

JACKSON COUNTY INTERMEDIATE SCHOOL DISTRICT
BOARD OF EDUCATION
Regular Meeting – November 17, 2020
Virtual Zoom Meeting

PROPOSED MINUTES

The regular meeting of the Board of Education of the Jackson County Intermediate School District was held on Tuesday, November 17, 2020. The meeting participants and public participants used Zoom to join virtually, or dial-in using the link and telephone numbers provided. President David Salsbury called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m. Board members participating were: David Salsbury, President; Douglas Schedeler, Vice President; Lillian Fields, Treasurer; Erin Slater, Secretary, and Georgia Fojtasek, Trustee. Members absent were: None.

Meeting virtually with the Board were Kevin Oxley, Superintendent; Catherine Brechtelsbauer, Human Resource and Legal Counsel, and Phyllis Stressman, Administrative Assistant.

STAFF AND VISITORS - Zoom reported 33 participants.

Superintendent Oxley prefaced the meeting with an explanation of virtual meeting procedures and how the public will be invited and able to participate.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion was made by Mrs. Fields to approve the minutes from the October 20, 2020, regular meeting. Mrs. Slater supported the motion which carried by unanimous roll call vote.

ACCEPTANCE OF FINANCIAL REPORT & 2020FY AUDIT REPORT

Nathan Baldermann, the Principal at Rehmann responsible for the annual audit, provided a report regarding the district's audit for fiscal year ending June 30, 2020. Mr. Schedeler made the motion to accept the financial reports as presented. Mrs. Fojtasek supported and the motion was carried by unanimous roll call.

SPECIAL REPORT

CELEBRATION OF EXCELLENCE-Education Delivery During Covid Pandemic

Volume 41, Report No. 29

Learning Services Director Tovah Sheldon and Assistant Director Dan Luciani reported on a successful countywide professional development day held all online on October 19, 2020. Over 900 persons participated and the topics covered were how to leverage technology to improve instruction and support for teachers, students, and family mental wellness.

PERSONNEL MATTERS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

ACTION ITEMS AND INFORMATION- Volume 41, Report No. 30

Following a motion by Mrs. Fojtasek, support from Mrs. Fields, and an all aye roll call vote, the Board approved hiring William Solomon, November 23, 2020, and Mark Buckland, November 2, 2020.

REPORTS FOR ACTION

EXTENDED COVID-19 LEARNING PLAN – Volume 41, Report No. 31

On August 20, 2020, Governor Whitmer signed House Bill 5913 into law as Public Act 149. Section 98a states that in order to receive state aid for 2020-2021, districts must provide for instruction under an extended COVID-19 Learning Plan (“Plan”) that has been approved by an intermediate district or authorizing body. The Plan does not replace the District’s COVID-19 Preparedness and Response Plan, it is an additional plan that includes new assurances and sections on educational goals, instructional delivery, grading, and equitable access. A plan update will appear as a regular meeting agenda item in the future and will contain information on two-way communication, as well as providing for public comment. This month’s plan included a new paragraph indicating the plan could temporarily change due to short periodic outbreaks. These changes will be reported to the Board at regular meetings.

Mrs. Slater moved to adopt the Extended COVID-19 Learning Plan as presented. Mr. Schedeler offered the support and the motion carried by an all aye roll call vote.

Public Comment

The forum was open to public comment at 6:38p.m; none was forthcoming and the public comment closed.

SPECIAL EDUCATION FACILITY ACQUISITION – Volume 41, Report No. 32

In previous Special Ed Facility Planning Update reports (September, October and November of 2019; March and September 2020) the administration informed the Board regarding various options under consideration that could potentially meet the district’s future Special Ed facility needs for the foreseeable future. These options included Amy Firth School, East Jackson Memorial School, Frost Elementary School, and new construction / expansion of facilities on the district’s north campus. The administration is now recommending the purchase and renovation of Frost School from Jackson Public Schools.

The administration recommended the Board approve the purchase of Frost School from Jackson Public Schools in order to renovate it and create a JCISD Central Campus facility for use to support the district’s Special Ed programming. Specifically, the administration is requesting approval to proceed with the following steps:

1. Finalize transaction details with Jackson Public Schools for the purchase of Frost School. Purchase price is expected to be \$1 for the building in “as is” condition and the majority of the furnishings inside the building (some new sample furniture obtained by JPS related to selecting the furnishings for the neighboring new Cascades Elementary are still located in Frost, and JPS intends to use those furnishings). The

JCISD will also pay all legal costs associated with the transaction including the cost to reapportion the parcels of land on which Frost and the new Cascades Elementary are located so that the appropriate new parcels can be sold to the JCISD.

2. Hire the Covalle Group Architects PLLC as the architect for the project at an estimated cost of 5% of the total construction costs.
3. Hire R. W. Mercer Co. as the construction manager for the project at an estimated cost of 6% of total construction costs.
4. Enter into formal discussions with the Jackson Area Manufacturers Association (JAMA) and the Community Action Agency (CAA) regarding the potential lease of certain identified spaces within Frost School
5. Work with PFM Financial Advisors LLC and Thrun Law Firm to arrange for financing, most likely by issuing municipal bonds up to the district's non-voted debt limit of approximately \$6.6 million

Following a lengthy discussion and clarification on Board members' questions and concerns, Mr. Schedeler made the motion to approve the recommendation for next steps. Mrs. Fojtasek offered the second and the motion carried by unanimous roll call vote.

TORRANT POOL RENOVATION-ADDITIONAL EXPENDITURE –

Volume 41, Report No. 33

Mr. Salsbury made the motion to approve additional expense related to construction costs in completing the emergency repair of the roof over the pool at Torrant, up to and not to exceed \$428,000. The original estimate of \$350,000 previously approved by the Board was insufficient after the final drawings and costs were revealed. Mr. Schedeler supported the motion which carried by an all aye roll call vote.

PROPOSED RATIFICATION OF LABOR AGREEMENTS WITH THE ESPA AND JIEA

– Volume 41, Report No. 34

President Salsbury amended the agenda to postpone action on this item until the Board meets in closed session at the end of the meeting.

PROPOSED RESOLUTION TO AMEND JCISD PLAN DOCUMENT AND SUMMARY

PLAN DESCRIPTION FOR EMPLOYEE PLAN BENEFITS – Volume 41, Report No. 35

The Board adopted the resolution to amend the plan document for Section 125 cafeteria benefits allowing eligible employees to make mid-year prospective changes to elections in payroll deductions. Mrs. Fojtasek made the motion and Mrs. Slater offered the second. The motion carried by an all aye roll call.

STORAGE AREA NETWORK EXPANSION – Volume 41, Report No. 36

Technology Director Shannon Degan described critical need to expand the SAN as it has reached 93% capacity during the COVID crisis and the unprecedented increases in mobile devices connections and one-to-one in local districts. The original ask is to expend approximately \$68,000 to add 12 drives; however, it has since been learned that additional Federal dollars may be available through a grant. The recommendation is amended to include authorization to take advantage of discount pricing and spend up to \$130,000 if the grant

dollars are awarded for reimbursement. Mrs. Fields motioned to approve the recommendation with Mrs. Fojtasek supporting. The motion carried by unanimous roll call vote.

President Salsbury called a short recess at 8:29 p.m.; resuming at 8:39 p.m.

REPORTS FOR INFORMATION

2020-21 COMMUNICATIONS GOAL UPDATE – Volume 41, Report No. 37

Marketing and Special Projects Coordinator Kaci Babineau provided an informative update on communication efforts to “tell our story.”

CLOSED SESSION/Collective Bargaining

Mr. Schedeler moved to enter into closed session for the purpose of discussing parameters of collective bargaining as it concerns the ratification of contracts with ESPA and JIEA. Mrs. Fojtasek supported the motion. Following a unanimous roll call, the closed session began at 9:05 p.m., and concluded at 9:18 p.m. when the open meeting resumed.

PROPOSED RATIFICATION OF LABOR AGREEMENTS WITH THE ESPA AND JIEA

– Volume 41, Report No. 34

Mr. Schedeler made the motion to ratify agreements with both the JIEA and ESPA employee groups. Mrs. Slater supported and the motion carried by 5:0 roll call vote.

ADJOURNMENT

The regular, virtual meeting of the Board of Education was adjourned at 9:22 p.m.