



# **JEFFERSON COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION**

## **Minutes of Tax Rate Hearing of May 21, 2020**

**Tax Rate Hearing** of the Jefferson County Board of Education held at VanHoose Education Center via Video Teleconference, on Tuesday, May 21, 2020, at 5:30 p.m.

### **BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Chairwoman Diane Porter

Mr. Chris Brady

Mrs. Linda Duncan

Mr. Corrie Shull

Vice-Chair Chris Kolb

Mr. James Craig

Mr. Joseph Marshall

### **STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Superintendent Martin A. Pollio, Ed.D.

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."

In light of Covid-19 concerns, special procedures were in place at the Hearing so that citizens could make comments to the Board while at the same time maintaining social distancing. Public speakers were only be able to address the Board via video-teleconference by going to VanHoose Education Center. The Board also accepted comments in writing either via email or regular mail before the meeting.

### **TAX RATE HEARING FOR FISCAL YEAR 2020-21**

Chair Porter called the May 21, 2020, Tax Rate Hearing to order at approximately 5:30 p.m., and read the following statement:

"This hearing is being held pursuant to the provisions of KRS 160.470 for the purpose of hearing public comments regarding a proposed General Fund tax levy of 81.6 cents on real property and 81.6 cents on personal property.

The General Fund tax levied in fiscal year 2019 was 72.5 cents on real property and 72.5 cents on personal property and produced revenue of \$497,980,297.14. The proposed General Fund tax rate of 81.6 cents on real property and 81.6 cents on personal property is expected to produce \$601,366,309.20. Of this amount \$69,141,824.75 is from new and personal property. The Board has the discretion to levy a rate lower than the potential ceiling rate of 81.6 cents. The compensating tax for 2020 is 70.7 cents on real property and 70.7 cents on personal property and is expected to produce \$521,036,740.93.

The general areas to which revenue of \$103,386,012.20 above 2019 revenue is to be allocated as follows:

Cost of collections - \$3,618,510.43;  
Building fund - \$12,923,251.52;  
Instruction - \$72,370,208.54;  
Transportation - \$3,101,580.37; and  
Maintenance of plant - \$11,372,461.34.

The notice for the tax rate included the provision that the public could send written comments to the Assistant Secretary to the Board. She forwarded those comments to all board members for their consideration.

All persons who have requested to speak on the proposed rates will now be given an opportunity to present testimony. Each speaker is allowed 3 minutes to address the Board. At the end of 2-1/2 minutes, a bell will sound once. You will then have 30 seconds to finish your statement.”

Those wishing to speak entered the auditorium one at a time and addressed the Board via a laptop with video conference. The Board members were projected on a large screen in front of the speaker. The Board members and speakers were able to hear and see each other.

The following speakers spoke in favor of a tax increase:  
Brent McKim, Alan Young, Sadiqua Reynolds, and Faith Stroud

The following speakers spoke against a tax increase:  
Shirley Green and Gerald Hensel

Cathie Brown addressed the Board and talked about the money that is wasted by busing, not having centralized curriculum, and throwing out food.

**Order #2020-59 - Motion Passed:** A motion to adjourn passed with a motion by Mr. James Craig and a second by Mr. Corrie Shull.

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

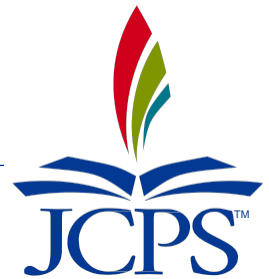
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Diane Porter  
Chairwoman

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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**



May 19, 2020

NOTICE

To All Members of the Board of Education of Jefferson County, Kentucky:

The Chair of the Board of Education is calling two special meetings of the Board of Education to be held on **Thursday, May 21, 2020**. 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, these meetings will be conducted by video-teleconference and available for live public viewing at the following link: [JCBE MEETING VIDEO](#)

The purpose of these meetings is as follows:

**5:30 p.m. Tax Rate Hearing:** The Jefferson County Board of Education will hold a public hearing at VanHoose Education Center, located at 3332 Newburg Road, to hear public comments regarding a proposed general fund tax levy of 81.6 cents on real property and 81.6 cents on personal property.

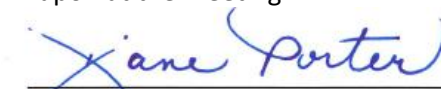
In light of Covid-19 concerns, special procedures will be in place at the Hearing so that citizens can make comments to the Board while at the same time maintaining social distancing. Public speakers will only be able to address the Board via video-teleconference by going to VanHoose Education Center and adhering to the following guidelines: [JCPS Guidance for Speakers at May 21 Board Meeting](#). Also in light of Covid-19, the Board will receive comments in writing either via email or regular mail before the meeting. Such comments must be received at [angela.gilpin@jefferson.kyschools.us](mailto:angela.gilpin@jefferson.kyschools.us) or Angela Gilpin, 3332 Newburg Road, Louisville, KY 40218, before 5:00 p.m. May 20 to be considered by the Board.


**7:00 p.m. Special Meeting:** The Jefferson County Board of Education will hold a special meeting to discuss and take action on Tax Rates for Fiscal Year 2020-21.

The agenda is as follows:

- I. Call to Order
- II. Recommendation for Approval of Tax Rates for Fiscal Year 2020-21
- III. Adjournment

Any and all matters incidental to and supplementary of the foregoing may also be taken up, considered and acted upon at the meeting.

  
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Diane Porter, Chair  
Board of Education of Jefferson County, Kentucky

  
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Martin A. Pollio, Ed.D., Secretary  
Board of Education of Jefferson County, Kentucky

# JCPS Guidance for Speakers at May 21 Tax Hearing

## If a visitor has the following symptoms:

Please note that if you have a COUGH or SHORTNESS of BREATH, DIFFICULTY BREATHING or FEVER (100.F or greater), you should **NOT** enter the building.

If you have any of **TWO** of the following, you should **NOT** enter the building:

Fever, Shivering, Headache, New loss of taste or smell, Chills, Muscle pain, Sore throat

## When Speakers Come to VanHoose to Speak

Speakers are invited to come to VanHoose Education Center, 3332 Newburg Road to share their opinions with the Jefferson County Board of Education (JCBE). Each speaker will be given three minutes to speak to board members through video conferencing. All safety and social distancing guidelines will be followed.

- Speakers will sign up to speak at the meeting by calling the Assistant Board Secretary at 485-3342 or sign up upon arrival. All speakers are required to have signed in by the start of the meeting, 5:30 p.m.
- An employee will be in the parking lot to take the speaker's name, cell phone number, and address. After providing that information, the speaker will go wait in their car. (Accommodations will be made for those without a cell phone.)
- Each speaker will receive a text when it is time to come and wait in line. Ten people at a time will wait in line.
- Speakers will line up outside of Exit 9, Stewart Auditorium, VanHoose Education Center. This entrance faces Bishop Lane.
- There will be "Xs" on the ground (similar to what is seen at some retail stores) to help ensure appropriate social distancing. Staff will be available to guide visitors.
- Speakers will enter through Exit 9. Staff will be on hand to guide visitors.
- Speakers will step to an "X" marked on the floor in front of a podium. Those wishing to address JCBE members will look and speak into a laptop to begin the video conference. The JCBE members will be projected on a large screen in front of the speaker. The JCBE members and speakers will be able to hear and see each other.
- The speaker will address the JCBE members for a maximum of three minutes. At two minutes and 30 seconds a bell will sound to indicate that there are 30 seconds left.
- After speaking, the visitor will leave through Exit 10.
- Stewart Auditorium is handicapped-accessible.

## Questions or Concerns

If you have additional questions or concerns, please contact the Assistant Secretary to the Board at 485-3342 for assistance.

## Responses to Public Notice on Proposed General Fund Tax Levy

- To whom it may concern,

This is most probably one of the worst times in current history to be voting on any tax increase, and yet it is the most important time to vote “yes” on the proposed increase. For far too long in our history poor children, particularly black and brown, have been underserved in education. There has always been a reason given for not changing policy to deliver what they need to learn and thrive in the educational setting. Waiting until the time is right has led us to this year....now we see that we can always say that NO time is “right,” but NOW is the right time.

I support this tax increase of \$0.81 for real and personal property and will do whatever is in my power to ask for the support of others. When you vote for the tax increase, you are voting for the improvement in education that each underserved child deserves.

Sincerely,

Leslie Marcellino

- To the JCPS Board ~

I am writing with strong opposition to a proposed property tax increase. This is way out of line with the current environment we are in.

And to think of a rate proposal of 8 cents per \$100 property value. This is terrible!!

I have heard that this increase was regarding bus transportation. I hope this is not true. How many times I have passed buses on the highway; i.e. Watterson Expressway, and the interstates, during the morning and afternoon rush hours before and after school and see only 5 or 6 kids on the entire bus. This has to be the most inefficient process in the US. I am confident I would be floored as to the amount of waste that has occurred around the wasted miles of transportation. There is plenty of money that is coming through to the JCPS system that can be used.

To even consider the proposed rate increase, the board should be ashamed of themselves!

The board needs to use the funding they have.

I hope you have another plan in place.

Thank you,

Wade Farmer

- **I SUPPORT the proposed tax increase.**

Pat Murrell

- JCPS Board,

I am in favor of a property tax increase. I am a teacher in a neighboring district, but my children attend JCPS schools. I saw first hand what COVID 19 and NTI did to our students, teachers, and families. I would support a tax increase without these circumstances, but I wholeheartedly support the tax increase during this situation.

Thank you for your service to our future.

Tara Long

- Subject: JCPS tax increase

No! No to the school tax increase on property. Do you realize that 68% of my total home property tax is school tax! The other taxes listed are reasonable. School tax is unreal, and I don't even have children in school! No, No, No!

Doris Ware



May 14, 2020

Ms. Angela Gilpin  
3332 Newburg Road  
Louisville, KY 40218

## RESPONSE TO PUBLIC NOTICE ON PROPOSED GENERAL FUND TAX LEVY

The League of Women Voters of Louisville supports adequate funding to educate all children. We support the proposed General Fund tax rate of 81.6 cents on real property and 81.6 cents on personal property. This amount of additional revenue is necessary to provide programs that will move us toward equity and significantly mitigate disparity of educational outcomes between students from advantaged households and those living in poverty.

Patricia A. Murrell, EdD  
President