

JACKSON COUNTY INTERMEDIATE SCHOOL DISTRICT  
BOARD OF EDUCATION  
Regular Meeting – January 19, 2021  
Virtual Zoom Meeting

PROPOSED MINUTES

The regular meeting of the Board of Education of the Jackson County Intermediate School District was held on Tuesday, January 19, 2021. The meeting participants and public participants used Zoom to join virtually, or dial-in using the link and telephone numbers provided. Superintendent Oxley was physically present at the District main offices. 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 23 participants.

Superintendent Oxley prefaced the meeting with an explanation of virtual meeting procedures and how the public will be invited and able to participate, then began the meeting with sharing a live viewing of the National Covid Memorial service.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion was made by Mr. Schedeler to approve the minutes from the December 15, 2020, regular meeting. Mrs. Slater supported the motion which carried by unanimous roll call vote.

ACCEPTANCE OF FINANCIAL REPORT

The month end financial report was approved by a motion from Mrs. Fields, second from Mr. Schedeler, and an all yeas vote.

CORRESPONDENCE AND INFORMATION

Superintendent Oxley, on behalf of the administration and staff, expressed gratitude for the Board and their dedication and guidance; in recognition of January being School Board Appreciation month, Board members received a small token of appreciation in the form of JCISD apparel gift certificates.

SPECIAL REPORT

CELEBRATION OF EXCELLENCE-Covid Response

Volume 41, Report No. 49

Superintendent Oxley recognized Cheryl Lemons, assistant human resources director, and Kate McKinney, Torrant Center nurse, for going above and beyond during the pandemic, handling the majority of communications with health officials, organizing and reporting quarantine issues, conducting contact tracing, and leading efforts to organize proper protocols.

PERSONNEL MATTERS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

ACTION ITEMS AND INFORMATION- Volume 41, Report No. 50

Following a motion by Mrs. Fojtasek, support from Mrs. Fields, and an all aye roll call vote, the Board approved hiring Gregory Childers, January 25, 2021; Danielle Okley, January 25, 2021; and Leanna Morris, February 9, 2021.

Information was shared concerning separating employees Angela Sauer, June 9, 2021, and Linda Gieske, January 4, 2021. Also mentioned, was the recent promotion of Lauren Sager to dean of students at the Career Center.

REPORTS FOR ACTION

EXTENDED COVID-19 LEARNING PLAN – Volume 41, Report No. 51

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. The current plan was reconfirmed, as there have been no changes to the plan since the December Board meeting. Updated Two-way communication numbers were presented.

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

Public Comment

The forum was open to public comment and none was forthcoming, public comment was closed.

REVISITING GUIDING PRINCIPLES AND VALUES – Volume 41, Report No. 52

A recommendation from the Equity Work Group was presented by Superintendent Oxley. The Board was asked to adopt the guiding principle of “Equity: Inclusive, Responsive, and Sincere Belonging” to the list of current principles and values. The Equity Work Group believe the addition of the statement to the organization’s values, along with the Superintendent taking the CEO Pledge, provide an appropriate foundation to continue the on-going equity efforts. Mr. Schedeler moved to adopt the principle/value statement, with Mrs. Fields supporting. The motion carried by unanimous roll call vote. Metrics will be developed to monitor progress.

RATIFICATION OF LETTERS OF AGREEMENT – Volume 41, Report No. 53

The Board was asked to approve letters of agreement with all four labor groups concerning compensation for absences due to illness caused by Covid-19. The federally mandated leave benefits for Covid related quarantines, illnesses, and child care expired on December 31, 2020. The negotiated agreements are for three-month extensions of some aspects of the federal leave benefit to cover Covid related illness and quarantine of employees and care of immediate family members. Excluded from the leave is child-care related to a school or child care closure. Mrs. Fields made the motion to approve the agreements, if ratified by the labor groups. Mrs. Fojtasek supported and the motion carried by unanimous roll call.

CORE SWITCH REPLACEMENT – Volume 41, Report No. 54

The Board approved the purchase of 3 Cisco Catalyst 9500 switches to replace the 2 switches at the main data center and 1 at the second data center. Existing switches are reaching end-of-life and end-of-update. This purchase is a planned technology consortium upgrade. The total cost is \$53,138 with funding provided through the technology consortium operating budget. Mrs. Fields made the motion to approve the purchase and Mr. Schedeler offered the second. An all yea roll call vote was taken and motion carried.

REPORTS FOR INFORMATION

STAFF, STUDENT AND PARENT PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT OPPORTUNITIES  
– Volume 41, Report No. 55

Per statute, the Board heard a report on the amount and type of professional development/training provided during 2020-21 to teachers on how to deliver virtual content, and to parents/legal guardians of pupils, and pupils on how to access and use virtual content. This report has been posted to the transparency page on the JCISD website.

BENCHMARK ASSESSMENT UPDATE – Volume 41, Report No. 56

Administration presented a mid-year update and review of the Board adopted student growth goal.

LABOR DAY WAIVER – Volume 41, Report No. 57

Details concerning the process for seeking a 3-year waiver to the start of schools before Labor Day were shared. A Zoom public hearing, with a participant from Michigan Department of Education, will be held on February 5, 2021 at 12 noon. Superintendent Oxley will seek a waiver on behalf of all local districts, as requested by the Jackson County Superintendents' Association.

ADJOURNMENT

The regular, virtual meeting of the Board of Education was adjourned at 6:55 p.m.