



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**