



JEFFERSON COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION

Minutes of Special Meeting of December 15, 2020

Special Meeting of the Jefferson County Board of Education held
via Teleconference, on Tuesday, December 15, 2020, at 6 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.

Kevin Brown, General Counsel

Renee Murphy, Chief Communications and Community Relations Officer

Chris Perkins, Chief Operations Officer

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.”

Members of the public had the opportunity to voice opinions or express concerns by submitting remarks via email or mail.

SPECIAL MEETING

I. Call to Order

Chair Porter called the December 15, 2020, Special Meeting of the Board of Education to order at 6 p.m.

II. Acceptance of Update on District Response to the COVID-19 Pandemic

Dr. Pollio presented an update on the District’s response to the COVID-19 pandemic and addressed the following three areas:

- The recent decision by the Kentucky High School Athletic Association regarding the start of practices and games for Winter Interscholastic athletics, as well as the District response.
- Information about plans, being developed by the District in collaboration with local public health officials, for the vaccination of educators, as COVID-19 vaccines become available.
- New guidance for school districts from Governor Andy Beshear regarding parameters for the commencement of in-person learning, which is expected to be announced by the Governor on Monday, December 14, 2020.

Dr. Pollio stated that he hopes to resume in-person classes by middle or late February depending on the rollout of the new COVID-19 vaccine. He is working with the Louisville Metro Department of Public Health and Wellness on how to eventually roll out the COVID-19 vaccines to District staff. The District will focus first on bringing preschool through third-grade students back to classrooms, hopefully starting in mid-February. Each Board member had an opportunity to comment and ask clarifying questions.

Mr. Craig questioned how the District will evaluate winter sports, he recommended they look at each sport individually with the hope that some winter sports may be able to begin practices.

Mr. Marshall expressed concern with indoor sports after seeing a rise in cases during fall sports.

Mr. Brady requested the District look at the data from fall sports to compare the infection rates within different sports. He suggested the information will give them an idea of what would happen if they move forward with indoor winter sports.

Mrs. Duncan expressed concern in moving forward with winter sports. She discussed the infection rate in Indiana after they participated in playoffs. She also acknowledged mental health concerns for those who have been affected by the virus.

Dr. Shull asked if the vaccine will be mandatory and if there will be a cost to employees. Dr. Pollio stated that the vaccine will be given at no cost to employees and that at this time, it is not mandatory.

Mr. Craig suggested making the vaccine an opt-out instead of an opt-in. He asked which employees will have access to the vaccine first and he wanted to ensure that employees could continue to work virtually until vaccinated.

Mrs. Duncan wanted to ensure that substitute teachers would be included in the vaccinations. Dr. Pollio confirmed that they would be.

Mr. Brady questioned the timeline and process of rolling out COVID-19 vaccines to District staff. He wondered if mid-February is a realistic goal of beginning the process of bringing students back into buildings. He expressed concern and stated that we could be causing another layer of disruption on top of the COVID-19 disruption by rushing students back. He suggested the District consider having a date where in-person learning would be called off for the remainder of the school year to allow parents time to make preparations.

Dr. Kolb questioned the continued use of the decision-making matrix that has been used during the pandemic.

Chair Porter asked Dr. Pollio to clarify who will get the vaccines. Dr. Pollio stated that the goal is to get every employee vaccinated with school-based personnel first. The state-provided vaccines are not intended for

students, those vaccines will come later. Chair Porter requested the Board receive information regarding the number of employees who have registered to receive the Covid-19 vaccine.

Mrs. Duncan asked about guidance on school buses. Dr. Pollio clarified that transportation guidelines have not changed.

Mr. Brady pointed out the potential long-term effects caused by the virus and noted that the vaccine does not guarantee an end to the spread of the virus.

Mr. Craig stated that he does not want the District to have the default position of not returning to in-person learning. He emphasized the importance of thinking creatively and continually re-evaluating the situation. He acknowledged the value of in-person learning even during the last few weeks of school.

Chair Porter requested information be posted on the District website. She questioned communications and wanted to ensure all families have access to information and resources.

Order #2020-183 - Motion Passed: Superintendent Martin Pollio recommends the Board of Education receive an update regarding the District response to the COVID-19 pandemic. 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. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 7:29 p.m.

Order #2020-184 - Motion Passed: A motion to adjourn the December 15, 2020, meeting at 7:29 p.m. passed with a motion by Mr. Chris Brady 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**