

**Minutes for the Joint Board of Directors
A Colorado Non-profit Corporation
August 24, 2021 6:00 p.m.
Zoom Meeting**

Preliminary A., B., C., D., E. F.

Ms. Sorice called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. The guests were welcomed. Roll call was taken and the following Board members were present: Mr. Ennis, Mr. Hawk, Mr. Kim, Ms. LaBerge, Ms. Quillen, Ms. Vartanova and Ms. Sorice. The following ex-officio Board members were present: Ms. Grantham, Mr. Matlick, Dr. O'Neill, Ms. Scarato and Ms. Taussig. Mr. Hawk led the guest and the Board of Directors in saying the Pledge of Allegiance. Ms. Sorice presented the agenda. Ms. LaBerge moved that the agenda be approved as presented. Mr. Hawk seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

During Public Comment:

Jason Cook supports the mask mandate. He stated concerns with the COVID positive rate increasing and the accuracy of the reported data.

Renata Huang supports students wearing masks. Questioned if JA will display a Dashboard with the number of COVID cases and those in quarantine.

Michael Westfield stated his concerns about the administration currently not following the guidelines for the utmost safety for staff and students.

Ms. Connacher spoke about JA being a choice school and referred to the vision and mission statements. She supports the measures needed to be taken to keep students safe.

Tiffany Logan spoke in favor of masks but giving students more mask breaks.

Chandra spoke about the increased mental health issues that children are experiencing with wearing masks.

Shara stated the importance of reporting data currently to avoid confusion.

Roman Sanchez does not agree with mandating masks and feels this is against someone's personal choice.

Heather Otterstetter supports the mask mandate in the primary and wants to see children in school full time.

Connie supports masks and is proud of the community with the percentage of vaccinations.

Jim Teagan stated the best way to get back to normal is to wear masks and accept the responsibility. Noting that staff in the secondary are required to wear masks, but it is optional for the students.

Ryan Fredricey pointed out that COVID will be around the rest of our lives. He does not support masks and wants to get back to normal.

Ashley Gomez supports masking for younger students as they can't be vaccinated and keep social distancing. Her elementary student does not mind wearing a mask.

Sara Cook does not support 'going back to normal'. We need to take things as seriously as we did last year. How will families be informed when cases come up?

Andrew spoke as a secondary student, who recovered from COVID, shared his thoughts that masks should be optional. Wearing a mask, he experienced depression. Questioned the Board about quarantine guidelines.

Mr. Shroeder spoke about the effects of being quarantined and older family members. The example that we are setting for our children. Keeping everyone safe by wearing masks.

Chad Woods is in favor of masks being optional. Stated data that the deaths in COVID and extreme cases are low in children under 17.

Bethany, speech pathologist, spoke about the effects of masks with communication and in the classroom setting.

Melanie Archuleta kept her child home last year due to a mask mandate. Typically there are more illnesses when students return to school.

Tricia Bishop read from documentation that children are not super spreaders, masks are not effective, and the issues with wearing masks and bacteria.

Jordan Chapel stated concerns for unvaccinated children at school, younger children at home and those that have compromised immune systems.

Rachel Plucinski requested that the Board keep the precautions in place to keep students in school.

Sandy Feck supported masks being optional and feels that students are being hindered with speech. Her children experience headaches with masks.

Krista Saxon was pleased by the initial communication from the Board not mandating masks. When can we stop masking?

Tom stated that the low percentage of deaths in Colorado and noting the lack of efficiency with wearing masks.

Jamie Kramer shared the increase with mental health issues and suicide rates.

Ted Lin stated his concern regarding the Delta variance and how contagious this virus is.

Mathew stated that masks obstruct children's communication and identity. Children may have difficulty understanding and hearing with masks which can lead to embarrassment/bullying etc.

Todd Kennall, a secondary student, stated he is more engaged without a mask.

Vanessa Thorsten supports masks in elementary schools. Suggested more options for teaching outdoors.

Annie is in support of masks for elementary students. If JA chooses to remove the mask mandate, will we have the support from the school to have our child continue to wear a mask? Would like to have a parent survey regarding masks for everyone to have their voice heard.

Ms. Sorice read a comment stating that they are in support of the mask mandate referring to scientific evidence. Exceptions should remain.

Jim spoke about his senior high student having the best week without having to wear a mask and is looking forward to school. This was not the case for her last year. Noting the hospitalization in Broomfield is low.

Mary Febrache, teacher at the secondary, stated that students not having to wear masks are much more interactive. She is willing to wear a mask to have students in the classroom five days a week.

Ms. Crawley read the comment from Dr. Lin. Dr. Lin stated that it is better to err on the side of caution to avoid the possibility of an outbreak. The elementary level should have masks and at the secondary optional unless there are outbreaks. Dr. Lin offered to speak with families with any questions or concerns.

Consent Agenda

A Review & Approve

Ms. Sorice presented the Consent Agenda. Ms. Vartanova moved that the Board approve the Consent Agenda as presented. Ms. LaBerge seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

General Agenda

A Informational

1 COVID data and protocol discussion as students return to school in light of CDC, CEPHE, Jefferson County School District, JCPH, and BPH guidance and orders.

Mr. Matlick stated that the Dashboard will return to our website. The Dashboard will report the number of COVID cases at each of our campuses. Families will receive emails if they are impacted by an exposure.

Mr. Matlick provided a presentation with data on hospitalizations, cases by age and the number of ICU beds available. Mr. Matlick reviewed the Jefferson County Public Health guidelines with masks and quarantine taken when exposed. Unvaccinated staff are required to test weekly and produce a negative test. Students in the elementary participating in extracurricular activities would need to undergo weekly testing. Mr. Matlick reported the guidelines with Broomfield Public Health. Students in Broomfield ages 12 and up are not required. Secondary staff are required to wear masks. Mr. Matlick reviewed JA's goals keeping students and staff safe moving toward cautious normality. Mr. Matlick noted that JA Elementary and Summit students follow the guidelines from JCPH and JA Secondary follow Broomfield Public Health. The Elementary and Summit campuses will not monitor and COVID test studently weekly and they will not have extracurricular activities. JA Secondary will have extracurricular activities, but will not use the JA Elementary building. It was estimated that about 80% of the students in the secondary school are wearing masks. Ms. Grantham reported that masks are required for high-risk activities: PE, music and indoor competitive events. Mr. Matlick noted that more information will follow about indoor sports taking place in Jefferson County. Mr. Matlick clarified the efforts being taken for language development and visual aspects of masking are exceptions for special education. Dr. O'Neill reported that students are not wearing masks during lunch, with two classes eating inside and two outside, and not masked during recess. While the weather is good, teachers are having

classes outside so that students do not have to wear masks. Dr. O'Neill and Ms. Grantham noted that teachers will return to the traditional model of having students make up their work if students are under quarantine. Mr. Matlick shared that band, music and drama classes are distancing students at least six feet apart and holding classes outside when possible. Dr. O'Neill shared that the students are excited and pleased to be back in school full time. Mrs. Grantham shared that the teachers are building connections with the students outside of their content area and recovering relationships. Mr. Ennis noted that the Board will adjust COVID protocols keeping everyone's safety in mind. Mr. Matlick explained that we switched to masks because we have children that cannot be vaccinated. The timeline to rescind masks cannot be determined at this time. Mr. Hawk requested the financial ramifications of losing students enrolled at Summit, as the masking seems to be an issue at these schools. Ms. Scarato reported that Summit Westminster had 30 students withdrawn, some with health issues. This will not affect their budget. Ms. Scarato does not expect that many more students to withdraw. Ms. Taussig reported that they are opening a new building this year. She noted some concerns with the numbers, but is still above the number that was budgeted. Mr. Matlick noted the difference between a homeschool student and a charter school student is that the home school student does not have to find another location. Mr. Matlick reported that when the mask mandate came out from JCPH, the Jeffco remote program increased by 1,000 students in one week. Dr. O'Neill shared that her teachers would rather wear a mask to keep students in school full time. Ms. Grantham reported that her teachers understand the importance of wearing masks, but find it difficult to work, understand conversations and the lack of interactions. Ms. Grantham stated if the staff can go three weeks without a positive case among the staff, she would go back to Broomfield Health and request that masks be reviewed. Ms. Scarato noted the difficulties in teaching. However, her teachers feel safer with smaller classes and that students attend only one day a week. Ms. Taussig stated that her teachers are having difficulty with understanding the logic. Ms. Quillen noted that there are not many teachers that speak up during the Board meetings and noted concerns with their voices not being heard. Mr. Matlick clarified that unvaccinated staff will be tested weekly beginning September 7, 2021.

B Strategic

1 General

a Update Strategic Plan 2021-2024

Ms. LaBerge stated that it was the intent to have a draft ready for this meeting. This will be presented at the September meeting.

2 Character and Values

a Update

Ms. Vartanova reported that the committee met and continued to discuss the best ways to communicate the top five values, noting the importance of involving the community. Mr. Williams added the elementary brought in a consultant and formulated thoughts and ideas. The

committee will get feedback from that group. Dr. O'Neill shared that at the end of the year survey, staff members felt that the elementary school had lost its way in terms of being a Core Knowledge school. Redefining operating under the mission and vision statement. This item will be on the September agenda.

C General Board Governance/Updates/Other Issues

1 Financial

a Board approval necessary due to changes in the budget in the amount of 5% or more

Ms. Vartanova reported that the Finance Committee met and discussed our strong financial position. She noted that in March the budget for this school year was based on the PPR of \$7,812.73 and since then the PPR has increased to \$8,768.01. The committee decided that an additional raise could be given to the staff to stay on par with other districts. Mr. Matlick provided a presentation. The presentation gave an overview with salaries, goals, market conditions and the budget impact. Mr. Matlick pointed out that they were asking for a 4.25% raise for all staff. He noted that at the end of 2021 the Board approved a 3% COLA increase and then this year the Board approved that the increase would stay. Mr. Matlick requested that the 2% raise approved for 2021-2022 be revised to a 6.25% raise. Mr. Matlick shared the starting salaries in the districts. Mr. Matlick stated that charter schools will never be able to match district salaries and noted the difficulties in obtaining applicants. The increase in salaries for JA will be supported by the savings in refinancing the bond. He noted that Summit is financially sound and has increased reserves annually. This raise would be effective immediately. Ms. Quillen moved to increase the previously approved 2021-2022 raise from 2% to 6.25% for all staff members. Mr. Hawk seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. Ms. Vartanova moved that the Board approve the budget as presented in its entirety with the updated PPR numbers and the salary increases. Ms. LaBerge seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

2 Facilities

a Update on water main pipe break and buildings

Mr. Matlick reported that we had two water main breaks during the first week of school. This is due to work done over the summer. He noted that the City of Westminster has been extremely courteous with not impacting the school during school hours. Ms. Scarato shared that they delayed the beginning of school for one week due to the fire panel malfunctioning.

b Update to JA Building Corporation Members

Ms. LaBerge reported that she is still trying to contact Pat Wall. This item will be on the September agenda.

3 Staffing

a Update from administration on staffing for school year

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Dr. O'Neill shared that all of the positions have been filled, except for custodians. Ms. Grantham shared that she has 10 new staff members. She recently had a math and PE teacher resign during inservice, and was able to fill those positions. Ms. Grantham is team-teaching a 7th grade math class. Ms. Scarato shared that they lost one and half teachers, and are currently looking for part time teachers to fill these positions. Ms. Taussig shared that they are doing well.

4 Committees

A Updates from committee leads on committee members

It was suggested that this be on September's agenda.

D Task-Oriented

1 Review and approve board calendar for 2021--2022 school year

Ms. LaBerge moved to continue Board meetings on the third Tuesday of each month and to post according to the Sunshine Law. Mr. Kim seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

2 Action

These were reviewed and revised.

3 Board communication to parents

It was determined that the Top 5 will not be sent this month, but communication will be generated by the administration.

E Policy

1 None

F Miscellaneous Board Items

1 Approve Minutes

Ms. Sorice presented the Minutes of July 20, 2021. Ms. Quillen moved to approve the Minutes of July 20, 2021 as presented. Ms. LaBerge seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Kim requested that the Board move into Executive Session at 9:15 p.m. Ms. Quillen seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Hawk moved that the Board take a five minute break and then enter Executive Session for the purpose of discussing personnel matters pursuant to C.R.S. 24-6-402(4)(f). Ms. LaBerge seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

G Executive Session

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Mr. Ennis moved that the Board exit Executive Session at 11:34 p.m. Mr. Hawk seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Adjournment

Mr. Ennis moved to adjourn at 11:35 p.m. Mr. Hawk seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,



Shelly Cohen, Clerk

Jefferson Academy Board of Directors