JCPS, we have worked so hard on these plans over the months. I want to thank so many people who are working hard at the school-level and at the district-level to ensure safety. It is a challenging and difficult prospect - the larger the district, the more difficult it becomes. But, we know we got this - we know we can implement successfully and safely, these plans and there is no doubt safety comes first. But once again, we're so excited to be able to do this and look forward to opening our doors."

Renee Murphy, chief communications and community relations officer, made the following announcement:

"We will be answering questions that are submitted to us during this broadcast this evening - we are ready to hear from you. We are excited that you are participating; we really want this to be as interactive as possible in this virtual setting. We look forward to hearing your questions, we look forward to seeing those text messages come in, and we thank our participants for being here with us this evening."

Families and District staff were able to text in any questions they had regarding safety protocols and in-person learning or virtual learning experiences. Questions covered a variety of topics including ventilation in school buildings, quarantine protocols, staff vacancies, and more.

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**