



# **JEFFERSON COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION**

## **Minutes of Special Meeting of February 25, 2021**

**Special Meeting** of the Jefferson County Board of Education held via  
Video Teleconference on Thursday, February 25, 2021, at 6 p.m.

### **BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Chairwoman Diane Porter  
Mr. James Craig  
Mr. Joseph Marshall  
Dr. Corrie Shull

Vice-Chair Chris Kolb  
Mrs. Linda Duncan  
Ms. Sarah McIntosh

### **STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Superintendent Martin A. Pollio, Ed.D.  
Jimmy Adams, Chief Human Resources  
Kevin Brown, General Counsel  
Kim Chevalier, Chief Exceptional Child Education Officer  
Dr. Carmen Coleman, Chief Academic Officer  
Dr. Dena Dossett, Chief of Accountability, Research, and Systems Improvement  
Robert Moore, Chief of Schools  
Renee Murphy, Chief Communications and Community Relations Officer  
Chris Perkins, Chief Operations Officer  
Eva Stone, Health Coordinator

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**

The purpose of this meeting was for the Superintendent to present a plan to the Board for the return to in-person instruction. Board members had the opportunity to discuss, ask questions, and consider a motion to approve the recommended plan.

### **I. Call to Order**

Chair Porter called the February 25, 2021, Special Meeting of the Board of Education to order at 6 p.m.

### **II. Recommendation for Approval of Plan for the Return to In-Person Schooling**

Dr. Pollio gave a summary of the recommended plan to return to in-person instruction. Each Board member had an opportunity to comment and ask questions.

Dr. Shull asked questions regarding: adequate nursing staff for each school; scheduling problems for the second dose of the COVID-19 vaccine; proper sanitation in buildings with underpaid/understaffed custodians; the availability of thermometers for schools and families; transporting students with a shortage of bus drivers; supports for the mental and emotional health of teachers; Individual Education Programs; transporting symptomatic students; and the plan for following CDC Guidelines during emergency drills. He acknowledged that the pandemic has exposed the inequities that continue to persist in society and in JCPS. He concluded by stating the following, "I dare to believe that doing education in a COVID world will finally challenge this district to boldly and comprehensively address our issues with equity. My concern about the plan, as it has been presented, is that it does not prioritize the children who are most vulnerable - the children who have most consistently been failed by JCPS and other educational institutions. Those kids don't have families who have the option of putting them in private schools. Those students don't have the luxury of being sent to other educational institutions where they can receive wrap-around services. They are our responsibility and therefore, I would like to make sure that I put on the floor that as we take into consideration all of these other things that we need to pay acute attention to the most vulnerable students in this district. They are the Latinx community, which I have heard nothing about. They are the immigrant community, which we have said nothing about. They are the black kids who, 70 percent of them are still achieving below grade level, 23 percent of them live with grandparents who are aged 60 years old and above. We need to prioritize equity in this conversation about returning to schools."

Ms. McIntosh stated that she would like to make sure that the District is sending a consistent message and that building leaders communicate protocols of what can and cannot happen in the classroom. She stated, "I want to make sure moving forward, that we are sending consistent, maybe often, repeated messages to some of our leaders about what teachers can expect, how we're working through the logistics of making sure that not only their contract is upheld but that we're also doing everything we can to provide a safe environment for them and not overburden them." She concluded by acknowledging that there are many things that cannot be replicated on a virtual platform - that are best provided in-person for some of our most vulnerable students whether they are completely disengaged, consistently engaged but not fully accessing services that they were previously receiving, or that we have yet to be able to provide to them because we've not been able to see them. She asked about social-emotional rapid response systems to help returning students.

Mr. Marshall questioned resources and trainings for educators in order to give them the best teaching methods possible to move forward and meet the social-emotional needs of students. He asked about the plan for schools that cannot meet the minimum social distancing guidelines. He wondered what challenges would arise for the District if we were to have everyone back on a hybrid schedule. He asked when schools would get the final word on which teachers were given accommodations and which ones were not. He concluded by saying, "I am increasingly discouraged by the amount of information that doesn't seem to be coming from all

sources and there seems to be a breakdown in communication somewhere that we're hearing one thing from Dr. Pollio, your team - we're hearing another thing from administrators - we're hearing another thing from teachers. At this point, this decision is a life-and-death decision and it is time for honesty. It is time for us to just take the gloves off and do what is right and necessary for all of our kids, that's who we're in this for is our kids. I do not, in my time on this board, want to have to continue to play middleman and try to bring this side to that side - that's not what we're here for. We are here to make sure that JCPS moves forward and that we do what is best for our kids. In order to do that, it is going to take some honesty. Whether the vote tonight is no or yes, whatever it is, honesty is the only thing that's going to move us forward."

Mrs. Duncan asked for clarification on when middle and high school teachers would be required to return to the building. She asked when teachers would know which students they would have. She wanted to clarify the plan/process of wiping down classrooms during hall-changes. She asked about standardized testing, water bottles for students, and graduation plans.

Mr. Craig wanted to clarify that staff members would not be required to work inside of a building until 14 days after their second vaccine shot. He questioned custodial vacancies and asked for clarification on HB 208. He discussed concerns regarding elementary school density and the potential of offering a hybrid option for elementary students. He stated, "I'm not entirely clear that I see four (yes) votes on this board for coming back full time for all of our elementary school students. So, I will throw this out there and Dr. Pollio, if you'd like to comment, Dr. Coleman, Kevin Brown, anybody else who'd like to comment, generally on whether or not a hybrid option, AA BB, for elementary school students is feasible for us to implement by March 17<sup>th</sup> and whether that might meet some of the very legitimate concerns that Dr. Shull expressed earlier." He went on to ask, "If we did a hybrid option for elementary school could we also implement a full-time schedule for ECE students or would that be impossible?"

Dr. Kolb stated that he cannot support the proposed plan that seems to rely on state guidance when it suits us and ignore it when it does not. He focused his comments and questions on how the plan does not adhere to its own stated guiding principles. He discussed the possibility of having buses with as many as 44 kids, no bus monitor, no symptom screening, and no way to ensure kids wear their masks properly. He acknowledged the lack of custodians to adequately clean buildings in a COVID world and the level of stress on educators. He discussed the inequities in the plan and asked, "Why are we going against CDC and KDE guidance by considering a plan that will benefit whiter and wealthier families more than disadvantaged ones?" He stated that the District has until at least March 29<sup>th</sup> to make the plan better, he suggested the Board direct Dr. Pollio to revise the plan so that it embodies its own guiding principles and conforms to HB 208.

Chair Porter discussed principal involvement in the plan and asked, "Have we been able to listen to the voice of all of our principals?" She wanted clarification regarding what would be done with the results of state testing. She expressed concern as she discussed academics and acknowledged that there are students that are very far behind specifically in her district. She is interested in developing a plan that deals with multiple things beyond the return to in-person learning such as summer school and community involvement. She wants to know how the District will reach out to the students that are behind and include more community voice for the children who are struggling the most. She asked if the District has enough custodians, bus drivers, medical personnel, and nutritional service workers hired as of now. She discussed sanitation and asked about overnight disinfecting, students eating in the classroom, and trifold sneeze guards. She asked how the District would manage the start date for those who have not had their second shot due to rescheduling; she suggested surveying principals. She discussed ventilation and requested follow-up for a school in her district that has issues.

Motion made by Ms. Sarah McIntosh, seconded by Mrs. Linda Duncan to approve the plan presented for the return to in-person schooling. This plan includes the following:

- An elementary K-2 in-person start date of March 17 with five days a week of instruction.
- An elementary 3-5 in-person start date of March 18 with five days a week of instruction.
- An early childhood in-person start date of March 22 with five days a week of instruction.
- A middle/high school in-person start date of April 5 comprised of a hybrid model with two in-person days and three remote learning days each week for students.
- The continuation of a virtual option for all students PreK through Grade 12
- Elementary and early childhood staff workdays on March 15 and March 16 with asynchronous learning for students.
- Middle and high school staff workdays on March 25 and March 26 with asynchronous learning for students.
- Acceptance of the addendum to the Student Support and Behavior Intervention Handbook regarding COVID-19 Behavior Guidance.

Each Board member had a chance to speak in favor or against the motion.

Dr. Shull highlighted some letters that the entire Board had received and went on to say, “Any plan about reopening during a time where so many people have been adversely affected and impacted by COVID must prioritize equity, it must prioritize the students who have been most severely impacted by learning disadvantages that have been exacerbated by COVID. Again, I say these are Black students, these are immigrant students, these are Latinx students, and these are ECE students. If they are not central to the plan for reopening, we are missing the mark.

Ms. McIntosh said that she does not disagree with Dr. Shull’s remarks and stated that she has a lot of experience in the classroom and her heart is with students. She said, “I know from experience and from talking to those kids, to parents, and service providers, that the students who are in most need of services right now are the ones who are not receiving them.” She concluded by saying, “All of the reasons that Dr. Shull laid out for why our students need us, are the reasons that we need them in the buildings so that we can provide those services to them that they’re most in need of.”

Mr. Marshall briefly discussed the weight of the situation, and the decision-making process to survive this pandemic and to move education forward. He stated, “I think that tonight, whatever the vote is, has to be based on what is best for JCPS moving forward - and as a community, does this plan move us all forward? Does it hold some back while pushing more forward? We have to ask those questions and once again meet them with the honest expectation that our students, our families, our staff, and our educators deserve.”

Mrs. Duncan expressed optimism as she discussed the difficult journey in deciding whether or not to bring kids back together. She said, “From the beginning, I said for me, this is a medical kind of issue whether we should go back or not and I wanted to hear the medical community’s opinion.” She continued by saying, “I drew a great deal of comfort from their (medical professionals) assurances that this can be done in a safe way.” She noted the falling community infection rate and concluded by briefly discussing HB 208 saying, “Finally, we have to face the reality that we have a legislature that’s getting ready to pass a law that will require us to open.”

Mr. Craig said that he agreed with his colleague's concerns and echoed Mrs. Duncan's comments by stating, "The public health officials that have come before us are in complete unison that it would be better for our students to return to in-person learning than not. The doctors who appeared on Tuesday evening told us that we could do this safely." He continued by saying, "I want to acknowledge the realities of the world though that we find ourselves in this evening. There is great concern about the elementary full-capacity proposal and the size of these elementary classrooms. And, it's not clear to me that the motion that's on the floor already has enough support of this board and so with that in mind I intend to make a motion to amend what is on the floor."

Motion by Mr. James Craig, seconded by Mr. Joseph Marshall to amend the main motion on the floor - The substance of the amendment was that JCPS would offer a hybrid elementary option AA, BB schedule much like the hybrid options for middle and high school students, with the lone exception, that ECE elementary students would be offered full-time services if they are in the elementary K through 5 grades.

Each Board member had an opportunity to debate the amendment to the main motion.

Dr. Shull stated, "For this motion, I'm not sure how it addresses any of the equity issues that we have highlighted during this conversation. I am also concerned about the position this would put some of our teachers, principals, and other staff people in who work in middle schools and high schools and how that would impact their ability to serve in their in their designations."

Mrs. Duncan stated, "I was surprised about the ECE part because I don't know how that will affect our regular schedule." She asked, "I'm just not quite sure how the teachers would manage that. That would be my only question, is that manageable?"

Mr. Marshall stated that he believed that the amendment was a step in the right direction to fix some issues; however, he acknowledged it would not address many of the concerns that had been discussed tonight.

Dr. Kolb agreed with Mr. Marshall, that the amendment was a step in the right direction but he still intends to vote against the overall motion.

Chair Porter stated that she supports the amendment and understands the rationale but would like actual data regarding how this would affect teachers who have younger students.

**Motion Passed:** A motion that the Board of Education AMEND the recommended motion on the floor and the substance of the amendment is that JCPS will offer a hybrid elementary option AA, BB schedule much like we are offering hybrid options to middle and high school students, with the lone exception, that for our ECE elementary students we would offer them full-time services if they are in the elementary K through 5 grades - JCPS's back to in-person school plan will include the following provisions: an elementary K through 2 in-person start date of March 17th comprised of a hybrid model with two in-person days and three remote learning days each week for students; an elementary 3 through 5 an in-person start date of March 18th comprised of a hybrid model with two in-person days and three remote learning days each week for students; an elementary K through 5 in-person start date of March 18th for all of our ECE students as discussed; and an early childhood in-person start date of March 22nd comprised of a hybrid model with two in-person days and three remote learning days each week for students; a Middle and High School in-person start date of April 5th comprised of a hybrid model with two in-person days and three remote learning days each week for students; the continuation of a virtual option for all students pre-k through grade 12; Elementary and early childhood staff workdays on March 15th and March 16th with asynchronous learning for students; middle and high school staff workdays on March 25 and March 26th with asynchronous learning for students; and the acceptance of

the addendum to the student support and behavior intervention handbook regarding covid-19 behavior and guidance passed with a motion by Mr. James Craig and a second by Mr. Joseph Marshall.

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

Dr. Kolb stated, “We definitely have to comply with HB 208, but I would like to remind my colleagues that the nation's leading health agency and experts on infectious disease have unequivocally said it is not safe to resume in-person instruction in Louisville Kentucky at this moment.” He continued by reading an email from a teacher who discussed the difficulties of returning to in-person learning and advised that it is not worth the risk to go back to school when we are amid a deadly pandemic. He then explained, “Here is why I’m voting against the amended motion and what I need to see and what I’m hoping this board directs Dr. Pollio to provide us. A plan that has more intentional focus on equity as Dr. Shull said. This amended motion still does not address the equity issues and so the plan still increases inequity in the District. Use KDE suggestions to ensure six feet is always possible. Do not separate kids from their teachers and conform to HB 208.”

Chair Porter acknowledged some concerns that she had received from families and briefly discussed the lack of healthcare opportunities and vaccination opportunities in her district. She said that she visited two schools and they were not ready to open yet. She expressed concern with the early start date of the elementary hybrid plan. She continued and said, “I would like for Dr. Pollio to, based on everything that has been said tonight, where we still have some question marks about where we are with things - that we could tighten up this proposal and bring it back with everything - with the blanks filled in. I think that would be helpful.” She concluded by saying, “I currently have struggling schools and to not acknowledge that, yes - we do need to go back to school, yes - we will be further behind than we were in March in 2020. So I am voting because I was elected to speak for and I will always, as long as I have breath in my body and I’m elected to serve as a Board member, I am speaking on behalf of the constituents.”

**Order #2021-38 - Motion Passed:** A motion to approve the amended motion as follows: JCPS will offer a hybrid elementary option AA, BB schedule much like we are offering hybrid options to middle and high school students, with the lone exception that for our ECE elementary students we would offer them full-time services if they are in the elementary K through 5 grades - JCPS’s back to in-person school plan will include the following provisions: an elementary K through 2 in-person start date of March 17th comprised of a hybrid model with two in-person days and three remote learning days each week for students; an elementary 3 through 5 an in-person start date of March 18th comprised of a hybrid model with two in-person days and three remote learning days each week for students; an elementary K through 5 in-person start date of March 18th for all of our ECE students as discussed; and an early childhood in-person start date of March 22nd comprised of a hybrid model with two in-person days and three remote learning days each week for students; a Middle and High School in-person start date of April 5th comprised of a hybrid model with two in-person days and three remote learning days each week for students; the continuation of a virtual option for all students pre-k through grade 12; Elementary and early childhood staff workdays on March 15th and March 16th with asynchronous learning for students; middle and high school staff workdays on March 25 and March 26th with asynchronous learning for students; and the acceptance of the addendum to the student support and behavior intervention handbook regarding covid-19 behavior and guidance passed with a motion by Ms. Sarah McIntosh and a second by Mrs. Linda Duncan.

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

Dr. Kolb suggested the Board give direction to Dr. Pollio and his team to put together a plan for the Board to review that more intentionally promotes equity.

**2021-39 - Motion Passed:** A motion that this board instructs Dr. Pollio and his team to develop a comprehensive plan to promote equity in the District reopening plans passed with a motion by Dr. Christopher Kolb and a second by Mr. Joseph Marshall.

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

### III. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 9:14 p.m.

**Order #2021-40 - Motion Passed:** A motion to adjourn the special meeting of February 25, 2021, at 9:14 p.m. passed with a motion by Dr. Christopher Kolb and a second by Dr. Corrie Shull.

Mr. James Craig	Yes
Mrs. Linda Duncan	Yes
Dr. Christopher Kolb	Yes
Mr. Joseph Marshall	Yes
Ms. Sarah McIntosh	Yes
Ms. Diane Porter	Yes
Dr. 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**



## **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](mailto: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.



# JEFFERSON COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION

Special Meeting of February 25, 2021

## PUBLIC COMMENTS

To Whom It May Concern,

During a recent board meeting, it was noted that student's temperatures would be taken at the school rather than as they loaded the bus. It was further said that parents and bus aides would monitor for signs of a student being ill. Any children that appeared ill would sit in the front of the bus. However, signs of illness are not always visible. Counties that are already back in person take student temperatures prior to buses being loaded. Not checking temperatures prior will increase quarantine numbers, chance of exposure, and students stuck at school without a way of transportation home. Has this statement since changed? Will temperatures be checked as the buses are loaded?

Thank you for your response.

Brittany Almaliki

[brittany.almaliki@gmail.com](mailto:brittany.almaliki@gmail.com)

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Dear Board Members,

I am writing to express my support for Dr. Pollio's plan to reopen schools in March/April.

I have two children in JCPS schools and support their being back in person; the health experts and physicians at the meeting earlier this week convinced me it can be done safely.

Because our school staff/teachers have been vaccinated, they will be more protected than what has been found in prior research on schools.

And because families can choose whether or to not go back in person, this plan also gives students and parents the most choice.

I hope you will consider the high percentage of families who want to send their children back to in-person classes, as well as the data on negative academic and mental health outcomes during on-line learning.

Thank you for listening and for your service.

Karen Christopher

[kchristo28@gmail.com](mailto:kchristo28@gmail.com)

Hello,

It was prudent to close schools last spring at the beginning of the pandemic. To keep them closed now is denying all available science and is only widening the achievement gap. This is completely contradictory to the message of racial equity that JCPS claims to care so much about. I have personal experience with virtual teaching. I know that many students are falling through the cracks and learning nothing. School is more than an education. The social development of children is equally important.

I am a former teacher in JCPS. My chief concern with the school district right now is that the school closures are not a problem having to do with the coronavirus, but instead they are a symptom of JCPS's radicalization. I was barely able to teach in JCPS for a full year before I was quite literally chased out of the job.

I know for a FACT that many of the teachers I worked with had no problem attending mass gatherings over the summer and fall. The principal at my former school was even arrested at one. A week before the 2020 school year began, I was attending virtual staff meetings where I was being told that America is "committing genocide" against black citizens. Fellow teachers were filling the chatrooms with comments about how Mayor Lori Lightfoot was their favorite politician. I felt confused and underprepared. Educating children seemed to be last on the list of priorities. This is a toxic environment. I quit the very next day.

There is simply no excuse to keep schools closed with all of the evidence we have gathered about COVID. If the issue is insufficient staff numbers, then JCPS needs to be open and honest about that. The private schools are open and have been handling the virus well. Public schools can do it too. Every day the schools remain closed, inequity grows. This is tragic; it is causing permanent harm to most of the underprivileged, black, brown, and immigrant students in Louisville.

Thank you for taking the time to read, I hope you take it to heart

Thomas Birchfield

[thomas.j.birchfield@gmail.com](mailto:thomas.j.birchfield@gmail.com)

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I am writing as a retired JCPS educator and as a grandmother who has been a tutor, nannie and housekeeper 2 or 3 days a week to help my daughter-in-law who is a JCPS elementary teacher and my two grandsons. The 6th grader receives 5 to 6 hours a day of direct instruction 4 days a week and is doing very well. The 9th grader receives **1hour a week per subject of direct instruction**: he is struggling educationally, emotionally and socially. I am very concerned about what the past year has done to a whole generation of young people who are being deprived of an education and the opportunity to grow and develop into mature contributing members of society.

Teachers were given early COVID vaccinations on the premise that they and students would be returning to the classrooms. Even Gov. Beshear recognizes the need to get our students back to school.

It is time to make the right decision **for students** and re-open schools.

Sally Worthington

[smw8346@gmail.com](mailto:smw8346@gmail.com)

Dear Members of the Board,

I am sending a few final points for your consideration before you vote this evening.

As a medical professional, I was extremely impressed by the presentations and responses to questions provided at this week's board meeting by Dr. Sarah Moyer, chief health strategist, Louisville Metro Dept. of Public Health and Wellness; Dr. Mark Burns assistant professor of medicine, infectious diseases, University of Louisville, Dr. Jason Smith, chief medical officer for University of Louisville Health, and Dr. Monalisa Tailor, Internal Medicine, Norton Healthcare.

Each one of these doctors has sworn a professional oath to do no harm. They all presented themselves as compassionate, articulate, invested members of the community, and all of them have clearly said that the best option for our community is to open schools.

Dr. Kolb shared information from the CDC guidelines and evidence from a Lancet study which appeared to be intended to scare fellow boardmembers and the public to push for a "no" vote to re-opening.

Dr. Kolb's Lancet article was from October of last year, a lifetime ago in terms of Covid-19 science. Dr. Kolb's outsized ego appears to have gotten in the way of him hearing what the doctors were saying, which is, from every angle, health safety, community safety and mental health, and learning, schools must open.

The CDC guidelines that Dr. Kolb is trumpeting, are just that, *recommendations* to be used IN CONSULTATION with state and local health professionals. The guidelines say that every district should work with the community health leaders and school officials to decide what is best for our children.

Dr. Kolb is fixated on the CDC recommendation for 6 foot social-distancing, but there is plenty of evidence that shows that this measure is an arbitrary safety recommendation designed more to keep more infection-prone adults from gathering and as the doctors confirmed, Tuesday evening, **absolutely not necessary to open schools safely**. Furthermore, that recommendation does not factor in the vaccinations teachers and staff have received as reliable protection against severe infections.

I find Dr. Kolb's unwillingness to trust our local and national medical experts absolutely bewildering, especially in the face of a clear desire by a majority of JCPS parents wishing for their children to return to in-person instruction with reasonable mitigating factors.

He and Mr. Shull are correct to point out that vulnerable students should be prioritized. However, it has been clear for many months that certain students and families are better able to handle virtual education than others. Those suggesting now that implementing a system to identify the students who should be sent back first based on need, appear to be doing so with the sole reason of throwing an obstacle in the way of reopening. The time to implement such a ranking system is long past or, should be implemented for prioritizing resources over the summer and next fall.

If there were not such an overwhelming burden of evidence that it is safe to open schools, those with kids, and those who have sworn to do all in their power to heal, would not be insisting on opening schools.

I would like my children to have as role models adults who believe in facts and those who listen carefully to others who have expertise they do not share.

Please vote to open our schools.

Sincerely,

Jenny

Jenny Thrasher, MS CCC-SLP  
Speech Language Pathologist  
[jthrasher@kidscenterky.org](mailto:jthrasher@kidscenterky.org)

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I have a question regarding the staff who will return in March 15th who are not yet fully vaccinated. Specifically, those who had to reschedule their initial vaccine dose and who now will not be fully vaccinated prior to return in March 15th. What accommodations are being made for these employees?

Current research suggests a person is “fully vaccinated” two weeks after their second dose. Initially, the district stated employees would not return to work prior to being fully vaccinated if they chose to get the vaccine. This does not seem to be the case with the current proposed re-opening plan.

There are numerous employees who are expected to return to work on March 15th who will not be fully vaccinated and this is a major concern. Please advise.

Ashley McKinney, M.S., OTR/L  
Occupational Therapist  
Jefferson County Public Schools

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