



JEFFERSON COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION

Minutes of Special Board of Education Meeting

February 13, 2026

Special Meeting of the Jefferson County Board of Education held at VanHoose Education Center, 3332 Newburg Road, Louisville, Kentucky, on Tuesday, February 13, 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

Mr. Everett and Ms. Lister joined the meeting via video teleconference.

STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT:

Superintendent Brian Yearwood, Ed.D.

Kevin Brown, General Counsel

Carolyn Callahan, Chief of Communications and Community Relations

Cynthia Grohmann, Chief of Human Resources

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

This was a special called meeting specifically for Board members to discuss the proposed reorganization of JCPS departments and to vote on the recommended updates to organizational charts and job descriptions. This meeting followed a postponement from the February 10 meeting as Board members requested more time to review the documents.

I. Call to order

Chair Shull called the February 13, 2026, Special Meeting of the Board of Education to order at 6:03 p.m.

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

Superintendent Dr. Yearwood presented a plan focused on restoring financial and organizational stability. He emphasized that the proposed adjustments are not merely budget cuts, but necessary measures to ensure long-term sustainability and prevent more disruptive actions in the future. Dr. Yearwood noted that while the current financial challenges were inherited, the District must take responsibility now to provide a stable, predictable environment for both students and staff. He concluded by thanking the community for their feedback, stating that the plan reflects a commitment to both urgency and collaborative decision-making. Each Board member had an opportunity to comment and ask questions.

Mrs. Duncan opened by acknowledging the difficulty of the reorganization, describing it as one of the most challenging decisions of her tenure due to its significant personal impact on staff. She also expressed gratitude for the community's input. Mrs. Duncan then sought clarity on the Opportunity & Access department and asked whether the department's focus would encompass all achievement gaps across the District rather than a single specific area.

Dr. Yearwood explained that the department is designed to strengthen the District's commitment to equity work. He noted that the mission involves the practical application of equity strategies to address critical areas such as student absenteeism and behavioral disruptions. Dr. Yearwood confirmed that these efforts would be applied across all sectors of the District, as these challenges affect the entire student population.

Mrs. Duncan concluded by praising the effort involved in the new alignment. While she acknowledged how difficult it is for staff to reapply for redefined roles, she commended the updated organizational charts for providing clear pathways for leadership and accountability.

Mr. Everett expressed that he felt encouraged regardless of the final vote. He thanked Dr. Yearwood for the extra time provided to explain the proposal and stated he was excited to see the District move forward, sharing his belief that the District would have the best people in place no matter where the Board landed on the decision.

Ms. Lister expressed concern that renaming Diversity, Equity, and Poverty (Opportunity & Access) might signal a shift away from addressing inequitable responses to classroom disruptions. She cautioned that the District must continue to directly address these disparities rather than becoming "blind" to them.

Ms. Logan Strange thanked the staff for their work but expressed concerns regarding the District's commitment to the Choice Zone and its most vulnerable schools. Citing recent school scores, she emphasized the need for a fluid process that allows for course corrections to ensure student outcomes remain the primary focus.

Mr. Craig echoed Ms. Logan Strange’s concerns, specifically referencing the financial promises established in the June 2022 Student Assignment Plan. He requested a future report detailing which of those financial commitments remain in place. Mr. Craig stated that strong leadership requires consensus building and collaboration with stakeholders—including principals, teachers, and families. He also noted that "Central Office" is often misunderstood, as it includes staff like behavioral analysts and safety administrators who work directly with students. He argued that the promise to protect the student experience by only cutting Central Office had not been met. Stating he was alarmed by the lack of real collaboration, Mr. Craig noted he would not vote to approve the plan, though he committed to helping it succeed if it passed.

Chair Shull agreed with Mr. Craig’s sentiments, describing the reorganization as a "herculean" and difficult task. He thanked Dr. Yearwood and his team for taking on such a challenge so early in the Superintendent's tenure. He emphasized that while the work is difficult, the Board has a responsibility to move forward. Chair Shull clarified that tonight’s vote is a "starting line" in an ongoing process and noted there is still time to bring more voices to the table for input. He pointed out that the tentative budget will come before the Board in May, where adjustments can still be made. He concluded by stating the goal is to ensure the District can function and flourish into the future.

The Board ultimately voted 5 to 2 to approve the reorganization of JCPS Departments, which included the elimination of 213 occupied and 74 vacant positions, alongside the creation of 178 new roles.

- A. Academics**
- B. Accountability, Research, and Systems Improvement**
- C. Administration**
- D. Business Services (HR, Technology, Finance)**
- E. Chief of Police**
- F. Chief of Staff**
- G. Communications and Community Relations**
- H. Diversity, Equity, and Poverty (Opportunity & Access)**
- ~~**I. WITHDRAWN: Exceptional Child Education (Deferred to March 10, 2026)**~~
- J. Finance (Business Services)**
- K. General Counsel**
- L. Human Resources (Business Services)**
- M. Operations**
- N. Schools**
- O. Strategy and Innovation (Transition Readiness, Adult & Continuing Education, School Choice)**
- P. Student Support & Community Engagement**
- Q. Technology (Business Services)**

Order #2026-30 - Motion Passed: Superintendent Brian Yearwood recommends the Board of Education approve the attached organizational charts and job descriptions. The recommendation passed with a motion by Mr. Trevin Bass and a second by Mrs. Linda Duncan.

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

III. Adjournment

Order #2026-31 - Motion Passed: A motion to adjourn the meeting of the Jefferson County Board of Education passed with a motion by Mr. James Craig 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

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**