



JEFFERSON COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION

Minutes of Special Meeting of August 24, 2020

Special Meeting of the Jefferson County Board of Education
held via Video Teleconference, on Monday, August 24, 2020, 7 p.m.

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.

Eva Stone, Health Coordinator

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."

SPECIAL MEETING

I. Call to Order

Chair Porter called the August 24, 2020, Special Meeting of the Board of Education to order at 7:01 p.m.

II. Recommendation for the Approval of a Plan for JCPS Athletics During Fall 2020

Dr. Pollio discussed how difficult and challenging the decision has been on whether or not to hold fall sports in light of the COVID-19 pandemic. He then went on to present three different options for the Board to consider. He recommended option 2 which was a phased-in approach that will allow high schools to start with low-contact sports and then move to higher-contact sports after carefully monitoring progress over the first several weeks. He stated that the Board has the authority to shut down sports at any time if necessary. The threshold for cancelling practice or missing a competition will be a single positive test. Each Board member had an opportunity to comment and ask questions.

Dr. Kolb expressed concern with the COVID-19 positivity rate and the unknown long-term consequences as well as the possibility of contributing to the spread of the virus by participating in athletics. He stated that it will be very difficult to ensure compliance with health and safety guidelines. He acknowledged the importance of sports but stated that all efforts need to be focused on getting students back in school.

Mr. Craig agreed that sports contribute to overall academic performance. He questioned if they would be able to slow the spread of the virus by not allowing sports. He worried that it wouldn't make a difference with the transmission rate since so many other schools and sports organizations are going forward with fall sports. He wanted to ensure that athletic directors, coaches, and staff are held accountable for implementing strategies to reduce the spread of COVID-19.

Mr. Marshall stated that this is a huge decision and wondered if it was possible to require testing for the virus. He expressed concern with team transportation and wanted to ensure that there would be health screenings and strategies to maintain healthy environments.

Mrs. Duncan acknowledged that this has been a very difficult and time-consuming process and wanted to know what the threshold would be to shut down practices/games. She stated that she would love to see schools play this season but believes COVID-19 will shut them down.

Dr. Shull stated that he does not see a way to participate in fall sports and not contribute to the spread of the virus. He expressed concern with transportation and safety protocols. He questioned the fairness of only allowing high school sports stating that it is just as important for elementary and middle school students.

Mr. Brady acknowledged many considerations for fall sports as he discussed scientific evidence and risk factors regarding the transmission of COVID-19. He stated that older children can spread the virus at rates comparable to adults and worried about possible long-term effects. He expressed concern and questioned transportation, spectators, health screenings, and systems for tracking/notifying staff, families, and close contacts. He wanted to ensure that all guidelines will be enforced to limit exposure risk. He stated that he does not see the possibility of improved positivity rates happening later this fall. He expressed concern for mental health and stated that he wants to do the right thing – the safest option is no fall sports but he is open to a phased-in approach.

Chair Porter was concerned with ensuring social distancing within locker rooms and questioned possible consequences for students who choose not to participate in fall sports. She also expressed concern with the number of students allowed on activity buses and the lack of sports activities for elementary and middle school students. She requested the District post information on the front of the website for families to reference. She concluded by discussing mental health concerns and the anxiety that JCPS families are currently experiencing.

Dr. Kolb wondered if the District should consider not allowing spectators at competitions as many of the professional athletic teams are doing. He requested they have athletics as a standing agenda item going forward to monitor the situation. He also requested daily updates be sent to the Board. He wants to see detailed guidelines for athletic directors, coaches, and staff as well as specific procedures that will be implemented to prepare for when someone gets sick.

Dr. Pollio stated that there will not be any games prior to September 8 and they could call for a special Board meeting to make a decision on spectators.

Mr. Marshall agreed with Dr. Kolb's requests and stated that he would feel more comfortable having another meeting to discuss the guidelines and details for participation in high-contact sports too.

Order #2020-121 - Motion Passed: A motion that the Board of Education approve the attached Option 2 Plan for the phased-in approach to start fall athletics during fall 2020 passed with a motion by Mr. James Craig and a second by Mrs. Linda Duncan.

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

III. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 9:08 p.m.

Order #2020-122 - Motion Passed: A motion to adjourn the August 24, 2020, special meeting at 9:08 p.m. passed with a motion by Mr. James Craig 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	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 Jefferson County Board Members,

For mental health and equity reasons, I encourage you to vote "YES" to Dr. Pollio's well reasoned and phased-in **Aug. 24. Proposal for Fall Sports/ Athletics**. These are two of the primary characteristics of a larger fragile social and educational environment and ecology that should be included along with COVID-19 considerations.

EQUITY: Those economically marginalized would be impacted the most. Refusal to join other Kentucky districts in the Fall season. Our family, like many others I know, have intentionally kept our children in public schools because of equity issues. Our investment is in our children and others who could not afford private education. We'd like to "level the playing field." Those who can afford travel club and private clinics will do those but those who cannot will lag behind in development.

MENTAL HEALTH: Studies show that while clinical depression is on the rise, athletics makes a clear and positive impact on more than just the players/ students... the players' families, classmates, and even the schools overall. Multiply the 10,000 student-athletes by 2, 3, 4 or more in their families and classes in school, and the health of almost countless lives improve. Links below share more.

PHYSICAL SAFETY matters too, of course, and Dr. Pollio's plan makes **clear strict guidelines** to keep all involved as safe as possible and an **"emergency exit route"** if there is an outbreak of the virus. **Moreover, his plan and proposal give students and coaches of low contact sports a chance to inform how to phase-in high contact sports.**

Thank you for your service to our students, faculty, and community. I'm sure you never imagined having to make these kinds of decisions when you volunteered for service and stood for election.

Isn't the earmark of a democratic society is the ability to educate ALL of its children? Doesn't that education include shaping their mind, body, and leadership through the discipline, strategy, and collaboration of team sports?

Grateful, Lee

The Rev. Dr. Lee Hinson-Hasty

1805 Windsor Place/ Louisville KY 40204

District 2 of JCPS and Parent of incoming 1st year DuPont Manual HS Student

LHHasty@gmail.com

502-777-3926

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Chris Kolb** <chris@kolbforschoolboard.com>

Date: Thu, Aug 20, 2020 at 2:58 PM

Subject: Re: Athletics: Mental Health Considerations

To: Lee Hinson-Hasty <lhasty@gmail.com>

Cc: Diane Porter (dporter1023@gmail.com) <porterschoolboard@gmail.com>, Pollio, Marty A <Marty.Pollio@jefferson.kyschools.us>, james.craig@jefferson.kyschools.us <james.craig@jefferson.kyschools.us>, Elizabeth Hinson-Hasty <ehinsonhasty@gmail.com>, Chris Kolb <christopherkolb@gmail.com>, jcps.boe7@jefferson.kyschools.us <jcps.boe7@jefferson.kyschools.us>, Duncan, Linda <lindaduncan@live.com>, corrie.shull@jefferson.kyschools.us <corrie.shull@jefferson.kyschools.us>, joseph.marshall2@jefferson.kyschools.us <joseph.marshall2@jefferson.kyschools.us>

Thanks, Lee. We are in the process of attempting to schedule that meeting now. The thing I keep getting hung up on is that, all over the country, we have seen that the resumption of in-person activities leads to flare-ups of COVID-19 even in the presence of strict guidelines, which leads to the cancellation of more and more activities. Thus, I can only conclude that it would be somewhat arrogant of me and of JCPS to believe that we would somehow be able to manage a situation that few if any other entities have been able to manage, including entities that are much better resourced than JCPS. It then follows that if we resume in-person sports, we will almost surely have flare-ups of COVID-19, which will worsen the situation and prolong the period that we are in remote learning as opposed to in-person academics. There is no good answer here. You may not agree with me but I hope you see that I have devoted a lot of time to thinking this through very carefully. Again, I appreciate your concern for our students.

Take care,
Chris Kolb

Christopher Kolb, Ph.D.
Vice-Chair and District 2 Representative
JCPS Board of Education
Follow on twitter: @cmkolb

On Thu, Aug 20, 2020 at 2:17 PM Lee Hinson-Hasty <lhasty@gmail.com> wrote:

One more question, Chris.

You mention that a decision will not be made until after today's KHSAA board of control meeting but you do not say exactly when. No meeting is posted on the [JCBE website](#) nor on your YouTube channel. I appreciated Chairperson's Porter's named concern about public input as required by state law but do not see how anyone can follow or engage the board at this time.

Please forward the special meeting information to me and encourage JCPS communications and team to make it public. As you know, if you do not the board will only lose credibility and decisions will be questioned if the meeting is not open as required. With the practices starting next Monday, August 24th I suspect that meeting is today or tomorrow at the latest to give programs the time to make needed adjustments.

Thank you in advance.

Grateful, Lee

On Thu, Aug 20, 2020 at 1:15 PM Lee Hinson-Hasty <lhasty@gmail.com> wrote:

Chris, Thank you for your prompt reply.

If you "absolutely see the validity of the points [I] make and do not question them in the least", are indeed concerned about the students and families of JCPS, are data-driven and continue to want to represent me and so many others as constituents, I trust you will consider one additional study now being widely considered across the country by the University of Wisconsin notes the mental health concerns that may equal or outweigh COVID-19 concerns. They concluded that **over two-thirds of the student-athletes (68%) "reported feelings of anxiety and depression at levels that would typically require medical intervention - that's up 37 percent from past research studies."**

<https://www.uwhealth.org/news/more-than-two-thirds-of-high-school-athletes-report-anxiety-and-depression-since-pandemic/53429>

As you likely know the KHSAA board of control voted earlier today to move forward as previously announced with practices beginning August 24 and play as early as September 7. Note they have provisions in their plan to severely limit spectators and require masks be worn.

Thank you, in advance, for being open.

Grateful, Lee

The Rev. Dr. Lee Hinson-Hasty

1805 Windsor Place/ Louisville KY 40204

District 2 of JCPS and Parent of incoming 1st year DuPont Manual HS Student

LHHasty@gmail.com

502-777-3926

On Tue, Aug 18, 2020 at 6:00 PM Chris Kolb <chris@kolbforschoolboard.com> wrote:

Hi Lee,

Thanks for taking the time to write and for your concern for students. I absolutely see the validity of the points you make and do not question them in the least. We will not make a decision about sports until after the KHSAA meeting on Thursday. If the issue comes before the board for a vote, right now I cannot imagine I will vote to go forward with fall sports for two main reasons. First, no matter how careful we are, fall sports will lead to an increase in cases, which will further delay the return to in-person academic activities. There is more and more evidence every day from around the country that an increase in cases is practically inevitable with any increase in in-person contact. Second, even though the chances of kids dying are very low, they are not zero. Moreover, many of our students live with older caretakers who will be exposed to the illness and be at much greater risk of dying, being hospitalized (adding an enormous financial burden to the family), or being left permanently damaged by the illness. This is a

terrible situation that the federal, state, and local governments have, in my view, absolutely bungled, and our students and families are suffering greatly because of it. The sooner we shut as many things down as we can the sooner we can resume these sorts of activities.

Take care,
Chris

Christopher Kolb, Ph.D.
Vice-Chair and District 2 Representative
JCPS Board of Education
Follow on twitter: @cmkolb

On Tue, Aug 18, 2020 at 2:32 PM Lee Hinson-Hasty <lhasty@gmail.com> wrote:
Dear Chairperson Porter & Dr. Kolb,

Is deepening the mental health crisis an equal or larger risk to our JCPS students, families, and community than the Coronavirus?

Before you answer consider that according to the Center for Disease Control's latest published report "Intentional Self-Harm (suicide)" is the second leading cause of death for children 10-24 in the U.S.? https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/data/nvsr/nvsr68/nvsr68_06-508.pdf

Even more concerning, that rate has increased by 56% from 2007-2017 after decades of decline. <https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/data/databriefs/db352-h.pdf>

Those 15-19, "Assault (homicide)" is the third leading cause.

Why is this? Depression and mental health concerns are identified as the reason... as depression has increased in this age group by 63% over the same time frame. <https://www.nytimes.com/2020/01/06/opinion/suicide-young-people.html>

What can we/ you do to address this growing killer? Recently published research (2006) in the Journal on Adolescence affirmed other studies and the experiences of student-athletes, coaches, and their families, involvement in team sports improves mental and physical health. (See Attached Article and edited quote below.)

" Extracurricular activities, including sports, have been recognized as opportunities for youth to develop social skills, contribute to social capital, foster a sense of belonging to a valued community, and establish peer support networks (Eccles, Barber, Stone, & Hunt, 2003). Our findings suggest that benefits from team sports may partially accrue through the effects of positive experiences (in coaching, skill development, and peer support) in enhancing perceived social acceptance and reducing body dissatisfaction... sports teams for adolescents often draw members from wider social networks may provide improved opportunities for peer

acceptance compared with school-based cliques or classmates. This may also help marginalized or rejected youth (who can make a contribution to a team's performance) by connecting them with peers who do not already hold particular beliefs and expectations about their behaviors. Positive coaching can also encourage bonding among team members by emphasizing collaborative team efforts against opposing teams. Positive coaches may also contribute to youth mental health through their roles as nonparent mentors (Rhodes, 2002). ... Involvement may help to diminish body dissatisfaction by enhancing athletic skills, improving overall fitness, fostering healthy eating habits, or helping youth to appreciate their strengths and capabilities – despite appearance concerns. This, in turn, may serve as a healthy alternative to using weight control strategies (e.g., dieting or excessive exercise) that are associated with negative affect (McCabe et al., 2001). "

With Non-traditional Instruction (NTI) in place at least until mid-October in JCPS and possibly longer, it would be wise for JCPS to find ways to supplement the health of the whole person and community by considering safe plans for athletic teams to practice and compete as soon as possible.

Local hero Thomas Merton is famous for his epiphany at the corner of Muhammadi Ali Blvd(then Walnut St) and Fourth St. when in 1958 it became clear to him "I love all these people ... walking around shining like the sun." Many have recognized this as a central business district of the time and that is true. Others have noticed, it is also a major junction on the Underground Railroad. It is not surprising that much of Merton's work was as a writer and educator. Central to his thought was the "education of the whole person" a concept that extends far beyond the transfer of information and knowledge.

NTI may be able to inform minds.. but I, among many I suspect you will hear from, believe our students need whatever we can offer to shape their whole selves. If we ignore their bodies and their hearts, their emotional and mental health... it will not matter if they don't get the virus... we will have killed their spirit. **Students marginalized socio-economically & racially are especially at risk. Sports participation could be liberating for our children.**

Thank you for your serious consideration and prayers for your faithful discernment.

**Grateful,
Lee Hinson-Hasty**

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The Rev. Dr. Lee Hinson-Hasty
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"Don't ask what the world needs. Ask what makes you come alive, and go do it. Because what the world needs is people who have come alive." — Howard Thurman

#letthemplay

The governor's own kid has not stopped playing baseball this entire corona season. What makes him the authority to overrule the board of educators and parents. KHSAA did what's best for the kids. Quit bringing politics into your decisions for our kids. Let the parents decide if their child should play or not not the school board.

Tom Jones

(502)445-2157

Good morning,

Thank you for the opportunity to share my opinion on playing the 2020 JCPS Fall Sports season. Thank you also for the work that you have been doing and continue to do for all of the kids in the Jefferson County Public School system.

I have been a volleyball coach for about 20 years, the last four years at the high-school level. I also am the parent of former high school and collegiate athletes. I also have a daughter and sister-in-law who are nurses who fight the COVID battle every day. Lastly, I have people very close to me that are in the most at-risk categories. I have tried to value all of that while forming my opinion.

These kids should play this Fall season as recommended by the KHSAA.

- During this period of time where we have been allowed voluntary workouts, the coaches have been diligent to follow all regulations. More importantly, in my experience, these kids have been ECSTATIC for the opportunity to be together and play the sport they love. In this short time all have made it clear the willingness to do what it takes to keep each other safe so we can play. Their efforts should be rewarded with a season.
- I have lived in Louisville my entire life and my social network is large, especially in the volleyball community. I have yet to have ONE parent express interest in delaying or cancelling the season. EVERY SINGLE FAMILY I have seen or heard communication from believes playing is the right thing to do.
- Many of these high school aged kids NEED this season for scholarship opportunities. Cancelling or altering this season further could have a very direct effect on their ability to earn a needed college scholarship. Many of these kids also are motivated to achieve better grades because of the academic requirements to participate in their sport.
- If you take this away you are giving these kids MORE opportunities to spread this virus. Instead of having controlled environments where protections and restrictions are enforced, you are potentially giving them 20+ hours each week in uncontrolled environments. Do the math on how many athletes are in the JCPS system and the number of hours they are being monitored to follow regulations.
- Schools in IN have been playing for over a week (including schools within 5 miles of some JCPS locations). If understood correctly, as long as the Governor allows the KHSAA recommendation to stand, the Louisville private schools will be allowed to play. How incredibly unfair and discriminating for all the JCPS kids if it were to be deemed "unsafe" for them to play but safe for all of their peers.
- There are specific guidelines for shutting down these sports should COVID cases happen. You can always stop after starting. What you cannot get back is this time if you take it away from these deserving and hard-working athletes.

Our young people have lost so many opportunities and experienced so many disappointments already from the Coronavirus. This does not have to be another. The KHSAA has already shown a way to make having these seasons possible. Please listen to their voices, the voices of the athletes and their families and LET THEM PLAY.

Sincerely,
Maria Murphy

I have 2 sons that play Football for Male High school. Please do not start until it is safe! Thank you! Mark Paris

Wondering if this includes Volleyball? I believe you are risking the lives of your students, teachers, and other family members of the athletes. How does one play sports with no contact and face mask?
Respectfully, Sharon Pasche

I can not understand your decision to have sports in person, with contact, and not have school in person with social distancing and mask. If my child can't safely attend school ,how in the world are you going to guarantee her safety on a field? This makes no sense . Another questionable decision by the board of education.
Melissa Carpenter