



JEFFERSON COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION

Minutes of Special Meeting of January 27, 2022

Special Meeting of the Jefferson County Board of Education held at VanHoose Education Center, Stewart Auditorium, Louisville, Kentucky, on Thursday, January 27, 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

SPECIAL MEETING

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.

I. Call to Order

Chair Porter called the January 27, 2022, Special Meeting of the Board of Education to order at 5 p.m.

Kevin Brown, general counsel, made the following statement:

"We want to start the meeting off by going over the statute that governs school security officers/school resource officers and that's KRS 158.4414. There are several other statutes as well that provide definitions but this is the main statute. And, that statute provides that school districts shall cooperate - I'm reading the language now, quote: to assign one or more certified school resource officers to serve each campus where one or more school buildings are used to deliver instructions to students.

It is my legal opinion that the proposal you're receiving tonight meets that standard. In that, we are assigning school resource officers to clusters of schools. The statute goes on to talk about, if a school district has their own school resource officers (or school safety officers as in our case, the name that we're giving them) under the employment of the district instead of a local law enforcement agency – that the board shall adopt policies and procedures that specifically state the purpose of the school resource officer program and clearly define the roles and expectations of school resource officers and other school employees.

So, that's exactly what the policies and the procedures do. As prescribed by the statute, we talk about and prescribe what our school safety officers program looks like, how that's going to function, and what those expectations are to fund that cluster system.

And, to the extent that it's been discussed in Frankfort or other places, our neighboring district down I-64 in Lexington, has what's been lauded as a national or a positive model of SROs. They do not have a school resource officer in all of their schools neither does Oldham County. And, I think very few school districts do.

The framework that we have and that's being proposed provides for coverage of a school safety officer at all schools based on that cluster design. And, then also being facilitated by that school safety administrator which I think it goes beyond what the statute requires and is a positive development for the needs of Jefferson County.

You know anytime a policy comes before the board, you can assume that if it's coming before you, it has received legal approval and signoff. If there were ever a time that a policy or other matter was being presented to you that I did not think met legal approval or met was contrary to state or federal law, I would state that was the case or I would advise you that proceeding on something would be against the advice of legal counsel. That is not what is occurring here today. I think we are very much within not only the letter but the intent of KRS Chapter 158 and I think we're also adding things that are not required by statute that are obviously beneficial and necessary for our unique needs in Jefferson County."

II. Recommendation for Approval of District School Safety Plan

The Superintendent presented the Board with an update on the JCPS School Safety Plan. Board members had the opportunity to discuss, ask questions, and consider a motion to approve JCPS School Safety Plan components - job descriptions, revised organizational chart, and project budgeted cost; receive Board Policy 02.31 School Safety Officers for first reading and submission; and review the JCPS School Safety Plan Standard Operating Procedures.

All Board members expressed appreciation for the time and work that went into developing the Safety Plan.

Ms. McIntosh stated that she would like to see safety administrators collaborate with community organizations to help educate families to prevent some of the negative behaviors that affect day-to-day learning.

Mrs. Duncan expressed concern and made the following statement, "I have trouble supporting this proposal. I don't think it's enough. I don't think it's enough to have officers blocks away from incidents like we had at PRP today. I don't think it's enough to not allow our officers to be a part of the school in terms of interacting, being able to come in and interact with students and staff alike because that's the only way they can build these relationships that we keep saying we want to have. The avenue for that looks cloudy to me right now. I don't think it's enough to have safety administrators who can't really do anything beyond being the social workers of this. They can be the social workers, they can be that kind of support - but when it comes to any kind of incident that happens in the building, they are very limited in what they can do to help address any kind of violent situation. And, I don't think it's enough for our elementary. I wish we could have a better way to provide more protection for them because we are having problems with people appearing on campuses that don't belong on campuses and I'm very nervous about that happening. But, if this is the closest we can come to protecting our students and staff then I recognize that it is better than what we have right now in place - where we send officers to armed situations and they're unarmed. We expect them to appear and take control of situations that they're unarmed in and I don't think that's been especially good for us to do that.

And, so this is a compromise for me and I hope that eventually we can maybe add more and do more. I think officers need to be steps away from violent threats not blocks away from violent threats.”

Mr. Marshall briefly discussed recent issues in the community and at schools and expressed hope that all of our city’s institutions will collaborate with the District to meet the needs of students in order to curb the issues of violence in our community.

Chair Porter stated that she is not comfortable with only two safety administrators assigned to the elementary zones. She then asked if any of the positions would be working specifically with the Diversity Equity and Poverty department. She wanted clarification regarding how often the JCPS Policy Committee would be meeting in the future. She concluded by asking for clarification on mentorship opportunities

Order #2022-19 - Motion Passed: Superintendent Martin Pollio recommends the Board of Education accept a report on the JCPS School Safety Plan; approve JCPS School Safety Plan components - job descriptions, revised organizational charts, and project budgeted cost; receive Board Policy 02.31 School Safety Officers for first reading and submission; and review the JCPS School Safety Plan Standard Operating Procedures. The recommendation passed with a motion by Mr. James Craig and a second by Dr. Christopher Kolb.

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

III. Adjournment

Order #2022-20 - Motion Passed: A motion to adjourn the January 27, 2022, special meeting of the Board of Education at 5:40 p.m. passed with a motion by Mr. James Craig 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

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**