



## **JEFFERSON COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION**

### **Minutes of Regular Business Meeting of August 19, 2025**

Business Meeting of the Jefferson County Board of Education held at VanHoose Education Center,  
3332 Newburg Road, Louisville, Kentucky, on Tuesday, August 19, 2025.

#### **BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Chairman Corrie Shull

Vice-Chairman James Craig

Mr. Trevin Bass

Mrs. Linda Duncan

Mr. Taylor Everett

Ms. Tricia Lister

Ms. Gail Logan Strange

#### **STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Superintendent Brian Yearwood, Ed.D.

Dr. Erica Brooks, Academic Innovation Specialist

Kevin Brown, General Counsel

Carolyn Callahan, Chief of Communications and Community Relations

Dr. Dena Dossett, Chief of Accountability, Research, and Systems Improvement

Dr. Joe Ellison, Assistant Superintendent

Stephanie Fluhr, Principal

Dr. Terra Greenwell, Chief Academic Officer

Dr. Monica Hunter-Kirby, Principal

Edward D. Muns, Chief Financial Officer

Melissa Shearon, Principal

Dr. De'Nay Speaks, Assistant Superintendent

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

## REGULAR BUSINESS MEETING

Chair Shull called the August 19, 2025, Business Meeting of the Board of Education to order at 6:00 p.m.

### I. Moment of Silence

### II. The Pledge of Allegiance

#### A. Vision Statement

### III. Recognitions and Resolutions

- A. Recognition of New Principals and Principals with New Assignments
- B. Recognition of JCPS Athletic Directors of the Year
- C. Recognition of the JCPS Finance Division for Winning the Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting from the Government Finance Officers Association of the United States and Canada
- D. Recognition of duPont Manual High School and J. Graham Brown School for Being Named Spotlight Schools
- E. Recognition of Southern High School for its Solidarity Project that Supported more than 180 JCPS Families this Summer
- F. Recognition of 11 Students Who Won National Merit Scholarships

**Order #2025-140 - Motion Passed:** Superintendent Brian Yearwood recommends the Board of Education receive the recognitions. The recommendation passed with a motion by Mr. James Craig and a second by Mrs. Linda Duncan.

Mr. Trevin Bass	Yes
Mr. James Craig	Yes
Mrs. Linda Duncan	Yes
Mr. Taylor Everett	Yes
Ms. Tricia Lister	Yes
Ms. Gail Logan Strange	Yes
Dr. Corrie Shull	Yes

### IV. Recommendation for Approval of Meeting Agenda

**Order #2025-141 - Motion Passed:** Superintendent Brian Yearwood recommends the Board of Education approve the August 19, 2025, agenda. The recommendation passed with a motion by Mr. James Craig and a second by Ms. Gail Logan Strange.

Mr. Trevin Bass	Yes
Mr. James Craig	Yes
Mrs. Linda Duncan	Yes
Mr. Taylor Everett	Yes
Ms. Tricia Lister	Yes
Ms. Gail Logan Strange	Yes
Dr. Corrie Shull	Yes

**V. Recommendation for Approval of Minutes of Previous Meeting**

**Order #2025-142 - Motion Passed:** Superintendent Brian Yearwood recommends the Board of Education approve the minutes of July 29, 2025, and August 6, 2025. The recommendation passed with a motion by Ms. Tricia Lister and a second by Mr. Taylor Everett.

Mr. Trevin Bass	Yes
Mr. James Craig	Yes
Mrs. Linda Duncan	Yes
Mr. Taylor Everett	Yes
Ms. Tricia Lister	Yes
Ms. Gail Logan Strange	Yes
Dr. Corrie Shull	Yes

**VI. Superintendent's Report**

Superintendent Dr. Yearwood's report outlined his initial findings and a plan for the District based on data collected during his first 50 days in the role. He emphasized the need for transparency and a unified approach to address academic and behavioral challenges.

He shared data showing that proficiency rates in reading and math are approximately 10% below the state average, with significant performance gaps for African American, Hispanic, and students with disabilities. He also noted high rates of chronic absenteeism and a disparity in discipline for African American students.

To address these issues, Dr. Yearwood proposed four goals: a 3% increase in reading and math proficiency, a 3% reduction in chronic absenteeism, and a 5% reduction in behavior incidents. He stated these would be achieved by focusing on family connections, high expectations, improved instruction, and high-quality resources. He concluded by expressing his belief that the District has the potential to become a leader in academia.

**VII. Student Outcomes-Focused Governance Update**

**A. Recommendation to Receive Goal Monitoring Report on Goals 1 - 3: Elementary, Middle and High School Academic Readiness**

The presentation was delivered by the following individuals: Dr. Erica Brooks, Academic Innovation Specialist; Dr. Dena Dossett, Chief of Accountability, Research, and Systems Improvement; Dr. Joe Ellison, Assistant Superintendent; Stephanie Fluhr, Principal; Dr. Terra Greenwell, Chief Academic Officer; Dr. Monica Hunter-Kirby, Principal; Melissa Shearon, Principal; and Dr. De’Nay Speaks, Assistant Superintendent. Each Board member had an opportunity to ask questions.

Mr. Bass inquired about the Diploma Plus program, asking if it could be started in middle school and if the District could publicize success stories on its website and social media. Second, he asked if each high school had an assistant to help students. Finally, he suggested that if the schools lacked the staff to provide this support, the District should consider allowing qualified volunteers or community organizations to help. He believed this could be a way to leverage community resources, especially given budget constraints.

Mrs. Duncan expressed concern about the participation rate for the Defense of Learning program, asking what the District's goal is and how they planned to increase participation. She noted the value of the program for students. Next, she brought up the issue of achievement gaps that can exist within specific demographic groups, not just between them, and asked what the District is doing to ensure these students are not overlooked. Finally, she questioned whether the results from the CERT assessment align with those from the SAT in reading and math.

Mr. Everett asked if all schools are able to effectively implement the new initiatives, and if not, what obstacles are they facing and what support can be offered. Regarding the new curriculum, he wanted to know if there's a timeframe for when the District will know whether it's successful. He also asked for specific examples of what's being done to help high school students who are below grade-level, particularly with reading. Finally, he raised a question about staffing, asking if the District currently has enough staff to support the small group instruction models being discussed or if staffing shortages are still a hindrance.

Ms. Lister commented that the achievement gap was a glaring issue for her. She asked how this gap varies across different schools, using Atherton as an example of a school that seems to be doing well. She suggested that by studying schools with smaller achievement gaps, the District could learn from their successful practices and replicate them elsewhere.

Ms. Logan Strange asked how the District's internal readiness assessments align with standardized tests, wanting to ensure that students are not missing key skills. Her second question concerned whether permanent substitute teachers receive the same high-quality instructional resources (HQIR) training as regular teachers, especially in light of the ongoing teacher shortage.

Mr. Craig began by questioning whether the academic readiness metric truly captured progress not reflected in standardized tests, noting its similarity to state assessment scores. He asked if the "Defense of Learning" data had been presented on its own to the Board, as he felt it might be a better measure of student progress. He also raised concerns about the ACT goal, questioning if a score of 19 was a high enough bar for students and whether the metric would be adjusted to account for the new SAT. Finally, Mr. Craig asked Dr. Speaks to elaborate on the importance of ensuring student learning experiences encompass a diversity of voices, particularly at the elementary level. He commented that this tool is essential for overcoming achievement gaps in a majority-minority district and that the District should continue to use and defend such policies.

Chair Shull first asked for clarification on the large discrepancy between the District's 86% graduation rate and the 36.7% of high school students deemed academically ready. He wondered which metric the District should be paying attention to and whether students are graduating without being truly prepared for the real world. He then brought up the Journey to Success program, questioning its effectiveness. He asked for evidence that it improves student academic outcomes and if the program has been evaluated by a national teaching and learning organization. He also questioned why the program is always tied to academic outcomes if its purpose is to show the "whole child." Finally, He asked about accountability, questioning who is held accountable when a child doesn't achieve academic success.

**Order #2025-143 - Motion Passed:** Superintendent Brian Yearwood recommends the Board of Education receive a report on Goals 1 - 3: Elementary, Middle, and High School Academic Readiness. The recommendation passed with a motion by Mr. Trevin Bass and a second by Ms. Gail Logan Strange.

Mr. Trevin Bass	Yes
Mr. James Craig	Yes
Mrs. Linda Duncan	Yes
Mr. Taylor Everett	Yes
Ms. Tricia Lister	Yes
Ms. Gail Logan Strange	Yes
Dr. Corrie Shull	Yes

#### **VIII. Persons Requesting to Address the Board on Action Items or Consent Calendar Items to be Voted Upon Separately at Board Member Request**

There were no speakers at this time.

#### **IX. Action Items**

##### **A. Recommendation for Approval of Tax Rates for Fiscal Year 2025-2026**

Edward D. Muns, Chief Financial Officer, presented the recommendation for the 2025-2026 tax rates. Each Board member had an opportunity to comment.

**Order #2025-144 - Motion Passed:** Superintendent Brian Yearwood recommends the Board of Education approve the General Fund Tax Rate of 71.7 cents per \$100 assessed value on real property and 73.5 cents per \$100 assessed value on personal property for Fiscal Year 2025-26. The recommendation passed with a motion by Mr. James Craig and a second by Ms. Gail Logan Strange.

Mr. Trevin Bass	Yes
Mr. James Craig	Yes
Mrs. Linda Duncan	Yes
Mr. Taylor Everett	Yes
Ms. Tricia Lister	Yes
Ms. Gail Logan Strange	Yes
Dr. Corrie Shull	Yes

#### **X. Information Items**

##### **XI. Consent Calendar**

- A.** Report of Certified Leaves
- B.** Report of Personnel Actions
- C.** Recommendation for Approval of Organizational Charts and/or Job Descriptions
  - 1.** Administration
- D.** Recommendation of Approval of Field Trips Request and Receipt of Report of Field Trips Approved by the Superintendent
- E.** Recommendation of Approval of the Projects, Assignment of Architects/Engineers, and BG-1 forms

- 1.** Partial Window Replacement at 3901 Atkinson Square Drive
- 2.** Lift Station Replacement at Marion C. Moore School
- F.** Recommendation for Approval of Contract Completion and BG-4 Form for Partial Roof Replacement at Highland Middle School
- G.** Recommendation for Approval of Construction Change Orders
- H.** Notification of Various Utility Easements
- I.** Recommendation for Approval of Request from CMTA, Inc. to Apply for Commercial Buildings Tax Deduction under Section 1331 of the Energy Policy Act of 2005
- J.** Recommendation for Approval of Competitive Negotiation, Bid Tabulations, Contract Renewals, and Amendments
- K.** Recommendation for Approval of Professional Services Contracts of \$20,000 or More
- L.** Acceptance of Orders of the Treasurer
  - 1.** Acceptance of Orders of the Treasurer-Invoices
  - 2.** Acceptance of Orders of the Treasurer-Purchase Orders
  - 3.** Acceptance of Orders of the Treasurer-Vouchers
- M.** Acceptance of Monthly Financial Report for Period Ended June 30, 2025
- N.** Acceptance of Quarterly Report of Investment Performance
- O.** Recommendation for Approval of Updated Indirect Cost Rates for Fiscal Year 2025-26
- P.** Recommendation for Approval of 2025-26 Local Education Agency General and Program Assurances
- Q.** Acceptance of Donations, Grants, and Funding
  - 1.** Acceptance of Donations and Small Grants
  - 2.** Acceptance of Funding from the Jefferson County Public Education Foundation
- R.** Recommendation for Approval of Agreements
  - 1.** Recommendation for Approval of Water Main Extension Refunding Agreement for New School Building at Okolona Elementary School
  - 2.** Recommendation for Approval of MOA with Bellarmine University for Career-Ready BSN Dual Enrollment Program
  - 3.** Recommendation for Approval of MOA with Commonwealth of Kentucky, Education and Labor Cabinet, Office of Educational Programs, Everybody Counts
  - 4.** Recommendation for Approval of MOA with Fund for the Arts
  - 5.** Recommendation for Approval of Lease Agreement with Norton Healthcare Sports and Learning Center
  - 6.** Recommendation for Approval of Data Sharing Agreement with Ohio Valley Education Cooperative
  - 7.** Recommendation for Approval of MOA with National Black Nurse Association
  - 8.** Recommendation for Approval of MOA with the Kentucky Department of Education for the Wallace Grant
  - 9.** Recommendation for Approval of MOA with the Spalding University as Part of the Wallace Foundation Equity-Centered Pipeline Initiative
  - 10.** Recommendation for Approval of MOA with the University of Louisville as Part of the Wallace Foundation Equity-Centered Pipeline Initiative
  - 11.** Recommendation for Approval of Data Sharing Agreement with Family & Children's Place Operating the Greater Louisville Head Start Program
  - 12.** Recommendation for Approval of MOA with Greater Louisville Head Start (GLHS)
  - 13.** Recommendation for Approval of Amendment to MOA with Louisville Free Public Library
  - 14.** Recommendation for Approval of an External Agency Grant Agreement with Louisville Jefferson County Metro Government
  - 15.** Recommendation for Approval of MOU with the University of Louisville Athletic Association
- S.** Recommendation to Receive the Attached Board Policies for First Reading and Receive the Attached Administrative Procedures for Review

The following Consent Items were pulled down for discussion and a separate vote.

- XI.C.1. Recommendation for Approval of Organizational Charts and/or Job Descriptions – Administration
- XI.K. Recommendation for Approval of Professional Services Contracts of \$20,000 or More
- XI.N. Acceptance of Monthly Financial Report for Period Ended June 30, 2025

**Order #2025-145 - Motion Passed:** A motion to approve the Consent Calendar minus the following items: *XI.C.1. Recommendation for Approval of Organizational Charts and/or Job Descriptions – Administration; XI.K. Recommendation for Approval of Professional Services Contracts of \$20,000 or More; and XI.N. Acceptance of Monthly Financial Report for Period Ended June 30, 2025*, passed with a motion by Mrs. Linda Duncan and a second by Mr. James Craig.

Mr. Trevin Bass	Yes
Mr. James Craig	Yes
Mrs. Linda Duncan	Yes
Mr. Taylor Everett	Yes
Ms. Tricia Lister	Yes
Ms. Gail Logan Strange	Yes
Dr. Corrie Shull	Yes

Mrs. Duncan asked Dr. Yearwood to explain the new position of Special Assistant to the Superintendent. She wanted to know more about the kind of person or the qualities he would be looking for in a candidate to fill this role.

**Order #2025-146 - Motion Passed:** A motion to approve consent item *XI.C.1. Recommendation for Approval of Organizational Charts and/or Job Descriptions – Administration*, passed with a motion by Mr. James Craig and a second by Mrs. Linda Duncan.

Mr. Trevin Bass	Yes
Mr. James Craig	Yes
Mrs. Linda Duncan	Yes
Mr. Taylor Everett	Yes
Ms. Tricia Lister	Yes
Ms. Gail Logan Strange	Yes
Dr. Corrie Shull	Yes

Mr. Everett had concerns regarding the professional services contracts on the agenda, specifically that all 18 of them were sole-source contracts. He questioned whether this was the best financial approach for the District, particularly given its budget. He used a contract for martial arts as an example, asking if it was truly the only vendor available for that service. He also asked if this situation was normal, and what the consequences would be of changing the process. He concluded by making a motion for a future presentation on potential alternatives, possibly based on how other school districts or government entities handle similar contracts.

Chair Shull suggested that instead of a formal motion, they could discuss the matter offline. His goal was to determine a date and time for a presentation, more clearly define its scope and content, and decide if a full presentation was even necessary or if an email would suffice.

Mr. Everett agreed and withdrew the motion.

**Order #2025-147 - Motion Passed:** A motion to approve consent item *XI.K. Recommendation for Approval of Professional Services Contracts of \$20,000 or More*, and item *XI.N. Acceptance of Monthly Financial Report for Period Ended June 30, 2025*, passed with a motion by Mr. Taylor Everett and a second by Mr. James Craig.

Mr. Trevin Bass	Yes
Mr. James Craig	Yes
Mrs. Linda Duncan	Yes
Mr. Taylor Everett	Yes
Ms. Tricia Lister	Yes
Ms. Gail Logan Strange	Yes
Dr. Corrie Shull	Yes

## **XII. Board Planning Calendar**

**Order #2025-148 - Motion Passed:** Superintendent Brian Yearwood recommends the Board of Education receive the attached planning calendar outlining discussion agenda items. The recommendation passed with a motion by Mr. Taylor Everett and a second by Ms. Gail Logan Strange.

Mr. Trevin Bass	Yes
Mr. James Craig	Yes
Mrs. Linda Duncan	Yes
Mr. Taylor Everett	Yes
Ms. Tricia Lister	Yes
Ms. Gail Logan Strange	Yes
Dr. Corrie Shull	Yes

## **XIII. Committee Reports**

Mr. Craig gave an update on the newly formed Revenue Advisory Task Force, which had its first meeting last Monday and is scheduled to meet every two to three weeks. He said that the group's initial work involves a deep analysis of the District's current spending and taxation. The task force plans to first review the budget and human resources costs before discussing potential revenue growth. He expects the task force to present its findings to the full board in an in-depth presentation by January or February.



#### **XIV. Board Reports**

Mrs. Duncan shared two personal updates. First, she mentioned that she was recently recognized as a Kentucky Colonel and that her grandchildren now call her "Colonel Grandmother." Second, she spoke about a visit she made to Medora Elementary, where she watched second-grade students perform science experiments and even got to participate in one herself in Miss Fleming's classroom. She then presented a short video clip of the experience.

Chair Shull gave kudos to Dr. Yearwood, Dr. Fulk, and the entire cabinet and team for an incredible opening day and a great start to the school year.

#### **XV. Persons Requesting to Address the Board (If Necessary)**

Kumar Rashad, a high school math teacher and the Vice-President of the Jefferson County Teachers Association, welcomed Dr. Yearwood, shared a classroom story about a student's question regarding the importance of school, and offered his and the association's support in working collaboratively to address the immediate needs of students.

Alaina Newman, a parent at Coleridge Taylor Montessori, described her school community's exhaustion and fear due to ongoing violence, stating that while she does not expect the District to stop gun violence, she is asking for tangible support like a stronger perimeter fence and additional surveillance to give students and staff more time to get to safety and feel that they are seen and that they matter.

Maddie Shepard, the President of the Jefferson County Teachers Association, thanked the JCPS team for the great start to the school year and shared a positive story about her visit to the new Perry Elementary, where she witnessed a strong sense of community and belonging among the students and staff.

Nicole Humphrey, after commending the school system for the start of the year, read a statement from a JCPS clerk named Shannon Cook who, despite loving her job, expressed concern that after 17 years she earns a salary of only \$27,678, which is below the state's median income and makes it difficult to survive without a second income.

#### **XVI. Executive Session (If Necessary)**

#### **XVII. Action Item (If Necessary)**

**XVIII. Adjournment**

The August 19, 2025, meeting adjourned at 8:53 p.m.

**Order #2025-149 - Motion Passed:** A motion to adjourn the August 19, 2025, meeting of the Jefferson County Board of Education at 8:53 p.m. passed with a motion by Mr. James Craig and a second by Mr. Taylor Everett.

Mr. Trevin Bass	Yes
Mr. James Craig	Yes
Mrs. Linda Duncan	Yes
Mr. Taylor Everett	Yes
Ms. Tricia Lister	Yes
Ms. Gail Logan Strange	Yes
Dr. Corrie Shull	Yes

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Dr. Corrie Shull  
Chairman

\_\_\_\_\_  
Dr. Brian Yearwood  
Superintendent/Secretary

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