



JEFFERSON COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION
Minutes of Regular Organizational Business Meeting of January 20, 2026

Regular Organizational Business Meeting of the Jefferson County Board of Education held at VanHoose Education Center, 3332 Newburg Road, Louisville, Kentucky, on Tuesday, January 20, 2026.

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:

Chairman Corrie Shull
Vice-Chairman James Craig
Mr. Trevin Bass
Mrs. Linda Duncan
Mr. Taylor Everett
Ms. Tricia Lister
Ms. Gail Logan Strange

STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT:

Superintendent Brian Yearwood, Ed.D.
Kevin Brown, General Counsel
Carolyn Callahan, Chief of Communications and Community Relations
Dr. Rob Fulk, Chief Operations Officer
Edward D. Muns, Chief Financial Officer

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.

SPECIAL MEETING

I. Call to Order

Chair Shull called the January 20, 2026, Special Meeting to order at 5:33 p.m. and made the following announcement.

“The Board will now conduct a closed session to have discussions regarding pending litigation pursuant to KRS 61.810(1)(c). Public discussion of this matter and identification of the specific matter would disclose litigation strategy and have an adverse impact on the legal and financial interests of the District. Is there a motion to enter closed session?”

II. Enter Closed Executive Session for Discussions Regarding Pending Litigation Pursuant to KRS 61.810(1)(c)

Order #2026-1 - Motion Passed: A motion that the Board conduct a closed session to have discussions regarding pending litigation pursuant to KRS 61.810(1)(c) passed with a motion by Mr. James Craig and a second by Mr. Taylor Everett.

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| Mr. Trevin Bass | Absent |
| Mr. James Craig | Yes |
| Mrs. Linda Duncan | Yes |
| Mr. Taylor Everett | Yes |
| Ms. Tricia Lister | Yes |
| Ms. Gail Logan Strange | Yes |
| Dr. Corrie Shull | Yes |

III. Adjourn from Executive Session

Order #2026-2 - Motion Passed: A motion that the Board of Education adjourn from Executive Session and return to Open Session passed with a motion by Mr. Taylor Everett and a second by Mrs. Linda Duncan.

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| Mr. Trevin Bass | Yes |
| Mr. James Craig | Yes |
| Mrs. Linda Duncan | Yes |
| Mr. Taylor Everett | Yes |
| Ms. Tricia Lister | Yes |
| Ms. Gail Logan Strange | Yes |
| Dr. Corrie Shull | Yes |

The Board returned to open session at 6:00 p.m. and Chair Shull made the following announcement.

“The Board of Education met in Executive Session to have discussions regarding pending litigation pursuant to KRS 61.810(1)(c). Public discussion of this matter and identification of the specific matter would disclose litigation strategy and have an adverse impact on the legal and financial interests of the District.”

IV. Possible Consideration of a Motion on Pending Litigation

Order #2026-3 - Motion Passed: A motion to authorize Board counsel to proceed with the recommended legal resolution strategy outlined by counsel for the pending matters identified in closed session and pursuant to counsel-recommended terms discussed in closed session passed with a motion by Ms. Tricia Lister and a second by Mr. James Craig.

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| Mr. Trevin Bass | Yes |
| Mr. James Craig | Yes |
| Mrs. Linda Duncan | Yes |
| Mr. Taylor Everett | Yes |
| Ms. Tricia Lister | Yes |
| Ms. Gail Logan Strange | Yes |
| Dr. Corrie Shull | Yes |

V. Adjournment

The Special Meeting adjourned at 6:01 p.m.

Order #2026-4 - Motion Passed: A motion to adjourn the Special Meeting at 6:01 p.m. passed with a motion by Mr. James Craig and a second by Mrs. Linda Duncan.

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| Mr. Trevin Bass | Yes |
| Mr. James Craig | Yes |
| Mrs. Linda Duncan | Yes |
| Mr. Taylor Everett | Yes |
| Ms. Tricia Lister | Yes |
| Ms. Gail Logan Strange | Yes |
| Dr. Corrie Shull | Yes |

REGULAR MEETING

Chair Shull called the January 20, 2026, Regular Organizational Business Meeting of the Board of Education to order at 6:01 p.m.

I. Moment of Silence

II. The Pledge of Allegiance

A. Vision Statement

Mr. Craig read the District Vision Statement.

III. Organization of the Board: Election of Chairperson

Chair Shull made the following announcement.

“This organizational meeting of the Board of Education of Jefferson County is convened in accordance with KRS 160.160, which requires boards of education to elect a chairperson and a vice-chairperson for terms fixed by the Board.

Board Policy 01.41 requires that this be done annually at the first regular Board meeting held in January. Therefore, the officers so elected shall serve a one-year term or until their successors are elected and duly qualified.”

Dr. Corrie Shull was nominated by Mr. Craig for the position of Chairperson. With no other nominations forthcoming, Dr. Shull was unanimously elected.

Order #2026-5 - Motion Passed: A motion for Dr. Corrie Shull to be elected as Chairperson to serve a one-year term passed with a motion by Mr. James Craig and a second by Ms. Gail Logan Strange.

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| Mr. Trevin Bass | Yes |
| Mr. James Craig | Yes |
| Mrs. Linda Duncan | Yes |
| Mr. Taylor Everett | Yes |
| Ms. Tricia Lister | Yes |
| Ms. Gail Logan Strange | Yes |
| Dr. Corrie Shull | Yes |

IV. Organization of the Board: Election of Vice-Chairperson

Mr. James Craig was nominated by Chair Shull for the position of Vice-Chairperson. With no other nominations forthcoming, Mr. Craig was unanimously elected.

Order #2026-6 - Motion Passed: A motion for Mr. James Craig to be elected as Vice- Chairperson to serve a one-year term passed with a motion by Dr. Corrie Shull and a second by Mr. Trevin Bass.

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| Mr. Trevin Bass | Yes |
| Mr. James Craig | Yes |
| Mrs. Linda Duncan | Yes |
| Mr. Taylor Everett | Yes |
| Ms. Tricia Lister | Yes |
| Ms. Gail Logan Strange | Yes |
| Dr. Corrie Shull | Yes |

V. Recognitions and Resolutions

A. Recognition of Newcomer Academy Teacher Hui Couch on Winning the November 2025 Honored National Teaching Award

B. Recognition of Samantha Howard and Brittany Mason for Winning Awards for Their Contributions to the Field of Applied Behavior Analysis

C. Recognition of Eight JCPS Middle, High, and State Agency Schools for Earning Positive Behavior Interventions and Supports (PBIS) Recognition from the Kentucky Department of Education

D. Recognition of Academy @ Shawnee Students and Staff Recognized at the Good Business Summit

E. Recognition of Central High Magnet Career Academy's Flag Football Team for Competing in the State Semi-Finals

F. Recognition of Atherton High School's Football Team for its First Regional Championship

G. Recognition of the Jefferson County Board of Education in Observance of National School Board Recognition Month

H. Recognition of the Men of Quality Mentoring Program

Order #2026-7 - Motion Passed: Superintendent Brian Yearwood recommends the Board of Education receive the January 20, 2026, Recognitions. The recommendations passed with a motion by Mr. James Craig and a second by Ms. Tricia Lister.

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| Mr. Trevin Bass | Yes |
| Mr. James Craig | Yes |
| Mrs. Linda Duncan | Yes |
| Mr. Taylor Everett | Yes |
| Ms. Tricia Lister | Yes |
| Ms. Gail Logan Strange | Yes |
| Dr. Corrie Shull | Yes |

VI. Recommendation for Approval of Meeting Agenda

Order #2026-8 - Motion Passed: Superintendent Brian Yearwood recommends the Board of Education approve the January 20, 2026, agenda. The recommendation passed with a motion by Ms. Tricia Lister and a second by Mr. Taylor Everett.

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| Mr. Trevin Bass | Yes |
| Mr. James Craig | Yes |
| Mrs. Linda Duncan | Yes |
| Mr. Taylor Everett | Yes |
| Ms. Tricia Lister | Yes |
| Ms. Gail Logan Strange | Yes |
| Dr. Corrie Shull | Yes |

VII. Recommendation for Approval of Minutes of Previous Meeting

Ms. Logan Strange requested a review of her votes recorded as ABSTAIN during the December 9, 2025, Business Meeting.

Order #2026-9 - Motion Passed: A motion to approve the Minutes of the December 9, 2025, Business Meeting, pending review of votes by Ms. Logan Strange, passed with a motion by Mr. Taylor Everett and a second by Ms. Tricia Lister.

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| Mr. Trevin Bass | Yes |
| Mr. James Craig | Yes |
| Mrs. Linda Duncan | Yes |
| Mr. Taylor Everett | Yes |
| Ms. Tricia Lister | Yes |
| Ms. Gail Logan Strange | Yes |
| Dr. Corrie Shull | Yes |

VIII. Superintendent's Report

Superintendent Dr. Yearwood opened his report by recognizing January as National School Board Appreciation Month, thanking the Board members for their courage and commitment to serving the JCPS community under intense scrutiny. He then reflected on the life and legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., specifically invoking Dr. King's philosophy regarding the "fierce urgency of now." Dr. Yearwood applied this concept to the District's current circumstances, noting that the leadership is facing a season of difficult decisions that require discipline, moral clarity, and honesty. He stressed that this sense of urgency is not reckless, but constitutes purposeful action necessary to shape the future stability of the District. In closing, Dr. Yearwood asked the Board to remain anchored in their primary goals of serving students and stewarding public trust to ensure the District moves forward with strength and purpose.

IX. Persons Requesting to Address the Board on Action Items or Consent Calendar Items to be Voted Upon Separately at Board Member Request

Following the Superintendent's Report, Mr. Craig stated that he and the Chair met with Superintendent Yearwood and affected stakeholders prior to the meeting regarding topics relevant to anticipated public comments. Following this brief explanation, Mr. Craig stated his intent to introduce a motion to fully fund Mental Health Practitioners (MHPs).

Mr. Craig introduced a motion directing the Superintendent to fully fund Mental Health Practitioners, thereby removing the estimated \$7.6 million reduction for those positions. To offset this and ensure the Superintendent's reduction plan remained intact, the motion proposed that principals be permitted to purchase an Academic Instructional Coach (AIC) comparable support position from their individual school budgets. This shift would save the General Fund \$7.3 million while maintaining the District's commitment to the new Instructional Coaching Model.

Following the motion, Chair Shull allowed each Board member an opportunity to comment and ask clarifying questions.

Mr. Everett questioned if AICs would be preserved at their current levels under this proposal. Chair Shull clarified that the decision to purchase an AIC would now be at the discretion of individual principals using their school budgets, rather than being part of the general district budget.

Mrs. Duncan expressed concern regarding the flexibility of budgets at various school levels and asked why the Board would choose to have principals fund AICs instead of MHPs. Chair Shull explained the compromise was an effort to honor both principal voice and the Board's commitment to mental health. Shull described the MHP role as a "student-focused" necessity, while the AIC role was characterized as an "adult concern".

Ms. Lister asked for transparency regarding where the savings would come from and what would be sacrificed at the school level. Mr. Muns explained that because some schools have significant carryovers while others do not, some schools will have an easier time finding funding for the position than others.

Ms. Lister further inquired about schools that cannot afford a coach. Mr. Muns explained that while the AIC traditionally supports instructional rollouts, new teachers, and curriculum within the school, a centralized district function could help with those processes moving forward.

Mr. Everett questioned why the motion only offered partial autonomy, asking why the District would mandate Mental Health Practitioners while making Academic Instructional Coaches optional. He argued that if every school is unique, principals should have full autonomy to purchase what their specific school needs within their budget rather than being "halfway" down that road.

Mr. Everett clarified that he was not seeking to cut MHPs, as he had heard "loud and clear" that they are needed, but he questioned the research behind mandating them across the board, noting that the District is in its current position because it has not done a "good job" in the past. Chair Shull responded that the mandate reflects the Board's long-standing commitment since 2019 to have MHPs in every building and suggested that if Mr. Everett disagreed, he was welcome to vote against the motion.

There was no further discussion.

Order #2026-10 - Motion Passed: A motion to direct the Superintendent to fully fund Mental Health Practitioners, retaining the existing school-based staffing model and allocation. This motion will remove the Mental Health Practitioners from the proposed budget reductions, which were estimated at \$7.6 million. To ensure the elimination of this reduction item does not negatively impact the superintendent's reduction plan, I recommend that principals be permitted to purchase an AIC (Academic Instructional Coach) comparable support position, saving the General Fund \$7.3 million. This will also retain a \$7.3 million commitment to Dr. Yearwood's new Instructional Coaching Model. The motion passed with a motion by Mr. James Craig and a second by Dr. Corrie Shull.

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| Mr. Trevin Bass | Yes |
| Mr. James Craig | Yes |
| Mrs. Linda Duncan | No |
| Mr. Taylor Everett | No |
| Ms. Tricia Lister | Yes |
| Ms. Gail Logan Strange | Yes |
| Dr. Corrie Shull | Yes |

▪ **PUBLIC SPEAKERS**

During the public comment portion of the meeting, the Board heard from a diverse group of stakeholders. Each speaker was allotted three minutes to address the Board.

Dr. Ashley Hilger, JCPS Safety Administrator: Urged the Board to maintain funding for the Safety Administrator role, citing District data and external studies that correlate the position with improved student safety perceptions, increased teacher retention, and a significant decrease in student arrests.

Courtney Grace, Principal of Hazelwood Elementary: Representing the Principal Communications Committee, Ms. Grace urged the Board to vote "no" on the proposed budget, citing a lack of meaningful collaboration with school leaders and expressing concern that the proposal includes school-based cuts while simultaneously adding expenditures for outside consultants.

Dustin Whitis, Principal of Breckinridge-Franklin Elementary: Opposed the requirement for schools to self-fund instructional coaches and urged the Board to instead reallocate funds from programs like JCPS Elev8 and external contracts.

Dr. Nayahsa Owens-Patterson, Principal of Western Middle School for the Arts: Opposed the proposed budget, testifying that the loss of equity and team funds would lead to significant school-level staffing cuts—including teachers, security monitors, and magnet programs—and argued that Central Office programs and summer initiatives should be reduced before cutting core school-day resources.

Hollie Smith, Principal of the Academy @ Shawnee: Urged the Board to delay budget cuts and reconsider the elimination of equity dollars and teacher stipends, arguing that these funds are essential for maintaining safety, supporting instructional coaches, and preventing a return to the high staff vacancy rates previously seen in Enhanced Support and Choice zones.

Sariena Sampson, Principal of Southern High School: Challenged the Board on the lack of principal input regarding the budget proposal and expressed concern that centralizing key roles and reorganizing the District would undermine the success of the Academies of Louisville model and create unnecessary bureaucracy.

Maddie Shepard, JCTA President: Acknowledged the need for fiscal restraint but urged the Board to protect school-based "direct services" and mental health practitioners, arguing that the budget must prioritize the employees on the front lines especially in under-resourced communities.

Nicole Humphrey, President of JCAESP/AFSCME Local 4011: Opposed the elimination of school bookkeepers and ordering and receiving clerks, arguing that the budget unfairly targets the District's lowest-paid support staff while maintaining a "top-heavy" Central Office structure and costly external contracts.

Emily Reder, JCPS Parent: Opposed the "one-size-fits-all" budget approach, advocating for greater building-level autonomy in staffing decisions and expressing concern that the elimination of the middle school teaming model would result in the loss of 30% of the middle school staff at J. Graham Brown School.

Autumn Neagle, PTA Parent and Business Owner: Criticized the "cookie-cutter" approach to budget cuts, arguing that Site-Based Decision Making (SBDM) councils—consisting of parents, teachers, and administrators—should maintain the autonomy to make budget decisions tailored to the unique needs of their individual schools.

Courtney Green, Teacher at Zachary Taylor Elementary: Opposed the closure of Zachary Taylor Elementary, highlighting the school's academic growth and gifted population while questioning the District's priority of allocating \$24 million for athletic field renovations over maintaining a safe, trauma-informed learning environment for students.

Tyler Swim, MHP at Middletown Elementary: Highlighted the essential role of Mental Health Practitioners in providing front-line support, including suicide and threat assessments, de-escalation, and IEP services, while thanking the Board for prioritizing mental health in the budget.

Margaret Paskitti, MHP at Ballard High School: Commended the Board for prioritizing mental health funding, citing Maslow's Hierarchy of Needs to argue that emotional safety is a prerequisite for academic success and noting that MHPs are legally required to fulfill services mandated by students' Individualized Education Plans.

Dr. Ayanna Peake, School Psychologist and MHP at Rangeland Elementary: Thanked the Board for prioritizing mental health funding but called for better communication and transparency, noting that staff often handle complex student crises well after school hours and deserve a "voice at the table" before major budget decisions are publicized.

Jennifer Hamilton, MHP at Valley High: Expressed gratitude for the retention of MHPs while arguing that cutting other "front-line" roles like safety administrators and instructional coaches is not cost-effective, as preventative services are less expensive than reactive measures.

Tracey Roberts, MHP at Coral Ridge Elementary: Shared harrowing accounts of recent student crises—including community violence and domestic tragedies—to underscore the indispensable nature of MHPs during a heightened mental health crisis and thanked the Board for reversing the decision to cut the role.

DeeAnn Cannon, MHP at Wilder Elementary: Argued against relying on outside referral services, noting that internal staff are essential for maintaining continuity of care and managing student needs when external providers abruptly leave the community.

Jessica Boone, MSD Teacher at Zachary Taylor Elementary: Opposed the closure of Zachary Taylor, testifying that uprooting students with moderate to severe disabilities is traumatic and questioned why the building is deemed unfit for current students but suitable as a "swing space" for others.

Danielle Ruffin, MHP at McFerran Preparatory Academy: Described mental health practitioners as the "front line" of trauma for primary students, emphasizing that their presence allows teachers to focus on instruction while MHPs manage emotional regulation and crisis de-escalation.

Randy Arnold, MHP at Kenwood Elementary: Highlighted the harrowing domestic tragedies students face daily—including overdoses and community violence—and asserted that no successful financial strategy should involve removing the staff who handle these crises.

Beth Dunn, MHP at Audubon Traditional Elementary: Shared that 65% of her school's fifth graders surveyed positive for performance anxiety and argued that school-based mental health support is a more cost-effective investment than reactive disciplinary or emergency systems.

Bianca Menendez Compos, Adelante Hispanic Achievers: Urged the Board to protect multilingual and ESL programs, noting that nearly one-third of JCPs students are multilingual and that this group is currently the only subgroup performing above the state average.

Amanda Peer, JCPs Parent: Credited interventionists for her son's academic success in reaching grade-level reading and requested that school leadership, rather than the District, decide which specific positions to cut.

Jayne Bishop, Parent and Clinical Social Worker: Credited the success of her son, a student with autism and ADHD, to school-based supports and argued that these staff members provide the stability and safety necessary for high-needs students to reach academic benchmarks.

Dr. Jennifer Schager, Licensed Clinical Psychologist: Testified that academic success is impossible if students are in crisis, noting that school-based mental health services are the primary point of access for 70% of children with disorders and directly improves attendance and graduation rates.

Michael Thomas, Community Volunteer: Advocated for keeping Dr. Martin Luther King Elementary School open, describing the staff as "angels" who have built deep trust within the West Louisville community and warning that closing the building creates a moral and systemic barrier for vulnerable families.

Jeff Gravatte, Teacher at Shacklette Elementary: Opposed cuts to support staff like elementary bookkeepers and nurses, explaining that these roles perform critical "beyond the contract" duties such as emergency response, medication dispersal, and morning/afternoon safety supervision.

Rachel Abel, Parent at J. Graham Brown School: Warned that the proposed funding changes would result in the loss of nearly 30% of the middle school teaching staff at Brown, and requested that administrators be given the autonomy to manage budget cuts in a way that preserves the school's unique daily instructional model.

Eboni Neal Cochran, Community Advocate: Challenged the Board's satisfaction with environmental mitigation at Perry Elementary, calling for continuous air monitoring and periodic structural inspections of vent risers and vapor barriers to ensure toxic chemicals like Freon and Toluene do not enter the building.

Margaret Lockhart, Teacher at Zachary Taylor Elementary: Opposed the closure of Zachary Taylor, stating that using the building as a "swing space" for other schools contradicts the District's previous claims that the facility was unsafe and has caused unnecessary emotional distress for the current school community.

Dakota Lewis, REACT (Environmental Justice Organization): Demanded full soil remediation rather than mere mitigation for the future Dr. J. Blaine Hudson Middle School site, arguing that a former industrial "brownfield" requires the complete removal of toxins to protect the long-term health of students and staff in West Louisville.

X. Information Items

A. Acceptance of Report from Alvarez and Marsal on the Independent Forecast Verification

Dr. Yearwood introduced the report from Alvarez and Marsal regarding the Independent Forecast Verification. He stated that the auditors had completed their commissioned review of the District's forecasts and forecasting model and would proceed to present their findings to the Board.

Noah Wepman, a senior director at Alvarez & Marsal, introduced the firm and its role in conducting the Independent Forecast Verification. He then introduced his colleague, Jesse Grewal, who collaborated on the assessment. Eddie Muns, chief financial officer, was available to answer questions. Board members had an opportunity to ask questions at the end of the presentation.

Mr. Craig requested a professional opinion on the certainty of the projected \$188.5 million deficit and whether the fiscal crisis is as severe as portrayed. Mr. Craig sought clarification on the specific budget figures presented, noting that the upcoming fiscal year includes a \$39 million expenditure over revenue which is expected to be covered by vacancy credits. He discussed the depletion of artificially inflated carryover funds from previous years. He questioned the reliability of projections, particularly regarding concerns over future cash flow. Finally, he addressed public skepticism regarding the District's financial state, suggesting that the report's findings validate the severity of the crisis rather than being an exaggeration of the facts.

Ms. Logan Strange requested an explanation of why the current financial model is considered unsustainable or unreliable. She specifically asked for identification of any recurring elements within the deficit that must be addressed to ensure the District's long-term financial stability.

Mr. Everett inquired about the timeline required to implement the suggested improvements to the District's forecasting model. He sought confirmation that failing to take action would result in the need for extreme measures by October and clarified that the deficit figures in the report are based on working budget numbers, which assume all positions are filled and all funds are spent. Finally, he asked for a professional estimate of the actual year-end spending totals versus the projected budget.

Mrs. Duncan inquired about the integration of enrollment data with the District's forecasting model and sought clarification on the District's capability of doing so. She also questioned the methodology behind the long-term projections, specifically asking if the declining deficit shown in those forecasts was calculated using the existing model or a new approach.

Ms. Lister requested clarification of the term "crisis". Following this, Chair Shull asked for a clear explanation of what a fund balance is to ensure the public understands the financial terminology being used in the discussion. Ms. Lister asked for clarification on the primary purpose of a fund balance and why the District is now facing a risk of running out of money when it has not been an issue in the past. She concluded by asking for any additional information or critical insights from the analysis that had not yet been addressed during the discussion.

Ms. Logan Strange asked for recommendations on specifics the Board should receive to improve their understanding and to monitor the financial situation more accurately.

Mr. Everett sought clarification on the requirement to maintain a two percent contingency fund.

Chair Shull inquired about the consequences of completely depleting the District's fund balance.

Order #2026-11 - Motion Passed: Superintendent Brian Yearwood recommends the Board of Education receive a report on the Independent Forecast Verification from Alvarez and Marsal. The recommendation passed with a motion by Mr. Trevin Bass and a second by Mrs. Linda Duncan.

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| Mr. Trevin Bass | Yes |
| Mr. James Craig | Yes |
| Mrs. Linda Duncan | Yes |
| Mr. Taylor Everett | Yes |
| Ms. Tricia Lister | Yes |
| Ms. Gail Logan Strange | Yes |
| Dr. Corrie Shull | Yes |

B. Acceptance of Budget Reductions and Central Office Reorganization

Dr. Yearwood presented the Strategic Realignment and Budget Briefing, emphasizing that these cost containment measures are essential for long-term stability and ensuring the District maintains its focus on student achievement. Following the presentation, Board members were given the opportunity to ask questions.

Mr. Bass inquired about the specific guided questions used to develop the reorganization recommendations and asked whether the District plans to engage community support or grassroots organizations to address student needs following the proposed reductions in staffing.

Mrs. Duncan expressed concern and asked about allowing principals the opportunity to provide input and share their specific suggestions for cost savings. She also highlighted concerns about potential inequities, specifically for schools that may lack the funding to retain critical positions.

Mr. Everett requested several reports, including an analysis of how District right-sizing could affect school start times, the creation of an anonymous feedback dashboard, a master list for volunteers, and a zero-cost accounting exercise regarding higher pay for classified staff. His specific inquiries focused on the data behind the reorganization, asking for the total reduction in Central Office personnel, the number of affected staff earning over \$100,000, and a count of employees with teaching degrees who are not currently assigned to schools. Additionally, he sought clarification on the new bookkeeping process, the management structure for Academic Instructional Coaches purchased by schools, and when the Board would receive a detailed spreadsheet of all Central Office reductions. He concluded by acknowledging the difficulty of the task but emphasized that the details of the Central Office cuts must be significant enough to earn his continued support.

Ms. Lister expressed support for Dr. Yearwood’s vision but voiced significant concerns regarding the method of addressing the deficit. She argued that because Central Office has grown disproportionately over the last eight years, cuts should be focused there rather than on personnel within school buildings. Ms. Lister emphasized that she cannot support a budget that reduces "bodies in the school building," which she identified as the primary need for students and staff.

Ms. Logan Strange expressed concern with the proposed budget, stating that the reductions disproportionately impact the most vulnerable students in her district. She specifically challenged the proposal to close King Elementary, noting that it would create a "school desert" in the Shawnee area and force students to navigate complex application processes for other schools. Additionally, she questioned how the cost of busing displaced students would impact the projected savings and criticized the decision to close King and Zachary Taylor as an unfair burden.

Mr. Craig noted that Dr. Yearwood should not have had to inherit a budget crisis. He cautioned against using state assessment data as a justification for budget cuts. Mr. Craig acknowledged the need for a new strategic plan to ensure the Board and leadership are aligned on future budget and policy decisions. Mr. Craig emphasized the critical importance of collaboration, stating that principals, teachers, and staff must be included in the decision-making process to ensure buy-in and a successful outcome. Ultimately, he cited the Board's fiduciary obligation to deliver a viable budget to the Department of Education by the January 31 deadline as the reason for his support of the proposal.

Order #2026-12 - Motion Passed: Superintendent Brian Yearwood recommends the Board of Education receive information regarding proposed budget reductions and Central Office reorganization. The recommendation passed with a motion by Mr. James Craig and a second by Ms. Tricia Lister.

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| Mr. Trevin Bass | Yes |
| Mr. James Craig | Yes |
| Mrs. Linda Duncan | Yes |
| Mr. Taylor Everett | Yes |
| Ms. Tricia Lister | Yes |
| Ms. Gail Logan Strange | Yes |
| Dr. Corrie Shull | Yes |

XI. Action Items

The Board transitioned to the Action Items portion of the agenda, beginning with a proposal for the closure of King Elementary School, the closure of Zachary Taylor Elementary School, and the relocation of Liberty High School. Chair Shull brought the item forward, moving directly to comments and questions from Board members.

Mr. Craig expressed a reluctant obligation to vote in favor of the proposal, noting that the building is currently under-capacity and has suffered from significant disrepair due to past maintenance neglect. He highlighted his concern for his district's most vulnerable students and sought assurance that individual transition plans are in place so that no child falls through the cracks.

A. Recommendation for Approval of the Closure of King Elementary School, the Closure of Zachary Taylor Elementary School, and the Relocation of Liberty High School to the Gheens Building for the 2026-27 School Year

Order #2026-13 - Motion Passed: Superintendent Brian Yearwood recommends the Board of Education approve the following, effective at the end of the 2025-26 school year: 1. The closure of King Elementary School at 4325 Vermont Avenue, Louisville, KY 40211; 2. The closure of Zachary Taylor Elementary School at 9620 Westport Road, Louisville, KY 40241. 3. The relocation of Liberty High School serving middle and high school students from 3901 Atkinson Square Drive, Louisville, KY 40219, to the Gheens Building at 4425 Preston Highway, Louisville, KY 40213. The recommendation passed with a motion by Mr. Taylor Everett and a second by Mr. James Craig.

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| Mr. Trevin Bass | Abstain |
| Mr. James Craig | Yes |
| Mrs. Linda Duncan | Yes |
| Mr. Taylor Everett | Yes |
| Ms. Tricia Lister | No |
| Ms. Gail Logan Strange | No |
| Dr. Corrie Shull | Yes |

B. Recommendation for Approval of Student Enrollment Projections and School Allocation Standards, and Acceptance of General Fund Draft Budget for Fiscal Year 2026-27

The Board moved to the next Action Item, which concerned the Approval of Student Enrollment Projections and School Allocation Standards, and the Acceptance of the General Fund Draft Budget for Fiscal Year 2026-27. This item was brought forward for immediate consideration; there was no formal staff presentation provided, and the item passed without further discussion or questions from the Board members.

Order #2026-14 - Motion Passed: A motion to approve the Student Enrollment Projections for Fiscal Year 2026-27 passed with a motion by Mrs. Linda Duncan and a second by Mr. Trevin Bass.

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| Mr. Trevin Bass | Yes |
| Mr. James Craig | Yes |
| Mrs. Linda Duncan | Yes |
| Mr. Taylor Everett | Yes |
| Ms. Tricia Lister | Yes |
| Ms. Gail Logan Strange | Yes |
| Dr. Corrie Shull | Yes |

Order #2026-15 - Motion Passed: A motion to approve the School Allocation Standards for Fiscal Year 2026-27 passed with a motion by Mr. James Craig and a second by Mrs. Linda Duncan.

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| Mr. Trevin Bass | Yes |
| Mr. James Craig | Yes |
| Mrs. Linda Duncan | Yes |
| Mr. Taylor Everett | Yes |
| Ms. Tricia Lister | Yes |
| Ms. Gail Logan Strange | Yes |
| Dr. Corrie Shull | Yes |

Order #2026-16 - Motion Passed: A motion to receive the General Fund Draft Budget for Fiscal Year 2026-27 passed with a motion by Mr. Taylor Everett and a second by Ms. Gail Logan Strange.

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| Mr. Trevin Bass | Yes |
| Mr. James Craig | Yes |
| Mrs. Linda Duncan | Yes |
| Mr. Taylor Everett | Yes |
| Ms. Tricia Lister | Yes |
| Ms. Gail Logan Strange | Yes |
| Dr. Corrie Shull | Yes |

XII. Consent Calendar

A. Report of Certified Leaves

B. Report of Personnel Actions

C. Recommendation for Approval of Organizational Charts and/or Job Descriptions

1. Recommendation for Approval of Organizational Charts and/or Job Descriptions – Administration

D. Recommendation of Approval of Field Trips Request and Receipt of Report of Field Trips Approved by the Superintendent

E. Recommendation for Approval of Bid and Revised BG-1 Form for Boiler and Chiller Replacement at Watterson Elementary School

F. Recommendation for Approval of BG-1 Form to Dispose of the Real Property and Declare the Real Property as Surplus to the Educational Program Needs of the District at Ernest Camp Edwards Education Complex

G. Recommendation for Approval of Revised BG-1 Forms

- 1.** Recommendation for Approval of Revised BG-1 Form for New Middle School – West Louisville (Hudson MS) Bid Package II – New Building
- 2.** Recommendation for Approval of Revised BG-1 Form for Athletic Stadium Renovation at Louisville Male High School
- H.** Recommendation for Approval of the Projects, Assignment of Architects/Engineers, and BG-1 Forms
 - 1.** Recommendation for Approval of the Project, Assignment of Architect/Engineer, and BG-1 Form for Athletic Stadium Renovations at Atherton High School
 - 2.** Recommendation for Approval of the Project, Assignment of Architect/Engineer, and BG-1 Form for Athletic Stadium Renovations at Eastern High School
 - 3.** Recommendation for Approval of the Project, Assignment of Architect/Engineer, and BG-1 Form for Athletic Stadium Renovations at Butler Traditional High School
 - 4.** Recommendation for Approval of the Project, Assignment of Architect/Engineer, and BG-1 Form for Athletic Stadium Renovations at Fairdale High School
 - 5.** Recommendation for Approval of the Project, Assignment of Architect/Engineer, and BG-1 Form for Athletic Stadium Renovations at Valley High School
 - 6.** Recommendation for Approval of the Project, Assignment of Architect/Engineer, and BG-1 Form for Athletic Stadium Renovations at Southern High School
- I.** Recommendation for Approval of Contract Completion and BG-4 Form for Office Renovations at George Unsel Early Childhood Learning Center
- J.** Notification of Utility Easement at the New Middle School – West Louisville (Hudson MS)
- K.** Recommendation for Approval of Construction Change Orders
- L.** Recommendation for Approval of Competitive Negotiations, Bid Tabulations, Contract Renewals, and Amendments
- M.** Recommendation for Approval of Professional Services Contracts of \$20,000 or More
- N.** Acceptance of Summary of Professional Services Contracts
- O.** Acceptance of Orders of the Treasurer
 - 1.** Acceptance of Orders of the Treasurer-Invoices
 - 2.** Acceptance of Orders of the Treasurer-Purchase Orders
 - 3.** Acceptance of Orders of the Treasurer-Vouchers
- P.** Acceptance of Monthly Financial Reports for Periods Ended October 31, 2025, and November 30, 2025
- Q.** Acceptance of Donations, Grants, and Funding
 - 1.** Acceptance of Donations and Small Grants
 - 2.** Acceptance of Funding from the Jefferson County Public Education Foundation
 - 3.** Acceptance of Donation from the Kentucky Department of Education for Pyramid Model Books and Materials
 - 4.** Acceptance of a Donation of Services by Walsh Construction at Churchill Park School
 - 5.** Acceptance of Funding from the Kentucky Association for Environmental Education (KAEE)
 - 6.** Acceptance of Stewart B. McKinney Homeless Education Grant from the Kentucky Department of Education
 - 7.** Acceptance of Funding from Louisville Metro Public Health and Wellness
- R.** Recommendation for Approval to Submit 21st Century Community Learning Center Grants to the Kentucky Department of Education
- S.** Recommendation for Approval of Agreements

1. Recommendation for Approval of Memorandum of Agreement with Backside Learning
2. Recommendation for Approval of Confidential Data Privacy Agreement with Craig W. Davis & Associates Photography
3. Recommendation for Approval of Data Privacy Agreement with 360 Degree Academy
4. Recommendation for Approval of Data Privacy Agreement with Franklin Covey Co.
5. Recommendation for Approval of Data Privacy Agreement with Heartland School Solutions
6. Recommendation for Approval of Student Placement Agreement with Northwestern College
7. Recommendation for Approval of Membership Renewal Agreement with Ohio Valley Educational Cooperative (OVEC)
8. Recommendation for Approval of Amendment to the Memorandum of Agreement with Spalding University for ESL Endorsement Cohort
9. Recommendation for Approval of Memorandum of Agreement with Teach Upbeat Inc.
10. Recommendation for Approval of Student Placement Agreement with Western Michigan University
11. Recommendation for Approval of Fourth Amendment to Sale and Purchase Agreement for the Purchase of 5127 Terry Road
12. Recommendation for Approval of Data Privacy Agreement with Care Solace, Inc
- ~~13. WITHDRAWN: Recommendation for Approval of Data Privacy Agreement with PowerSchool Group United Home Platform~~
- ~~14. WITHDRAWN: Recommendation for Approval of Data Privacy Agreement with Public Consulting Group~~
15. Recommendation for Approval of Memorandum of Agreement with Abound Federal Credit Union
- T. Recommendation for Appointment of Audit Risk Management Advisory Committee Member
- U. Recommendation to Adopt the District Plan for Advanced Coursework and Accelerated Learning
- V. Recommendation of Election of Board Member to Serve on the Local Planning Committee
- W. Recommendation for Approval of Business/Community Leader Representatives for the Local Planning Committee
- X. Recommendation for Approval of Appointment of the 2026-2027 Calendar Committee Members
- Y. Recommendation of Acceptance of Offer of Assistance from the Kentucky School Facilities Construction Commission Funding Program

Mr. Everett and Ms. Lister requested to pull down Item XII.M. *Professional Services Contracts of \$20,000 or More* from the Consent Calendar for separate consideration. Ms. Lister noted her intention to abstain from the vote regarding the StageOne Family Theatre contract due to her position on their board.

Mr. Everett initially challenged a \$100,000 contract with Rutherford Learning Concepts, arguing that approving such an expense for professional development without concrete deliverables was imprudent given the District's current budget constraints. However, after Mr. Muns clarified that the contract is funded through Title I school improvement funding rather than the General Fund, Mr. Everett withdrew his objection.

Order #2026-17 - Motion Passed: A motion to approve the Consent Calendar MINUS: XII.M. *Approval of Professional Services Contracts of \$20,000 or More* passed with a motion by Mr. Taylor Everett and a second by Mrs. Linda Duncan.

| | |
|------------------------|-----|
| Mr. Trevin Bass | Yes |
| Mr. James Craig | Yes |
| Mrs. Linda Duncan | Yes |
| Mr. Taylor Everett | Yes |
| Ms. Tricia Lister | Yes |
| Ms. Gail Logan Strange | Yes |
| Dr. Corrie Shull | Yes |

Order #2026-18 - Motion Passed: A motion to approve Consent Calendar Item: XII.M. *Approval of Professional Services Contracts of \$20,000 or More* passed with a motion by Mr. Taylor Everett and a second by Mr. Trevin Bass.

| | |
|------------------------|---------|
| Mr. Trevin Bass | Yes |
| Mr. James Craig | Yes |
| Mrs. Linda Duncan | Yes |
| Mr. Taylor Everett | Yes |
| Ms. Tricia Lister | Abstain |
| Ms. Gail Logan Strange | Yes |
| Dr. Corrie Shull | Yes |

XIII. Board Planning Calendar

Order #2026-19 - Motion Passed: Superintendent Brian Yearwood recommends the Board of Education receive the attached planning calendar outlining discussion agenda items. The recommendation passed with a motion by Mr. Taylor Everett and a second by Ms. Gail Logan Strange.

| | |
|------------------------|-----|
| Mr. Trevin Bass | Yes |
| Mr. James Craig | Yes |
| Mrs. Linda Duncan | Yes |
| Mr. Taylor Everett | Yes |
| Ms. Tricia Lister | Yes |
| Ms. Gail Logan Strange | Yes |
| Dr. Corrie Shull | Yes |

XIV. Committee Reports

Mrs. Duncan inquired about the District's current contract with the Council of the Great City Schools, asking if the Board would continue that work. Dr. Yearwood stated that he did not have the information on hand but committed to researching the contract details and providing a follow-up response to the Board.

XV. Board Reports

Mrs. Duncan proudly recognized her grandson, Edward Smith, a graduate of Pleasure Ridge Park High School, noting his recent success as a news reporter for WLKY.

XVI. Persons Requesting to Address the Board (If Necessary)

XVII. Executive Session (If Necessary)

XVIII. Action Item (If Necessary)

XIX. Adjournment

The January 20, 2026, meeting adjourned at 10:10 p.m.

Order #2026-20 - Motion Passed: A motion to adjourn the January 20, 2026, meeting of the Jefferson County Board of Education at 10:10 p.m. passed with a motion by Mr. Trevin Bass and a second by Ms. Tricia Lister.

| | |
|------------------------|-----|
| Mr. Trevin Bass | Yes |
| Mr. James Craig | Yes |
| Mrs. Linda Duncan | Yes |
| Mr. Taylor Everett | Yes |
| Ms. Tricia Lister | Yes |
| Ms. Gail Logan Strange | Yes |
| Dr. Corrie Shull | Yes |

Dr. Corrie Shull
Chairman

Dr. Brian Yearwood
Superintendent/Secretary

**THESE ACTIONS, ALONG WITH THE AGENDA ITEMS, MAKE UP THE OFFICIAL MINUTES,
WHICH ARE ON FILE IN THE OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY**