

JACKSON PUBLIC SCHOOLS
Board of Education Minutes
Regular Meeting
February 18, 2025

The Board of Education of the Jackson Public Schools held a Regular Meeting at 6:00 p.m. on Tuesday, February 18, 2025 at Jackson High School, 544 Wildwood Ave., pursuant to notice duly given.

Present: Marilyn Acton, Shalanda Hunt, Derek Dobies, Kesha Hamilton, Alaina Sharp, Subba Redday, Cheryl Simonetti

Approval of Agenda

The Superintendent updated item 24-25-57 Voluntary Severance Proposal to include Non-Unit employees.

Motion by M. Acton, supported by D. Dobies, to approve the agenda as amended. Motion carried unanimously.

Superintendent's Report

JPS Montessori Center Update – Principal Jayne, Montessori staff and students shared a wonderful, interactive student presentation with the Board.

2018 Bond Highlights/Summary – Asst. Supt. Kriss Giannetti highlighted the work done during the 2018 bond and reinforced the community's support of Jackson Public Schools.

Final Partnership District Benchmark Review Summary – Asst. Supt. Julie Baker reviewed the Summary document with the Board and addressed questions from the Board.

Section 98B Benchmark Assessment Progress Report – Asst. Supt. Jeremy Patterson presented the mid-year report and addressed questions from the Board.

Consent Agenda

The consent agenda consisted of the following items:

- 24-25-44 Minutes
- 24-25-45 Human Resources
- 24-25-46 Monthly Financial Report, January
- 24-25-47 Bond Financial Report, January

Motion by C. Simonetti, supported by M. Acton, to approve the consent agenda as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

Citizens Requesting to Address the Board

Joni Orandello
Cheryl Videto
Chris Davis
Leticia Albaran
Gina Hastings
William Hastings
Jeannie Brown
A'vion Johnson

Discussion Items

24-25-48 JHS Summer Painting

Over the past few years, the district has been painting areas of Jackson High School. The Finance/Facilities Committee discussed this at their January meeting and agreed to limit the scope to painting the hallways and staircases which will cost \$39,225. This will be funded from the general fund and the work will be done in the summer and spread over two fiscal years.

No action required at this time. A recommendation for approval will be on the March agenda.

24-25-49 Bus Purchase

The district is down to 4 operating diesel buses which are used for athletics and field trips to further destinations. The district likes to keep at least 5 diesel buses on hand especially during the spring and fall sports seasons. Holland Bus Company has a few off-lease buses on hand that the district can purchase for approximately \$55,000. This purchase would be made with bond dollars as buses were a part of the original scope of the bond project. The Finance/Facilities committee discussed this issue at the January meeting.

No action required at this time. A recommendation for approval will be on the March agenda.

24-25-50 Non-Unit Salary Schedule

The non-unit salary schedule has been updated to include 2% increases for 2025-26. This item was reviewed at the January 31 Finance/Facilities Committee. The impact to the 2025-26 budget for the recommended changes is an increase of \$96,517.

No action at this meeting. Approval will be recommended at the March meeting.

24-25-51 Strategic Plan

The Board held discussion about development of a strategic plan. There seemed to be consensus on moving forward. Will be looking at options on how to proceed.

24-25-52 Committee of the Whole

President Hunt explained this concept could be used to allow for additional conversations; asked about the feasibility of adding another monthly meeting.

The Board had lots of questions and needs additional information before making a decision.

24-25-53 MASB Spring Institute

President Hunt mentioned she would be attending as an MASB Board member. Marilyn has also requested to attend. If interested, let Michele know.

24-25-54 Youth Representation at Board Meetings

Much discussion on this issue with consensus on student engagement being important. Will be exploring options on how to move forward.

24-25-55 Resolution Affirming JPS as a Welcoming District to All Students

Trustee Hamilton provided background on how this issue evolved. The Board discussed the language in the resolution as there were differing opinions on the context and intent of the resolution.

24-25-56 2025/26 Budget Update

Superintendent Beal provided a summary of the budget shortfall. He shared approximate numbers of positions that may need to be reduced by unit and timelines for notifying staff.

Action Item

24-25-57 Voluntary Severance Proposal

In an effort to limit the number of layoffs, legal counsel prepared Resignation Agreement and Release documents for JEA (teachers), JPSAA (administrators) and Non-Unit that would allow for voluntary severance from the district.

Motion by D. Dobies, supported by K Hamilton, to authorize the Superintendent to offer Voluntary Severance packages in the amount of \$15,000 to JEA (teachers), JPSAA (administrators) and Non-Unit staff that meet the salary thresholds and allow the Superintendent to execute the necessary releases as presented. Motion carried 6-1 (No-Hunt).

24-25-58 MASB Board of Directors

Motion by D. Dobies, supported by A. Sharp, to support Guillermo Lopez for MASB Board of Directors Region 7. Motion carried 4-3 (No-Hamilton, Acton, Simonetti).

Board Comments

The Board members were given an opportunity to provide comments.

Calendar

- March 7, 2025 – 38th Annual JHS Ambassador Auction, JHS Fieldhouse, 5:00 pm
- March 18, 2025 – Regular Board Meeting, JHS Media Center, 6:00 pm

Adjournment

Motion by M. Acton, supported by A. Sharp, to adjourn the meeting at 10:27 pm. Motion carried unanimously.

Cheryl Simonetti, Secretary