



JEFFERSON COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION

Minutes of Special Business Meeting of August 18, 2020

Special Business Meeting of the Jefferson County Board of Education
held via Video Teleconference, on Tuesday, August 18, 2020

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:

Chairwoman Diane Porter

Mr. Chris Brady

Mrs. Linda Duncan

Dr. Corrie Shull

Vice-Chair Chris Kolb

Mr. James Craig

Mr. Joseph Marshall

STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT:

Superintendent Martin A. Pollio, Ed.D.

Jimmy Adams, Chief Human Resources

Dr. Alicia Averette, Assistant Superintendent

Dr. Kermit Belcher, Chief Information Officer

Kim Chevalier, Chief of Exceptional Child Education

Dr. Carmen Coleman, Chief Academic Officer

Cordelia Harden, Chief Financial Officer

Chris Perkins, Chief Operations Officer

Jerry Wyman, Director of Athletics

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."

6:00 p.m. Executive Session

The Board conducted a closed session for the purpose of discussions relating to pending and proposed litigation as permitted by KRS 61.810(1)(c) of the Kentucky Open Meetings Act.

I. Call to Order

Chair Porter called the August 18, 2020, Special Meeting of the Board of Education to order at 6:00 p.m. and they went directly into closed executive session.

II. Enter into Executive Session Pursuant to KRS 61.810(1)(c)

Order #2020-108 - Motion Passed: A motion that the Board of Education conduct a closed session for the purpose of discussions relating to pending and proposed litigation as permitted by KRS 61.810(1)(c) of the Kentucky Open Meetings Act passed with a motion by Mr. James Craig and a second by Mr. Joseph Marshall.

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

III. Adjourn from Executive Session

Order #2020-109 - Motion Passed: A motion that the Board of Education adjourn from Executive Session and return to Open Session passed with a motion by Mr. James Craig and a second by Dr. 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
Dr. Corrie Shull	Yes

At 6:53 p.m. the Board returned to open session and Chair Porter made the following announcement:

“The Board of Education met in Executive Session for the purpose of discussions relating to pending and proposed litigation as permitted by KRS 61.810(1)(c) of the Kentucky Open Meetings Act and no action was taken”

The Board then took action to authorize Superintendent Marty Pollio to take all steps necessary, including the filing of legal action, to challenge the recent certification by the Jefferson County Clerk that a sufficient number of valid signatures of qualified Jefferson County voters were submitted to place the Board’s recent tax levy on the November election ballot for a potential recall.

Order #2020-110 - Motion Passed: A motion that the Jefferson County Board of Education authorize Superintendent Marty Pollio to take all steps necessary, including the filing of legal action, to challenge the recent certification by the Jefferson County Clerk that a sufficient number of valid signatures of qualified Jefferson County voters were submitted to place the Board's recent tax levy on the November election ballot for potential recall pursuant to KRS 132.017 passed with a motion by Mr. James Craig and a second by Dr. Christopher Kolb.

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

IV. Adjournment

The Board adjourned the 6:00 p.m. special meeting by consensus at 6:59.

SPECIAL BUSINESS MEETING

I. Call to Order

Chair Porter called the Special Business Meeting of the Board of Education to order at 7:00 p.m.

II. Recommendation for Approval of Meeting Agenda

Order #2020-111 - Motion Passed: Superintendent Martin Pollio recommends the Board of Education approve the agenda for August 18, 2020. The recommendation passed with a motion by Mr. Joseph Marshall and a second by Mr. James Craig.

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

III. Recommendation for Approval of Minutes of Previous Meeting

Order #2020-112 - Motion Passed: Superintendent Martin Pollio recommends the Board of Education approve the minutes of the August 4, 2020, special meeting. The recommendation passed with a motion by Mr. Joseph Marshall and a second by Mr. James Craig.

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

IV. Superintendent's Report

Dr. Pollio discussed the recent announcement from Evolve502 regarding scholarships that will allow eligible students to begin postsecondary studies tuition-free at any Kentucky Community and Technical College school or Simmons College of Kentucky.

Chair Porter thanked the Board for their hard work and the time that they have put forth during the COVID-19 outbreak. She then thanked teachers and staff and shared a message from a thank you card.

She acknowledged that the Board has received questions regarding public comments during video-conferenced meetings. She stated that public-voice at Board meetings is essential to the work of the District. The Board welcomes feedback from the community and will discuss how to incorporate public comments during virtual meetings. She stated that community members have been able to email or send written comments to the Board secretary which were shared with Board members and then recorded in the Official Meeting Minutes. She stated that they will share information once the Board has a plan on how to incorporate public comments during meetings in an equitable way.

V. Action Items

There were no action items.

VI. Information Items

A. Acceptance of Update on Non-Traditional Instruction (NTI) Implementation for Fall 2020

Dr. Pollio and his team presented an update on the implementation of NTI 2.0. Each Board member had an opportunity to comment and ask questions.

Dr. Kolb expressed concern regarding the current positive COVID-19 test rates. He acknowledged the benefits of school sports but stated that he doesn't see how he can in good conscience go forward with allowing in-person activities/sports except for the ones that are the most tightly controlled and absolutely necessary. He is grateful that the Board is waiting to hear from KHSAA before making a decision.

Mr. Craig acknowledged that the decision on whether or not to hold fall sports is very difficult. He expressed hope in allowing some sports with the health of students and staff to be priority. He then questioned the amount of synchronous instruction expected during NTI. He asked how much live instruction would normally occurring during traditional in-school class.

Mr. Marshall questioned the flexibility and timing of schedules requiring students and teachers to be on a computer.

Mr. Brady questioned access to recorded class lessons. He expressed concern with liability and with following proper protocols in learning hubs. He wanted to ensure that all outside organizations are following health guidelines. He then advocated for pushing fall sports to the spring.

Chair Porter stated that she is receiving multiple questions and concerns from parents regarding sports/NTI and requested direction on how to address them. She questioned mental health activities during NTI. She then requested clarification regarding using and funding Learning Hubs. She questioned the use of CARES Funding for purchasing face masks/PPE and the availability of masks/PPE for staff and students. She asked how buses and schools will be sanitized and requested the Board receive more information as they continue to prepare for in-person classes. She questioned the availability of Chromebooks for teachers and requested data regarding hotspot connectivity by district, stating that she has heard of connectivity issues in some areas.

The Board took action on receiving the *Update on Non-Traditional Instruction Implementation for Fall 2020* later in the meeting.

B. Acceptance of Progress Report on the JCPS Final Corrective Action Plan

Dr. Pollio presented the report. Each Board member had an opportunity to comment and ask questions.

Mr. Craig and Dr. Kolb acknowledged the amount of work that has gone into the Corrective Action Plan and thanked JCPS staff for their continued efforts.

Order #2020-113 - Motion Passed: Superintendent Martin Pollio recommends the Board of Education receive a progress report regarding the JCPS Final Corrective Action Plan. The recommendation passed with a motion by Dr. Corrie Shull and a second by Mr. James Craig.

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

Order #2020-114 - Motion Passed: A motion that the Board of Education receive an update on the implementation of NTI for the start of the 2020-21 school year passed with a motion by Mrs. Linda Duncan and a second by Mr. Chris Brady.

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

C. Acceptance of Report on English as a Second Language (ESL)

Dr. Pollio and his team presented the report. Each Board member had an opportunity to comment and ask questions.

Dr. Kolb wanted to understand what ESL supports are available in all schools. He wanted to ensure that teachers have the necessary resources and support.

Mrs. Duncan asked for details regarding support available to principals. She requested data showing the percent of ESL students who also require ECE/special services.

Dr. Shull wanted to ensure that the District is building capacity as the number of ESL students continues to increase.

Mr. Craig asked how they will judge their success going forward. He questioned resources and wanted to ensure they are meeting all needs and hitting all benchmarks. He requested ongoing reports detailing ESL staffing/vacancies. He then asked for clarification regarding organizational chart revisions.

Chair Porter discussed two public comment letters that were shared with the Board. She questioned the staffing plan for the upcoming school year and asked if the summer program is still possible.

Order #2020-115 - Motion Passed: Superintendent Martin Pollio recommends the Board of Education receive a report on English as a Second Language. The recommendation passed with a motion by Mr. James Craig and a second by Dr. Christopher Kolb.

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

VII. Consent Calendar

A. Report of Certified Leaves

B. Report of Personnel Actions

C. Recommendation for Approval of Job Descriptions

D. Recommendation for Approval of Organizational Charts

E. Recommendation for Approval of Project Closeouts and BG-5 Forms

1. Recommendation for Approval of Project Closeout and BG-5 Form for Site Lighting at Churchill Park School

2. Recommendation for Approval of Project Closeout and BG-5 Form for Fire Alarm Replacement at Middletown Elementary School

F. Recommendation for Approval of Construction Change Orders

G. Recommendation for Approval of Bid Tabulations and Contract Renewals.

H. Recommendation for Approval of Professional Services Contracts of \$20,000 or More

I. Acceptance of Summary of Professional Services Contracts

- J. 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
- K. Acceptance of Monthly Financial Report for Period Ended June 30, 2020**
- L. Acceptance of Quarterly Report of Investment Performance**
- M. Acceptance of Donations, Grants, and Funding**
 - 1. Acceptance of Donations and Small Grants
 - 2. Acceptance of Flexible Focus Funds from the Kentucky Department of Education
 - 3. Acceptance of School-Based Mental Health Funding
- N. Recommendation for Approval of Agreements**
 - 1. Recommendation for Approval of the Memorandum of Agreement with Elizabethtown Community & Technical College and JCPs High Schools
 - 2. Recommendation for Approval of Third-Party Cooperative Agreement with Kentucky Office of Vocational Rehabilitation for Post-School Transition Services
 - 3. Recommendation for Approval of the Memorandum of Agreement with Morehead State University for Dual Credit
 - 4. Recommendation for Approval of the Memorandum of Agreement with Spalding University for Dual Credit
 - 5. Recommendation for Approval of Grant Agreement Extension from New America and the Partnership to Advance Youth Apprenticeships
 - 6. Recommendation for Approval of Data Sharing Agreements
 - a. Recommendation for Approval of JCPs Data Sharing Agreement with BrightBytes
 - b. Recommendation for Approval of JCPs Data Sharing Agreement with Business U
 - c. Recommendation for Approval of JCPs Data Sharing Agreement with Collabra
 - ~~d. WITHDRAWN: Recommendation for Approval of JCPs Data Sharing Agreement with Edmentum Inc.~~
 - e. Recommendation for Approval of JCPs Data Sharing Agreement with Edmentum Inc.
 - f. Recommendation for Approval of JCPs Data Sharing Agreement with IXL Learning
 - g. Recommendation for Approval of JCPs Data Sharing Agreement with Pioneer Valley Educational Press
 - h. Recommendation for Approval of JCPs Data Sharing Agreement with Texthelp
 - ~~i. WITHDRAWN: Recommendation for Approval of JCPs Data Sharing Agreement with ThinkCERCA, Inc.~~
 - j. Recommendation for Approval of JCPs Data Sharing Agreement with Zearn
 - k. Recommendation for Approval of JCPs Data Sharing Agreement with Cengage Learning
 - l. Recommendation for Approval of JCPs Data Sharing Agreement with Instructure
- O. Recommendation for Approval of Indirect Cost Rates for Fiscal Year 2020-21**
- P. Recommendation for Approval of Comprehensive Financial Planning Calendar**
- Q. Acceptance of Report on the Required KAR Board Notification of Data Security**
- R. Recommendation for Approval of Early Admission into the Primary School Program**
- S. Recommendation for Approval of Finding to Add New West End Middle School to the District's Facility Plan**
- T. Adoption of Revised Board Policies 10.4 Business Partnership Recognition and Advertising in Schools and 05.11 School Property - Naming of Facilities and Alterations (First Reading)**

U. Recommendation for Adoption of a Resolution Authorizing COVID-19 Related Emergency Leave for the 2020-21 School Year

V. Adoption of Board Policies 03.1233 Child Rearing/Adoption Leave (Certified) and 03.2233 Child Rearing/Adoption Leave (Classified) (First Reading)

W. Adoption of Board Policies Relating to Implementation of Federal Title IX Regulations (First Reading)

X. Adoption of Board Policy 09.2211 Employee Reports of Criminal Activity (First Reading)

Y. Recommendation for Approval of 2020-2021 NTI 2.0 Assessment and Grading Recommendations and Guidance (For Non-Traditional Instruction during the COVID-19 Crisis)

Chair Porter pulled down the following items for discussion and a separate vote:

- VII.C. Recommendation for Approval of Job Descriptions
- VII.D. Recommendation for Approval of Organizational Charts

Order #2020-116 - Motion Passed: A motion that the Board of Education approve the consent calendar for August 18, 2020, minus items VII.C. Recommendation for Approval of Job Descriptions and VII.D. Recommendation for Approval of Organizational Charts passed with a motion by Mrs. Linda Duncan and a second by Mr. James Craig.

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

VII.C. Recommendation for Approval of Job Descriptions

Chair Porter wanted clarification regarding the work of the Executive Administrator ESL /Academic Support Programs and Special Populations. She questioned the rationale for the minimum qualifications required for the job which narrows the number of people who can apply for the position.

Mrs. Duncan questioned the intake/staffing process and the structure in place to support the work of the previous director position.

Mr. Craig stated that he supports the changes but wanted to ensure that they continue to monitor and evaluate ESL staffing.

Chair Porter requested a report from the Diversity Hiring Specialist to help the Board understand recent changes in staffing. She stated that she is voting no until she has clarification on the changes.

Order #2020-117 - Motion Passed: A motion that the Board of Education approve consent item VII.C. Recommendation for Approval of Job Descriptions passed with a motion by Dr. Christopher Kolb and a second by Mrs. Linda Duncan.

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

▪ **VII.D. Recommendation for Approval of Organizational Charts**

Chair Porter requested clarification on the organizational chart revisions to help the Board understand the workload. She stated that she will vote no until she has more information from the Diversity Hiring Specialist.

Order #2020-118 - Motion Passed: A motion that the Board of Education approve consent item VII.D. Recommendation for Approval of Organizational Charts passed with a motion by Dr. Christopher Kolb and a second by Mr. Joseph Marshall.

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

VIII. Board Planning Calendar

Mr. Craig asked for clarification on the plan for when the Board will decide on fall sports since the KHSAA meeting will be this coming week. Dr. Pollio stated that they may need to call a special meeting depending on the outcome of the KHSAA meeting.

Order #2020-119 - Motion Passed: Superintendent Martin Pollio recommends the Board of Education receive for information a planning calendar outlining discussion agenda items. The recommendation passed with a motion by Mrs. Linda Duncan and a second by Mr. Joseph Marshall.

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

IX. Committee Reports

There were no committee reports.

X. Board Reports

Mr. Craig took a moment to acknowledge the stress that everyone is under with the upcoming implementation of NTI and the COVID-19 pandemic.

Chair Porter discussed the Grace James Academy of Excellence Virtual Back to School Kick-Off and gave a shout-out to Principal Rhonda Cosby and her staff.

XI. Executive Session (If Needed)

XII. Action Item (If Needed)

XIII. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 9:42 p.m.

Order #2020-120 - Motion Passed: A motion to adjourn the August 18, 2020, meeting of the Jefferson County Board of Education passed with a motion by Mr. James Craig and a second by Mr. Joseph Marshall.

Mr. Chris Brady	Yes
Mr. James Craig	Yes
Mrs. Linda Duncan	Yes
Dr. Christopher Kolb	Yes
Mr. Joseph Marshall	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**



JEFFERSON COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION

Persons Requesting to Address the Board

(Deferred to Email Due to COVID Attendance Limitations)

Until meeting room capacity returns to normal, members of the public will have the opportunity to voice opinions or express concerns by submitting remarks via email. Remarks should be limited to 500 words or less and sent to the Assistant Secretary to the Board (angela.gilpin@jefferson.kyschools.us) for dissemination purposes prior to the meeting. Public remarks will be shared with each Board member and recorded in the Official Minutes.

Speaker Comments

Dear JCPS Board Members,

I would like to focus your attention on two items on the August 18 meeting agenda with respect to JCPS's continued commitment to providing equitable ESL staffing and resources to the English Learners (ELs). ELs currently represent 10% of the district's students. Slide 9, "EL Growth Data," of the meeting's Report on English as a Second Language (ESL) shows that recent year-to-year increases in JCPS EL enrollment have been substantial: 16.45% (2016-17), 9.63% (2017-18), 9.39% (2018-19) and 25.03% (2019-20).

My first concern relates to JCPS's laudable intent to expand the school choice options for EL families, which have been historically limited to schools with ESL programs. Slide 10 "Equity for Students" in the ESL Report states: "To ensure equitable access, direct ESL support services will be provided in all schools." Slide 13 also refers to adding teachers to meet district ESL needs.

However, slide 10 also notes: "We are waiting final enrollment numbers to determine where teacher support will be needed." And indeed, some EL students served by Kentucky Refugee Ministries (KRM) are being assigned to schools that did not have any ESL teachers last year.

So the question is: Will all schools have an ESL teacher to start the year? EL students and parents face more challenges with remote learning. We're concerned for EL students starting NTI 2.0 at a school with no ESL teacher.

The second concern relates to the elimination of the Executive Director ESL position and nominal replacement of that position with a new Executive Administrator/ESL Academic Support Programs and Special Populations. The positions have comparable salaries and the same 260-day work schedule. And the job description for the new Executive Administrator does require ESL qualifications and experience.

The overarching question here is: Would this new position subdivide what was formerly a 100% ESL leadership/administration position between ESL and significant non-ESL-related duties? The job description requires the Executive Administrator to "work closely with the Assistant Superintendent of Academic Support Programs and Special Operations to support all aspect of the work of each division within the Academic Support Programs department." These divisions include early childhood, health, counseling and mental health, and family resource centers. If so, this position change would appear to constitute a net reduction in direct JCPS ESL leadership and administration staffing. A related question is whether this new position will be relocated out of the ESL office to the VanHoose administrative offices.

I am mindful of the critical district-wide role each of all of the above-mentioned divisions play for JCPS students and families. Likewise, I am aware of overall JCPS budget uncertainties that may justify a broader portfolio of duties—not ESL only—from this position. That said, in our

experience, the current staffing structure has been responsive to EL students and parents, as well as accessible to immigrant-serving organizations like KRM, who coordinate our own school support services for clients in partnership with the JCPS ESL Office.

Thank you for your consideration of these questions.

Sincerely,

John Koehlinger | *Executive Director*

KENTUCKY REFUGEE MINISTRIES

969-B Cherokee Rd | Louisville, KY 40204

Desk 502.479.9180 x511 | Cell 502.424.7637

jkoehlinger@kyrm.org | kyrm.org

To the Jefferson County Board of Education:

Catholic Charities of Louisville appreciates this opportunity to raise our concerns over proposed changes to JCPS's English as a Second Language (ESL) program. Catholic Charities has provided educational support to many transnational families, particularly those who have come to our community as refugees, and JCPS is our valued partner in the work of refugee resettlement. So we are troubled by the prospect that students who have accepted the ESL program may be enrolled for the 2020-21 year in schools that do not have ESL staffing. Moreover, the elimination of the ESL director position will further diminish services to students like those we serve.

We consider enrollment in schools without ESL staffing to be a violation of these students' educational rights. This is especially alarming among middle and high schools, where no ESL resource teacher is shared among students (as in elementary schools). Families that have accepted – not waived -- ESL services have a justifiable expectation to receive them. ESL staffing is essential at in every school where English Language Learner students are enrolled. Without adding ESL teachers, JCPS's current plan only further compounds the inequities that already face this underserved population.

Concerning elimination of the ESL director position, we submit that replacing this dedicated position with one that includes responsibility for early childhood, community support services, Neighborhood Place, and student support services severely limits this professional's ability to advocate for and fully support the needs of JCPS's 12,000 English Learner students. In the past, the ESL director position was poised full-time and year-round to do just that. We believe that

adequate service to the ESL community should include the focused attention of a dedicated ESL director.

Last, we ask that you clearly and concretely answer these questions:

1. Will JCPS hire for the 2020-21 academic year additional ESL teachers at all schools with ESL students?
2. If so, what is the timeline for hiring?
3. If not, what is the plan for instruction and support for ESL students in middle and high schools without ESL staff?
4. Considering the challenges that online instruction poses for refugee and immigrant students, and the extra support these students need, what is the plan to ensure necessary ESL staffing and leadership to advocate for this growing population in the 2020-21 academic year?

Thank you for considering and addressing these concerns.

Lisa DeJaco Crutcher

Chief Executive Officer

Catholic Charities of Louisville

2911 S. 4th Street - Louisville, KY 40208

www.cclou.org – lcrutcher@archlou.org

502.637.9786 ext. 350

To the Jefferson County Board of Education:

Thank you for this opportunity to voice concerns over the proposed changes to the ESL program, including the elimination of the ESL Director position.

I am writing on behalf of the Kentucky Office for Refugees (KOR). KOR is a department of Catholic Charities of Louisville and serves as the federally designated pass-through entity of resettlement grants, which are subawarded across the Commonwealth to promote refugee integration and self-sufficiency.

Our office has for many years subawarded a significant portion of the federal Refugee School Impact grant to JCPS in their provision of summer programming to school-aged refugee students. In 2019, JCPS served nearly 200 refugee students through these programs, which prevented summer learning loss and provided them the opportunity to continue learning English from certified teachers and BIAs. Sixty-eight of these participants earned an additional high school English credit to set them on course to graduate before aging out of the system- an achievement which will undoubtedly open more opportunities for them as they transition to adulthood.

The Director of JCPS' ESL department has been instrumental to the success of these programs. This has been particularly true this summer, when the programs had to transition to a virtual format. The ESL Director worked closely with teachers and resettlement agency staff to assess the successes and shortcomings of NTI amongst EL students this spring and used this feedback to develop a curriculum and format that better suited their needs.

The imperative nature of the ESL Director's role extends beyond summer programs. As a full time staff position entirely focused on supporting the needs of EL students and their teachers, the EL Director serves as a consistent resource on evidence-based practices that promote equitable access for EL students. This focused role will be even more necessary this school year as JCPS announced that all schools will be ESL schools and has a more rigorous NTI experience planned for students this fall.

All of that said, **I have deep concerns about the Executive Administrator ESL/ Academic Support Programs and Special Populations position the Board will consider tonight to replace the ESL Director position.** As this proposed position will oversee an additional 6 departments (i.e. Early Childhood, Community Support Services, Family Resource and Youth Services Centers (FRYSCs), Guidance Services, Physical Development and Health Services, and Mental Health Services) in addition to special projects assigned by the Assistant Superintendent, I worry that the growing EL student population will not receive the full attention and support that it deserves.

I ask that the JCPS Board of Education weigh these considerations heavily when determining the future of the ESL Director position. Given that more than one in ten students within JCPS is an English Learner, that this subset of the student population has grown more than 24% over the last year and that one third of all ELs within Kentucky are JCPS students, now is not the time to diminish leadership in ensuring they are provided with the exemplary education they deserve.

Best,

Rylan Truman, MSW

Grants Manager for Special Programs, Kentucky Office for Refugees

Catholic Charities of Louisville

2222 West Market Street Louisville, KY 40212

rtruman@archlou.org

www.kentuckyrefugees.org

502-873-2560 ext. 259

I fully support the JCPS school board's decision to begin the 20-21 school year via NTI. The health of our children and school staff should be the priority. In-school instruction and the transportation of thousands of children to and from school could not be done safely at this time. While I fully support online school for many reasons, I feel it would be a mistake to have a blanket cancellation of fall sports in our district.

The KHSAA has issued guidelines regarding sports participation. Following these rules ensures sports can continue in a safe manner. Professional soccer with similar spacing during play on the field has safely restarted in Louisville and other spots around the globe. The field hockey coaching staff at Manual has been strictly following the KHSAA guidelines, and we believe the district should follow these recommendations on how sports can resume.

With the prospect of NTI continuing beyond the first 6 weeks of school, kids will need an outlet to get some exercise and some sense of normalcy. Sports is an easy and safe way for students to get physical activity and social interaction. This group of students has already lost so much during the pandemic. While this has been necessary to keep everyone safe, we do not believe sports are adding risk to the school environment if KHSAA guidelines and safety protocols are followed. There is clear evidence that students who participate in extracurricular activities have better educational outcomes.

In addition, elementary and middle school athletes are suffering at this time. Currently, only high school programs are permitted to have "voluntary" conditioning at their schools/venues. This leaves elementary and middle school parents to organize voluntary conditioning sessions at various locations around this city. The result is overcrowded parks and local fields that then cannot be available for local residents. If high school programs have this option available and are following proper protocols, then the same rules and regulations can and should be available to our younger athletes. Additionally, if we do not allow our younger JCPS students to condition and play, then they will find ways to exercise on their own which will not always follow proper protocol. We might as well set up guidelines so that sports are done safely and protocols are followed.

As a last plea, if the board determines that JCPS teams are not permitted to participate in regular season competition, please allow the current state of conditioning to continue. For many of these athletes the ability to engage in scheduled workouts with their peers is the only thing keeping their mental and physical health in check. Most of these athletes have been competing since elementary school and cutting off this outlet will cause irreversible harm. Mental health experts are seeing record numbers of children needing professional counseling right now and we do not want to add to this crisis. In fact, it is estimated that the mental toll that the COVID virus will have on our children will far outweigh the physical harm. Let's do our part to keep these children healthy in all aspects of their lives.

Thank you for your consideration,
Tracy Geller
Attorney, Hirsch Law
502-435-2593

KY Alliance Against Racist and Political Repression
PO Box 1543
Louisville, KY 40201
502-778-8130

August 11, 2020

Dear Superintendent Polio and members of the Jefferson County School Board

In ordinary times citizens are allowed to speak at Jefferson County School Board Meetings.

Since Covid 19, citizens can only submit written statements. These statements are not read out loud at the meeting.

The KY Alliance requests that citizens be allowed to participate by zoom, phone, or by submitting video or audio statements that will be presented during the meeting.

Sincerely,

Co-Chairs Shameka Parrish-Wright, Tyra Walker, Dre Dawson

Contact K.A. Owens Cell 502-536-6990

Hi I am a parent/guardian of my child that goes to Westport middle school at JCPS. I feel that we should go back by grade level starting in September. I think the board in atlanta has the right idea and we should go along those lines of their idea. I have talked to other parents and kids and we agree that keeping them on online learning damages their mental health and motivation to do the online work. My child last year missed most of the assignments and never did any of the finals. Luckily she still passed but because of online school she has become depressed and never wants to come out of her room. She would constantly cry and how she is unmotivated to do the work because there is no teacher to motivate her. I constantly try to but it's not the same as having a experienced teacher in the classroom. Since online school an increased amount of suicide attempts have been in JCPS because of online school and how they all miss school. Me and the other parents agree that we should go back by grade level starting early September/ mid September. Thank you for reading and hopefully put this idea for consideration. - A concerned parent

Karington karington.jackson@gmail.com

I forgot to mention another idea I have in mind for back to school instruction. I haven't seen any other schools do this but, kids could go to the campus only some days a week and the rest of the days is online instruction until we can fully go back to school. I think it's a really good way to start of the school year with some days going to school and some days doing online instruction. It's keeps children both safe and motivated. Thanks for reading and considering ideas from all the parents and hopefully you consider mine. - A concerned parent.