



JEFFERSON COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION

Minutes of Special Meeting of May 09, 2023

Special Meeting of the Jefferson County Board of Education held at VanHoose Education Center, 3332 Newburg Road, Louisville, Kentucky, on Tuesday, May 09, 2023.

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:

Chairwoman Diane Porter

Vice-Chair Corrie Shull

Mr. James Craig

Mrs. Linda Duncan

Dr. Chris Kolb

Mr. Joseph Marshall

Ms. Sarah McIntosh

Board members Marshall and McIntosh attended the meeting via Zoom.

STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT:

Superintendent Martin A. Pollio, Ed.D.

Tom Aberli, Executive Administrator Budget

Kevin Brown, General Counsel

Dr. Katy Deferrari, Chief of Staff

Cordelia Hardin, Chief Financial Officer

SPECIAL MEETING

This meeting was conducted via videoconference pursuant to KRS 61.823 and KRS 61.826. The primary location for this meeting and where all members could be seen and heard by the public was the VanHoose Education Center. Members of the Board were permitted to attend in-person or via video-teleconference pursuant to KRS 61.826. Members of the public were permitted to attend in person or watch the live-stream of the meeting.

I. Call to Order

Chair Porter called the May 09, 2023, Special Meeting of the Board of Education to order at 5:09 p.m.

II. Recommendation for Approval of Meeting Agenda

Order #2023-66 - Motion Passed: Superintendent Martin Pollio recommends the Board of Education approve the agenda for May 9, 2023. The recommendation passed with a motion by Mrs. Linda Duncan and a second by Mr. James Craig.

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. Recommendation for Approval of Minutes of Previous Meeting

Order #2023-67 - Motion Passed: Superintendent Martin Pollio recommends the Board of Education approve the minutes of the April 25, 2023, business meeting. The recommendation passed with a motion by Dr. Christopher Kolb and a second by Mr. James Craig.

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

IV. Public Comment on Weapon Detection Systems (Maximum 1 Hour)

The following public speakers expressed opposition to advancing the weapon detection systems proposal.

- Felicia Nu'man, Louisville Urban League
- Sonja Wilde-Devief, JCPS Teacher
- Greg Tichenor, JCPS Teacher
- Chris Harmer, The Alliance to Reclaim Our Schools
- Lindsay Sheldon
- Z Haukeness
- Daniel Cobble, The Bishop's Table
- Lyndon Pryor, Louisville Urban League

Louisville Deputy Mayor David James also addressed the Board and urged them to approve the proposed safety measures.

Chair Porter made the following request, “Based on some of the information that has been shared with us tonight, we will be asking Dr. Pollio to issue some kind of statement that gives more information, whatever the vote is tonight, about some of the things that were said. There was some misinformation that perhaps we have not made clear to the community about the process. We're talking about a system, we're not talking about a company, that's one thing that I have heard this evening. But, there are some things that need to be answered so that people have the correct information. So, Dr. Pollio, I will ask you and our Chief of Staff Dr. Katie to put out something that has correct information because there's some incorrect information out there. And, if that's not something you want to do then let the Board know that. But, I think we need to be honest with the information that we're sharing with the community.”

V. Action Items

A. Recommendation for Approval to Proceed with a Model Procurement Process for a Weapon Detection System to be Implemented in Middle and High Schools in the 2023-24 School Year

Dr. Pollio introduced this item and Dr. Katy Deferrari, chief of staff, delivered the presentation with a brief review of information that was discussed at the April 25 meeting. Each Board member had an opportunity to comment and ask questions.

Chair Porter asked, "When we talked about bringing something in for safety for our students, there was also a request that we establish a community task force to talk about school safety at that same meeting. And as I have heard tonight, there seems to be some concern that we're working in a closed circle without reaching out to our community. So, have we put in place a community task force to work with JCPS about school safety or has that not been established at this time?"

Dr. Shull said, "I do think that we can remove guns from our buildings without criminalizing students. I will say again that when a kid makes a bad decision that does not mean that that child should go to jail. Neither does it mean that that child should necessarily be placed in an alternative school. So, maybe we need to address some of our policies." He suggested collaborating with lawmakers to help the District meet the needs of young people who fundamentally do not feel safe in the community. He then said, "I want to reiterate that a part of the motion that I made in February did include a community task force. I would ask that we move forward with that so that we can operate in good faith. I am more than willing to volunteer myself to help organize that." He clarified that the District had not selected a company yet. He concluded by asking for more information regarding armed officers.

Mrs. Duncan wanted to clarify that the officer will not remain in the school building all day. She then made the following statement, "...It's against federal law to bring a firearm onto school grounds and that's what we're dealing with. It's not a policy decision here at this level, it's a federal law. And I can't - in my mind, there is no excuse for bringing a firearm on school property. We've had 26 guns this year. If we don't put something in place to help us screen these out, it will just increase. Doing nothing, to me, is not an option."

Dr. Kolb asked if the April 25 Board presentation included all information and current best practices around weapons detection technology. He expressed concern and pointed out the recent research from the media and said, "It's tough to come away with anything other than extreme skepticism, to put it very lightly, after reading those articles - that the technology will do absolutely nothing to improve school safety."

Chair Porter made the following statement, "The decision we make tonight is not the end-all-be-all. As we move forward, our students need help in the schools; our staff wants to feel safe in the schools. But during this time, in this nation, not just in Louisville, Kentucky - gun violence is all over the place. And as a person, a human, I do not want to be responsible for gun violence anywhere in Louisville or any place else. So the decision that we will make tonight is not the end of the conversation."

Order #2023-68 - Motion Passed: Superintendent Martin Pollio recommends the Board of Education approve the District proceeding with a model procurement process to identify a vendor for implementation of a weapon detection system in middle and high schools in the 2023-24 school year. The recommendation passed with a motion by Mr. James Craig and a second by Mrs. Linda Duncan.

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

VI. Information Items

A. Discussion of Board Self-Evaluation Goals for 2023 Second Quarter

Board members participated in a facilitated discussion regarding the Board’s second quarter self-evaluation, led by AJ Crabill and Leslie Grant from the Council of the Great City Schools.

Chair Porter made the following announcement, “The Jefferson County Public School District is currently working with the Council of Great City Schools on governance. How can we, as a district and as a board, work better, more methodically, and more accurately for governance for our school district? We have had an opportunity to work with the Council of great City Schools earlier to talk about this and now the Board is engaged in a process that will take a number of months for us to work to improve.”

Chair Porter advised that an update on this work would be on every meeting agenda going forward, even if it is just to say that there is nothing new to report.

B. Tentative Budget for Fiscal Year 2023-2024

Dr. Pollio introduced this item. Cordelia Hardin, chief financial officer, and Tom Aberli, executive administrator budget; presented the rationale. Each Board member had an opportunity to ask questions.

Dr. Kolb questioned the estimated tax revenue and the process/timeline to levy a general tax rate exceeding a four percent increase, which would be subject to a recall vote. He then asked how much notice is required before holding a tax rate hearing.

Mr. Craig wanted clarification on the rainy day fund. He questioned long-term sustainability once Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief Funds (ESSER) are no longer available.

Chair Porter questioned the ESSER funds and wanted to ensure that the additional Elev8 Learning Centers in the Facilities Plan would be opened. She asked, “How do we determine, based on everything that's in the budget, how we're moving the money to different places - how do we determine not only the accountability but the success of the way we're spending our dollars?”

Mrs. Duncan expressed the desire to expand the Elev8 Learning Centers into more areas of the District.

Order #2023-69 - Motion Passed: Superintendent Martin Pollio recommends the Board of Education receive the attached Tentative Budget for discussion. The recommendation passed with a motion by Mr. James Craig and a second by Dr. Christopher Kolb.

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

VII. Consent Calendar

- A.** Recommendation for Approval of Professional Services Contracts of \$20,000 or More
- B.** Recommendation for Approval of Memorandum of Agreement with the University of Louisville
- C.** Recommendation for Approval of Confidential Data Privacy Agreement with Imagine Learning Digital Support Platforms

Order #2023-70 - Motion Passed: Superintendent Martin Pollio recommends the Board of Education approve the consent Calendar for May 9, 2023. The recommendation passed with a motion by Mrs. Linda Duncan and a second by Mr. James Craig.

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

VIII. Adjournment

The special meeting adjourned at 7:19 p.m.

Order #2023-71 - Motion Passed: A motion to adjourn the May 9, 2023, special meeting of the Jefferson County Board of Education at 7:19 p.m. passed with a motion by Mrs. Linda Duncan 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

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**