

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

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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 Albarran  
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 – 38<sup>th</sup> 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.*

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Cheryl Simonetti, Secretary