



JEFFERSON COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION

Minutes of Special Meeting of January 18, 2022

Special Meeting of the Jefferson County Board of Education held at VanHoose Education Center Stewart Auditorium, Louisville, Kentucky, on Tuesday, January 18, 2022, at 5:00 p.m.

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:

Chairwoman Diane Porter

Mr. James Craig

Dr. Chris Kolb

Ms. Sarah McIntosh

Vice-Chair Corrie Shull

Mrs. Linda Duncan

Mr. Joseph Marshall

STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT:

Superintendent Martin A. Pollio, Ed.D.

Kevin Brown, General Counsel

Amy Dennes, Chief of Staff

Dr. Aimee Green-Webb, Chief of Human Resources

Eva Stone, Health Coordinator

This meeting was conducted via video-teleconference pursuant to KRS 61.823 and KRS 61.826. The primary location for this meetings and where all members could be seen and heard by the public was Stewart Auditorium, VanHoose Education Center. Members were permitted to attend in-person or via video-teleconference pursuant to KRS 61.826. Members of the public could attend in person or watch the live-stream of the meeting.

SPECIAL MEETING

I. Call to Order

Chair Porter called the January 18, 2022, Special Meeting of the Board of Education to order at 5:00 p.m.

II. Discussion and Recommendation for Approval of Revised JCPS COVID-19 School Operations Plan

At this meeting, the Superintendent presented the Board with updated safety and mitigation efforts in conformity with the guidance provided by the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the Kentucky Department for Public Health, and the Kentucky Department of Education. Board members had the opportunity to discuss, ask questions, and consider a motion to approve the recommended revised JCPS COVID-19 School Operations Plan and to authorize the Superintendent to temporarily assign students to remote instruction.

Ms. McIntosh asked if the use of remote instruction days is a school-level decision or Board-level and if teachers would report to the building on those days. She asked what the plan is to notify families of remote instruction days. She concluded by asking if, teachers would be able to use COVID days if their school is remote but their child's school is in-person and how much advanced notice would they receive.

Dr. Kolb asked for clarification regarding the proposed revisions for contact tracing and notifications to families. He also wanted to clarify what a "well-fitting mask" is and who would make that determination. He went on to ask, "There's an important difference between symptomatic and asymptomatic - who makes the determination if someone is asymptomatic?" He expressed concern and said, "I think, all we're doing here is lowering the bar." He concluded, "Nothing has changed about COVID. Nothing has changed about the risk factors. Nothing has changed, but we know we cannot have school with 10-day quarantines as much as we want. So, we're just going to make it easier and send people to school that may still be symptomatic. And I understand why you brought this forward Dr. Pollio, it falls in line with the procedure you've used in the past. But, at this point we've got to decouple, I think, from CDC and state guidance. Those are political appointees who are making these recommendations at the behest of politicians. What we are doing now is working and if there's too much COVID in the community to have school, then there's too much COVID in the community to have school. There is nothing that a school system can do about that and other parts of this community have got to step up and take some responsibility for mitigating COVID."

Mrs. Duncan acknowledged how crucial masks are and stated, "Insistence on masking all the time is very difficult to enforce, so are we going to look at the type of masks we offer after the five-day quarantine?" She asked for clarification regarding which schools and how many schools could go on remote instruction days at the same time. She concluded by explaining that the shortened quarantine may help but it will not fix the problems with staffing.

Mr. Marshall asked for clarification with the revised guidance for staff and students returning from quarantine. He then said, "Even people who are asymptomatic can still spread the virus, so some of my concerns are around students at lunchtime. Are we giving any special instruction to help schools deal with the kid who returns after five days?" He continued, "In regards to our teachers and our other staff members- after five days, if they are still not feeling up to returning to work, how are we going to deal with those situations? Are we playing detective and say, *oh, you are not really symptomatic - you're just saying you are*. Are we going to be in a situation where we are forcing people to come back into the building earlier than they are ready?" He was interested in hearing the main concerns received from union partners and asked if any concerns were coming from health agencies regarding increasing positivity rates. He stated that his biggest concern is with the shortened quarantine and isolation time and having to take people's word on whether or not they are ready to come back - if they have symptoms or if they don't. He concluded by saying, "I just don't know if the information is there for me personally to feel confident - even as a parent, if I know that I'm sending my kid to school and that there could be someone in the classroom with them that is positive. And, we already know that that's probably the case because we're not catching every single case of COVID in our buildings as-is. So personally, to put more positive cases that we do know of into the building with those we don't - I'm just not confident that it's going to get the results that we need."

Mr. Craig stated that he is comfortable with the recommendation and was able to get answers to his questions directly from staff prior to the meeting.

Chair Porter expressed concern and asked how the District is ensuring that all staff members fill out the daily health screener. She said, "I've gotten emails and texts about that - people are very anxious about some of what we're allowing people to do or not do." She suggested that the revised guidance/plan include language stating that schools are providing masks. She asked for more information regarding the health at school officer. She concluded by questioning the cleaning and disinfecting of buildings. She requested a list by district of day and night custodians.

Dr. Kolb asked, "Why are we considering this? What's wrong with what we're currently doing?" He then said, "There is a precedent for going beyond what the state has said and I think that we've seen really good results from doing that. So, I'm hesitant to alter course when there isn't a really good reason." He expressed concern with not requiring the test to return and test to play and said, "I don't think this plan gives us the best chance to stay in school in-person." He continued, "The other things that I would need to see to be able to support this - I would have to see requiring a negative test, requiring a booster, and requiring a higher quality mask. Those aren't a part of it so I can't support it." He expressed concern regarding possible disability inflicted by long COVID. He concluded by saying, "I think these recommendations are unnecessary. I think they're reckless. Frankly, and as a parent first and foremost, I just can't support sending my kid to a school system that has these procedures."

Mr. Marshall made a motion to take separate votes on the revised JCS COVID-19 School Operations Plan and on the authorization for the superintendent to assign students to remote instruction. He then amended his main motion to go ahead and authorized the Superintendent to assign students to remote instruction.

Order #2022-16 - Motion Passed: A motion that the Board of Education authorized the Superintendent to assign students to remote instruction passed with a motion by Mr. Joseph Marshall and a second by Dr. Corrie Shull.

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

Order #2022-17 - Motion Failed: A motion that the Board of Education approve the new guidance from the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the Kentucky Department for Public Health, and the Kentucky Department of Education as shown in the revised JCS COVID-19 School Operations Plan failed with a motion by Mrs. Linda Duncan and a second by Mr. James Craig.

Mr. James Craig	Yes
Mrs. Linda Duncan	Yes
Dr. Christopher Kolb	No
Mr. Joseph Marshall	No
Ms. Sarah McIntosh	Yes
Ms. Diane Porter	No
Dr. Corrie Shull	No

Mr. Marshall made the following request before the meeting adjourned, "Because the community may be wondering as well - can we have this item on the agenda for a future meeting to - when there's more information, more time for us to get through our current time - to be able to bring this back to the table?"

Chair Porter clarified, "Yes sir. Do you want it added as an information item as we get more information? Is that your request?"

Mr. Marshall confirmed, "Yes, please."

III. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 6:09 p.m.

Order #2022-18 - Motion Passed: A motion to adjourn the January 18, 2022, special meeting of the Board of Education at 6:09 p.m. passed with a motion by Dr. Christopher Kolb and a second by Ms. Sarah McIntosh.

Mr. James Craig	Yes
Mrs. Linda Duncan	Yes
Dr. Christopher Kolb	Yes
Mr. Joseph Marshall	Yes
Ms. Sarah McIntosh	Yes
Ms. Diane Porter	Yes
Dr. 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**