



JEFFERSON COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION

Minutes of Board Work Session of May 12, 2026

Work Session of the Jefferson County Board of Education held at VanHoose Education Center,
3332 Newburg Road, Louisville, Kentucky, on Tuesday, May 12, 2026.

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

Mr. Everett attended via videoconference.

STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT:

Superintendent Brian Yearwood, Ed.D.

Thomas Aberli, Interim Chief Financial Officer

Kevin Brown, General Counsel

William Bunton, Executive Administrator, Diversity, Equity, and Poverty

Angie Gilpin, Assistant Secretary to the Board

Jonathan Lowe, Executive Administrator of Policy and Systems

Dr. John Marshall, Chief Equity Officer

Dr. Marco Muñoz, Executive Officer of Accountability, Research, and Systems Improvement

Eric Satterly, Chief Information Officer

Gregory Vann, Associate, Diversity, Equity, and Poverty

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.

SPECIAL MEETING

I. Call to Order

Chair Shull called the May 12, 2026, Special Meeting to order at 5:01 p.m. and made the following announcement.

“The Board will now conduct a closed session to have discussions regarding collective bargaining negotiations and pending litigation pursuant to KRS 61.810 (1)(e) and KRS 61.810(1)(c). Public discussion of this matter and identification of the specific matter would disclose litigation strategy and have an adverse impact on the legal and financial interests of the District.”

II. Enter into Executive Session Pursuant to KRS 61.810 (1)(e) and KRS 61.810(1)(c) for Discussions Relating to Collective Bargaining Negotiations and Pending Litigation

Order #2026-71 - Motion Passed: A motion that the Board of Education conduct a closed session to have discussions regarding proposed and pending litigation pursuant to KRS 61.810(1)(c) passed with a motion by Mr. James Craig and a second by Ms. Gail Logan Strange.

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

Mr. Bass and Mr. Everett arrived after the first vote.

III. Adjourn from Executive Session

Order #2026-72 - Motion Passed: A motion to adjourn the closed session and return to the open session passed with a motion by Ms. Gail Logan Strange and a second by Mr. Trevin Bass.

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

The Board returned to open session at 6:11 p.m. and Chair Shull made the following announcement.

“The Board of Education met in Executive Session to have discussions regarding collective bargaining negotiations and pending litigation pursuant to KRS 61.810 (1)(e) and KRS 61.810(1)(c). Public discussion of this matter and identification of the specific matter would disclose litigation strategy and have an adverse impact on the legal and financial interests of the District. No action was taken while in closed session”

IV. Possible Consideration of Motions Regarding Collective Bargaining Negotiations and/or Pending Litigation

No action was taken.

V. Adjournment

At 6:11 p.m., the special meeting was adjourned, and the Board proceeded directly into the work session.

Order #2026-73 - Motion Passed: A motion to adjourn the special meeting of May 12, 2026, at 6:11 p.m. passed with a motion by Mr. James Craig and a second by Mr. Trevin Bass.

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

REGULAR MEETING

I. Call to Order

Chair Shull called the May 12, 2026, Work Session to order at 6:11 p.m.

A. Determination of Board Member Assignment for the Remainder of the Calendar Year 2026 to Implement the Provisions of Senate Bill 4 (2026 RS)

In accordance with Senate Bill 4, which became effective on April 14, 2026, the Jefferson County Board of Education has initiated its transition from a seven-member to a five-member board. Key actions and updates regarding this transition include:

District Redesignation: New district boundaries are now in effect, reducing the total number of districts to five. New board members for these districts will be elected during the November 2026 General Election.

Interim Representation (Remaining 2026): To fill the five new seats until January 1, 2027, the Board followed the SB 4 mandate for assigning current members based on residency:

Districts 1, 3, and 4: Because two members currently reside in each of these districts, lots were drawn to determine the single representative for each.

District 5: As no current member resides in this district, a representative was selected by drawing lots among those members not assigned to a specific district.

At-Large Status: Current members not selected to represent a specific district will serve as At-Large members for the remainder of the 2026 calendar year.

Results of the Drawing of Lots

Kevin Brown, General Counsel, Angie Gilpin, Assistant Secretary to the Board, and Jonathan Lowe, Executive Administrator of Policy and Systems, conducted the required drawing of lots to determine interim representations. The results of the draws and the resulting assignments for the remainder of 2026 are as follows:

New Assignment	Board Member
Division 1	Tricia Lister
Division 2	Corrie Shull
Division 3	James Craig
Division 4	Trevin Bass
Division 5	Gail Logan Strange
At-Large Member	Linda Duncan
At-Large Member	Taylor Everett

II. Recommendation for Approval of Meeting Agenda

Order #2026-74 - Motion Passed: Superintendent Brian Yearwood recommends the Board of Education approve the agenda. The recommendation passed with a motion by Mr. Trevin Bass 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

III. Recommendation for Approval of Minutes of Previous Meeting

Order #2026-75 - Motion Passed: A motion that the Board of Education approve the Minutes of April 21, 2026, **as amended** passed with a motion by Mr. James Craig and a second by Mr. Trevin Bass.

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

Superintendent Dr. Yearwood reported that JCPS has achieved a 78 percent transportation verification rate and is presenting a tentative budget that prioritizes student outcomes and long-term stability for nearly 94,000 students. He celebrated the upcoming graduation of more than 6,500 seniors, noting that their success reflects the dedication of the District's educators and support staff. Dr. Yearwood emphasized that the success of Louisville is directly tied to public education and thanked the entire JCPS workforce for serving as daily champions for their students.

IV. Work Sessions

A. Report on the 2025-26 Comprehensive School Survey Results

Dr. Marco Muñoz, Executive Officer of Accountability, Research, and Systems Improvement, presented the results of the 2025-2026 Comprehensive School Survey. Each Board member had an opportunity to comment and ask questions.

Ms. Lister raised a question regarding the overall student satisfaction rate.

Mrs. Duncan expressed surprise at the decline in student satisfaction. She pointed out that while teacher satisfaction regarding discipline remains low, she was encouraged that students gave high marks to equity.

B. Racial Equity Policy Update

Dr. John Marshall, Chief Equity Officer, along with William (BJ) Bunton, Executive Administrator of Diversity, Equity, and Poverty, Terrence Sullivan, Vice Chair of the Advisory Council for Racial Equity, and Gregory Vann, Associate of Diversity, Equity, and Poverty, presented the Racial Equity Policy Update. Each Board member had an opportunity to comment and ask questions.

Mr. Craig asked when the Board last heard an update on the racial equity policy, noting that the policy requires a biannual report. He asked if the gaps in academic achievement, attendance, learning expectations, opportunities, and access among student groups based on race and ethnicity still exist. He noted the policy recognizes that students of color have been disadvantaged by long-standing inequities caused by multifaceted historical, social, and institutional factors, asking if that is still true. He confirmed that the Board should maintain its policy of taking a systemic approach to ensure equitable learning opportunities, experiences, and outcomes for students of color. He noted that the current budget looks different than in past years and he questioned if the District can successfully implement the policy moving forward, whether current student outcomes are satisfactory, and if recent budget decisions will slow progress. He requested advice regarding navigating the next seven months to stay on the right trajectory. Finally, Mr. Craig stated that he wants to see Comprehensive School Survey (CSS) data disaggregated by student groups.

Mrs. Duncan asked how the District can keep the racial equity policy from being accused of being race-based. She hoped the District would remember the importance of the individual, emphasizing the need to maintain a focus on personalized student growth. She was pleased that the District's work has helped graduation and college-and-career readiness gaps, which she considers the most important for a student's future. However, she pointed out that the proficiency gap is still lagging and asked if the District is on the right track to fix it.

Mr. Everett asked why the District is not seeing better results after eight years of the policy. He asked if the District should add measurable goals to the policy. He noted the presentation's data on course enrollment and scores, asking what the original goals were and if these numbers were good or bad. He emphasized that with the current budget talks, the District needs a return on investment (ROI). He asked what realistic outcomes the team should be held accountable for and if they could create a timeline to get there.

Ms. Lister praised the presentation and stated that she does not view the District's work as a marathon but rather as a forever long-distance battle with changing obstacles.

Ms. Logan Strange agreed that an eight-year policy cannot quickly undo 400 years of racial inequity. She requested clarity on the Board's current commitment to the choice zone. While acknowledging that much of this is driven by the budget, she emphasized that the District's commitment to excellence for children with the fewest resources cannot waver.

Chair Shull asked whether the Choice Zone was a proposal of the department of Diversity, Equity, and Poverty (DEP). Dr. Marshall confirmed that the Choice Zone did not originate from that department. Chair Shull noted that the policy was adopted in 2018 and asked how long it took to be fully implemented with fidelity. After being told that it has not yet been fully implemented, he asked for the percentage of schools that have successfully adopted and fully implemented the policy. Additionally, Chair Shull requested clarity regarding the District's Minority and Women-Owned Business Enterprise (MWBE) commitments. He asked the presenters to informally disaggregate that data so the Board could clearly understand if the District is truly meeting its diversity targets.

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

Daniel Cobble, a candidate for U.S. Representative, criticized rising taxes and the District's \$180 million budget shortfall—calling it a criminal cover-up that requires an audit—and promised to implement a lower-cost, parent-teacher-centric restructuring plan for JCPS if elected.

Chris Harmer, chair of the Alliance to Reclaim Our Schools (AROS) Louisville Coalition, urged the District to protect teachers from budget cuts by eliminating non-academic programs like JROTC, noting high student dropout rates in the program and its lack of academic alignment compared to the Academies of Louisville.

Dr. Mario Ransan, a teacher at Southern High School, cited pedagogical research to argue that cutting or centralizing building-level instructional and safety support staff isolates teachers, damages collective efficacy, and threatens student growth and safety.

Amanda Averette-Bush expressed deep concern over the District's reactive decision-making and siloed operation, arguing that the District cannot call the 2022 school choice plan a failure when it has never fully funded, supported, or committed to implementing it for the students currently enrolled in the Choice Zone.

Maddie Shepard, president of the Jefferson County Teachers Association, stated that while she is proud of the working condition gains in the union's contract extension, the cost-of-living adjustments remain inadequate for teachers facing high costs of living, emphasizing that the city must find long-term strategies to add revenue rather than relying solely on budget cuts.

Nicole Humphrey, president of the JCAESP AFSCME Local 4011 support staff union, praised the District's dedicated clerical and office staff and urged the Board not to overlook vital support workers—such as cafeteria staff, office clerks, and paraeducators—who keep schools running daily despite earning an average salary of just \$27,000.

VI. Action Items

A. Recommendation for Approval of Tentative Budget for Fiscal Year 2026-2027

Thomas Aberli, Interim Chief Financial Officer presented the Tentative Budget. Each Board member had an opportunity to comment and ask questions.

Mrs. Duncan asked whether the Board should officially enact a balanced budget policy. She requested information on who is currently responsible for writing the District's budget control policies and when the Board could expect to receive them for review and approval. Finally, she inquired about a timeline for when regular "budget-to-actual" financial reporting could begin, noting that this type of tracking is critical and should happen on a consistent basis.

Mr. Everett sought clarification on whether the District's contingency and unassigned fund balances are the same thing, while also asking how close the budget actually is to being balanced once vacancy credits and pass-through benefit funds are excluded. He inquired if the Tentative Budget includes any provisions to improve pay for classified staff. Looking ahead, he asked what major steps the Board should consider to cut costs or find new funding for significant raises without raising taxes. Finally, he asked if the District has a team to measure return on investment (ROI) and requested a report on the impact of right-sizing the District.

Ms. Logan Strange questioned if the Board should be confident that new policies would prevent the District from facing similar budget crises in the future. She also emphasized the need for robust checks and balances, noting that even if the Board strictly adheres to policy, members still risk making poor decisions if they are continually provided with inaccurate or misleading information.

Mr. Craig asked for a simple explanation of why voting for a budget with a remaining \$40 million deficit is prudent and appropriate. Mr. Aberli explained that while a deficit remains, the District's recent spending cuts combined with strict financial controls and expected annual revenue growth will naturally erase the deficit, resulting in a positive five-year financial outlook without putting too much immediate strain on operations. Mr. Craig then shifted to employee raises, asking about the cost of a 1% cost-of-living adjustment (COLA), which Mr. Aberli stated costs \$10 million in actual spending. After Mr. Aberli confirmed that the District could not afford a 3% or 4% raise in 2027 under current projections without a tax referendum, Mr. Craig noted that funding future raises would require deep, painful cuts elsewhere on top of the \$115 million already cut this year, leading him to suggest that the Board may need to consider raising revenue above the 4% threshold in 2027 or 2028 because employees are currently not being paid enough.

Chair Shull asked how many years the District will need to depend on a line of credit, Mr. Aberli responded that while the agreements must be approved by the Board every summer as one-year commitments, the District currently forecasts needing it for at least the next two, and possibly three, years. Chair Shull then inquired about the specific year the District expects to achieve a balanced budget. Mr. Aberli explained that under the current forecasting model—which relies solely on the allowable 4% annual revenue increases to pay down the deficit—it would take until 2031 to fully match recurring revenues with recurring expenses, though utilizing vacancy credits could potentially improve that timeline by about \$25 million. Chair Shull asked for the exact deficit number remaining if the Tentative Budget passes, which Mr. Aberli confirmed stands at \$40 million. Chair Shull questioned whether it is appropriate for the District to carry a deficit. He then asked for a response to claims that there is a lack of hard evidence to justify the current budget cuts. Mr. Aberli responded that he would point to the District's internal audit, two separate external audits, and the findings of the state auditor, all of which would strongly disagree with that claim and support the necessity of the reductions.

Order #2026-76 - Motion Passed: Superintendent Brian Yearwood recommends the Board of Education approve the attached Tentative Budget for Fiscal Year 2026-2027. The recommendation passed with a motion by Mr. Trevin Bass 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

VII. Consent Calendar

A. Report of Certified Leaves

B. Report of Personnel Actions

C. Recommendation for Approval of Organizational Charts and/or Job Descriptions

1. Recommendation for Approval of Organizational Charts and/or Job Descriptions – Academics

- 2.** Recommendation for Approval of Organizational Charts and/or Job Descriptions – Accountability, Research and Systems Improvement
- 3.** Recommendation for Approval of Organizational Charts and/or Job Descriptions – Human Resources
- 4.** Recommendation for Approval of Organizational Charts and/or Job Descriptions – Strategy and Innovation
- 5.** Recommendation for Approval of Organizational Charts and/or Job Descriptions – Student Support and Community Engagement
- D.** Recommendation of Approval of Field Trips Request and Receipt of Report of Field Trips Approved by the Superintendent
- E.** Recommendation for Approval of Bid and Revised BG-1 Form for Career and Technical Education Lab Renovation at Jeffersontown High School
- F.** Recommendation for Approval of Contract Completions and BG-4 Forms
 - 1.** Recommendation for Approval of Contract Completion and BG-4 Form for Partial Window Replacement at 3901 Atkinson Square Drive
 - 2.** Recommendation for Approval of Contract Completion and BG-4 Form for Athletic Stadium Renovation at duPont Manual High School
 - 3.** Recommendation for Approval of Contract Completion and BG-4 Form for Partial Roof Replacement at Camp Taylor Elementary School
 - 4.** Recommendation for Approval of Contract Completion and BG-4 Form for Athletic Stadium Renovation at Fern Creek High School
 - 5.** Recommendation for Approval of Contract Completion and BG-4 Form for Partial Window Replacement at Fern Creek High School
 - 6.** Recommendation for Approval of Contract Completion and BG-4 Form for Athletic Stadium Renovation at Louisville Male High School
 - 7.** Recommendation for Approval of Contract Completion and BG-4 Form for Partial Roof Replacement at Shelby Academy
 - 8.** Recommendation for Approval of Contract Completion and BG-4 Form for Operable Partition Replacement at Various Schools
 - 9.** Recommendation for Approval of Contract Completion and BG-4 Form for Athletic Stadium Renovation at Waggener High School
- G.** Recommendation for Approval of Construction Change Orders
- H.** Recommendation for Approval of Letter of Intent to Purchase Real Property at King Elementary School from the District
- I.** Recommendation for Approval of Letter of Intent to Purchase Real Property at Waller-Williams @ Riverport from the District
- J.** Recommendation for Approval of Request from Pickett Passafiume Architects to Apply for Commercial Buildings Tax Deduction under Section 1331 of the Energy Policy Act of 2005
- K.** Recommendation for Approval of Competitive Negotiations, Bid Tabulations, Contract Renewals, and Amendments
- L.** Recommendation for Approval of Professional Services Contracts of \$20,000 or More
- M.** Acceptance of Summary of Professional Services Contracts
- N.** 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

O. Acceptance of Monthly Financial Report for Period Ended March 31, 2026

P. Acceptance of Quarterly Report of Investment Performance

Q. Recommendation for Approval of Assistant Treasurers and Bank Signature Resolution for Fiscal Year 26-27

R. Acceptance of School Activity Fund Budget Summary for Fiscal Year 2026-27

S. Recommendation for Approval of Routine Banking Services for Fiscal Year 2026-27

T. Acceptance of Donations, Grants, and Funding

1. Acceptance of Donations and Small Grants

2. Acceptance of Funding from the Jefferson County Public Education Foundation

3. Acceptance of Math Achievement Grant Funds and Approval of Agreement and Assurances with the Kentucky Department of Education

4. Acceptance of Read to Achieve Grant Funds and Approval of Agreement and Assurances with the Kentucky Department of Education

5. Acceptance of Funding from the GPD Foundation

6. Acceptance of Donation from the Fern Creek Alumni Association for Auditorium Improvements

U. Recommendation for Approval of Agreements

1. Recommendation for Approval of Memorandum of Agreement with Catholic Charities of Louisville

2. Recommendation for Approval of the Data Privacy Agreement with Comprehensive Adult Student Assessment Systems (CASAS)

3. Recommendation for Approval of Device Transfer Agreement with Digital Promise to Extend the Verizon Innovation Learning Schools

4. Recommendation for Approval of Memorandum of Agreement with Elevate Louisville

5. Recommendation for Approval Data Privacy Agreement with Follett Software, LLC

6. Recommendation for Approval of Memorandum of Agreement with International Rescue Committee

7. Recommendation for Approval of Memorandum of Agreement with Jefferson Community and Technical College

8. Recommendation for Approval of Memorandum of Agreement with Jefferson Community and Technical College

9. Recommendation for Approval of the Memorandum of Agreement with Kentucky Refugee Ministries

10. Recommendation for Approval of Memorandum of Understanding with the Office of the Under Secretary of War for Personnel and Readiness, U.S. Department of War, and SkillBridge Provider

11. Recommendation for Approval of the Amendment to the Data Privacy Agreement with Paloma Learning

12. Recommendation for Approval of External Auditors Contract

13. Recommendation for Approval of the Memorandum of Agreement with Bluegrass Community and Technical College

14. Recommendation for Approval of a Memorandum of Agreement with Bezos Academy

15. Recommendation for Approval of Amendment to Memorandum of Agreement with Independent Electrical Contractors of Kentuckiana

16. Recommendation for Approval of the Data Privacy Agreement with Panorama Education, Inc

17. Recommendation for Approval of Memorandum of Agreement With the Jefferson County Teachers Association for an Extension of the Collective Bargaining Agreement and Approval of Language Changes

18. Recommendation for Approval of the Data Privacy Agreement with Chartflow

V. Recommendation for Approval of Shortened School Days and/or Weeks for Four Exceptional Child Education Students

W. Recommendation for Approval of Student Support and Behavior Intervention Handbook for the 2026-2027 School Year (Second Reading)

X. Recommendation for Approval of Turnaround Plans for Comprehensive Support and Improvement Schools

Y. Recommendation for Approval of 2026-27 Student Progression, Promotion, and Graduation Handbooks

Order #2026-77 - Motion Passed: Superintendent Brian Yearwood recommends the Board of Education approve the Consent Calendar. The recommendation passed with a motion by Mr. James Craig and a second by Mr. Trevin Bass.

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 (If Necessary)

IX. Adjournment

Order #2026-78 - Motion Passed: A motion to adjourn the May 12, 2026, meeting of the Jefferson County Board of Education at 9:04 p.m. passed with a motion by Mrs. Linda Duncan and a second by Ms. Tricia Lister.

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

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