

JEFFERSON TOWNSHIP LOCAL BOARD OF EDUCATION MINUTES
ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING
Tuesday, January 13, 2026

The Jefferson Township Local School District Board of Education met for an Organizational meeting on Tuesday, January 13, 2026 at the Administration Office, 2625 South Union Road, Dayton, OH.

The oath of office was administered to the following members:

- Patricia Babetto
- Michelle Cooper

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m.

(Resolution #26.001) PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE

Ms. Gillespie moved and Ms. Cooper seconded the approval of appointing Renee McDaniel President Pro Tempore.

Roll call: Ms. Babetto, aye; Ms. Cooper, aye; Ms. Gillespie, aye; Ms. McDaniel, aye. Motion carried.

Roll Call:

Ms. Patricia Babetto, present; Ms. Michelle Cooper, present; Ms. Shaunece Gillespie, present; Ms. Renee McDaniel, present.

Four members present.

Special Presentation:

- In honor of Ohio School Boards Association (OSBA) Board Member Recognition Month Superintendent Dr. Clifford presented all four board members with a certificate to celebrate their commitment to student success, community leadership, and setting the strategic direction for public education. Superintendent Clifford and Treasurer/CFO Jones also provided the board with a small token of their appreciation.

(Resolution #26.002) ADOPTION OF AGENDA

The adoption of the January 13, 2026 agenda was moved by Ms. Gillespie and seconded by Ms. Babetto.

Roll call: Ms. Babetto, aye; Ms. Cooper, aye; Ms. Gillespie, aye; Ms. McDaniel, aye. Motion carried.

(Resolution #26.003) APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The approval of the December 8, 2025 regular meeting minutes was moved by Ms. Cooper and seconded by Ms. Babetto.

Roll call: Ms. Babetto, aye; Ms. Cooper, aye; Ms. Gillespie, aye; Ms. McDaniel, aye. Motion carried.

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BOARD MEMBER RECOMMENDATIONS:

(Resolution #26.004) EXECUTIVE SESSION ORC 121.22(G) (1)

At 6:04 pm, Ms. Gillespie moved and Ms. Cooper seconded the motion to enter into Executive Session, in accordance with ORC section 121.22(G) (1), to discuss the appointment of a public official.

Roll call: Ms. Babetto, aye; Ms. Cooper, aye; Ms. Gillespie, aye; Ms. McDaniel, aye. Motion carried.

At 7:37 pm the board reconvened the regular session.

(Resolution #26.005) BOARD MEMBER VACANCY

Ms. Gillespie moved and Ms. Babetto seconded the approval of the following resolution:

BE IT RESOLVED, in accordance with R.C. 3313.11, that the Board of Education does hereby appoint Bonita Bembry to fill the school board vacancy, to serve until the first day of January 2028, for the term ending December 31, 2029;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Treasurer/CFO is hereby directed to notify the Board of Elections that the school board vacancy has been filled, and the name of the person appointed to fill the vacancy;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Treasurer/CFO is hereby directed to give written notice to the Board of Elections for the need to have a special Board election in November 2027 to fulfill the remaining unexpired term."

Roll call: Ms. Babetto, aye; Ms. Cooper, aye; Ms. Gillespie, aye; Ms. McDaniel, aye. Motion carried.

The oath of office was administered to the following member:

➤ Bonita Bembry

(Resolution #26.006) EXECUTIVE SESSION ORC 121.22(G) (1)

At 7:42 pm, Ms. Gillespie moved and Ms. Babetto seconded the motion to enter into Executive Session, in accordance with ORC section 121.22(G) (1), to discuss the appointment of a public employee.

Roll call: Ms. Babetto, aye; Ms. Bembry, aye; Ms. Cooper, aye; Ms. Gillespie, aye; Ms. McDaniel, aye. Motion carried.

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At 8:46 pm the board reconvened the regular session.

(Resolution #26.007) ELECTION OF OFFICERS-PRESIDENT
Ms. McDaniel moved and Ms. Babetto seconded the motion to approve Michelle Cooper as the 2026 President.

Roll call: Ms. Babetto, aye; Ms. Bembry, aye; Ms. Cooper, aye; Ms. Gillespie, aye; Ms. McDaniel, aye. Motion carried.

(Resolution #26.008) ELECTION OF OFFICERS-VICE PRESIDENT
Ms. Gillespie moved and Ms. McDaniel seconded the motion to approve Patricia Babetto as the 2026 Vice President.

Roll call: Ms. Babetto, aye; Ms. Bembry, aye; Ms. Cooper, aye; Ms. Gillespie, aye; Ms. McDaniel, aye. Motion carried.

President Cooper made the following appointments:

- Parliamentarian - Ms. McDaniel
- OSBA Legislative Liaison - Ms. Bonita Bembry
- OSBA Student Achievement Liaison - Gillespie

(Resolution #26.009) RESOLUTIONS
Ms. Babetto moved and Ms. Gillespie seconded the approval of the 2026 resolutions as follows:

- Regular Meetings
BE IT RESOLVED, by the Board of Education of the Jefferson Township Local School District, that the regular meetings for 2026 be held on the second Monday of each month at 6:00 p.m. at the Administration Office.
- Authorize the Treasurer/CFO to Pay Warrants
BE IT RESOLVED, by the Board of Education of the Jefferson Township Local School District, in accordance with Ohio Revised Code Section 3313.18, that the Treasurer/CFO of this Board be authorized to pay, without concurrent Board approval, warrants (bills) issued for payment of any claim from school funds if the expenditure for which such warrants are provided for in the annual appropriations and approved by the appropriate administrative authorities.

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➤ **Waive Reading of the Minutes**

BE IT RESOLVED, by the Board of Education of the Jefferson Township Local School District, in accordance with Ohio Revised Code Section 3313.26, the reading of Board Minutes for approval be waived since the Minutes are distributed to Board Members in advance of the regular meetings.

➤ **Establish Board Service Fund**

BE IT RESOLVED, by the Board of Education of the Jefferson Township Local School District, a majority of its full membership therein concurring, in accordance with Ohio Revised Code 3315.15, to provide for the setting aside from General Fund a sum not to exceed two dollars (\$2.00) for each child enrolled or twenty thousand dollars (\$20,000.00), whichever is greater, such sum of money to be known as the "Service Fund" to be used in paying the expense of members of the board actually incurred in the performance of their duties, or of their official representatives when sent out of the school district.

➤ **Authorize the Superintendent to Hire Applicants for Employment on an Emergency Basis**

WHEREAS, it is the normal procedure of the Jefferson Township Local School District for the Superintendent to recommend that the Board of Education vote to hire applicants for employment to the Board of Education and it is the duty of the Board of Education to vote to approve or disapprove each recommended applicant;

WHEREAS, because the Board of Education may only have one or two formal meetings per month, there are certain limited circumstances when an applicant for employment must be hired on an emergency or immediate basis prior to Board approval;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF EDUCATION OF THE JEFFERSON TOWNSHIP LOCAL SCHOOL DISTRICT:

Section 1. The Board of Education hereby authorizes the Superintendent of the Jefferson Township Local School District to hire an applicant for employment on an emergency basis prior to the approval by the Board of Education provided that such employment is approved at the next regular meeting of the Board of Education.

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➤ **Retain Legal Counsel**

BE IT RESOLVED, by the Board of Education of the Jefferson Township Local School District, that the following law firm be retained on an as needed basis:

Bricker Graydon
312 North Patterson Boulevard, Suite 200
Dayton, OH 45402

➤ **Approve Membership in the Ohio School Boards Association (OSBA)**

BE IT RESOLVED, by the Board of Education of the Jefferson Township Local School District, to approve membership in the Ohio School Boards Association (OSBA) for calendar year 2026.

➤ **Authorize Participation in Federal Grants**

BE IT RESOLVED, by the Board of Education of the Jefferson Township Local School District, to authorize the District to participate in Federal Grants, including but not limited to Title I, I-A, I-D, II-A, VI-B, and Early Childhood Special Education-IDEA and the Superintendent act as the authorized representative of the District in connection with these grants.

➤ **Designate the Treasurer/CFO as the Public Records Training Designee**

BE IT RESOLVED, by the Board of Education of the Jefferson Township Local School District, to designate the Treasurer/CFO as their public records training designee in accordance with ORC 109.43(B).

Roll call: Ms. Babetto, aye; Ms. Bembry, aye; Ms. Cooper, aye; Ms. Gillespie, aye; Ms. McDaniel, aye. Motion carried.

(Resolution #26.010) **RESOLUTION TO PROCEED WITH THE PROPOSITION OF AN INCOME TAX**

Ms. McDaniel moved and Ms. Babetto seconded the approval of the following resolution:

RESOLUTION TO PROCEED WITH THE
PROPOSITION OF AN INCOME TAX

(Ohio Revised Code Sections 5748.02 and 5748.03)

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WHEREAS, the Board at its meeting on December 8, 2025 determined that it is necessary to raise annually additional revenues of \$1,120,051 for the purpose of current expenses; and

WHEREAS, the Tax Commissioner of the State of Ohio has estimated and certified the property tax rate and the income tax rate required in order to produce such additional revenues; and

WHEREAS, the income tax rate, rounded to the nearest one-fourth of one percent as required by law, is 1.25% per annum;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of Education of the Jefferson Township Local School District, Montgomery County, Ohio, a majority of all of the members thereof concurring, that:

Section 1. Pursuant to Ohio Revised Code Sections 5748.02 and 5748.03, it is hereby determined to be necessary to proceed with the proposition of levying an earned income tax on the school district income of individuals residing in the School District (the "Income Tax"). The Income Tax shall be at the rate of 1.25% per annum, shall be for the purpose of current expenses, shall take effect and begin to be levied on January 1, 2027, and shall be levied for a continuing period of time.

Section 2. The school district income that shall be subject to the Income Tax is the taxable income as defined in Ohio Revised Code Section 5748.01(E) (2).

Section 3. The question of levying the Income Tax shall be submitted to all of the electors of the School District at the election to be held on May 5, 2026. All of the territory of the School District is located in Montgomery County, Ohio.

Section 4. The form of the ballot to be used at said election shall be substantially as follows:

Shall an annual income tax of 1.25% on the earned income of individuals residing in the school district be imposed by the Jefferson Township Local School District, for a continuing period of time, beginning January 1, 2027, for the purpose of current expenses?

	FOR THE TAX
	AGAINST THE TAX

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Section 5. The Treasurer of the School District is hereby directed to certify a copy of this Resolution to the Board of Elections of Montgomery County, Ohio, not later than February 4, 2026.

Section 6. It is hereby found and determined that all formal actions of this Board concerning and relating to the passage of this Resolution were taken in an open meeting of this Board, and that all deliberations of this Board and of any of its committees that resulted in such formal action were in meetings open to the public in compliance with all legal requirements, including Ohio Revised Code Section 121.22.

M____. _____ seconded the motion and, after discussion, a roll call vote was taken and the results were:

Ayes:

Nays:

Roll call: Ms. Babetto, aye; Ms. Bembry, aye; Ms. Cooper, aye; Ms. Gillespie, aye; Ms. McDaniel, aye. Motion carried.

TREASURER/CFO REPORT AND RECOMMENDATIONS:

(Resolution #26.011) TREASURER/CFO REPORT
The approval of the following Treasurer/CFO recommendations was moved by Ms. McDaniel and seconded by Ms. Gillespie:

➤ APPROVE FINANCIAL REPORTS

"Be it resolved by the Board of Education of the Jefferson Township Local School District, a majority of its full membership therein concurring, that it approves, the December 2025 Financial Reports."

➤ APPROVE THEN AND NOW CERTIFICATIONS

"Be it resolved by the Board of Education of the Jefferson Township Local School District, a majority of its full membership therein concurring, that it approves, the following Then and Now Certifications:"

Vendor	PO Number	PO Date	Invoice Amount
Montgomery County ESC	2600183	12/01/2025	\$ 6,250.00
Montgomery County Juvenile Court	2600048	08/01/2025	\$ 16,085.00
Trumpet Behavioral Health, Inc.	2600108	09/01/2025	\$ 46,709.17

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➤ APPROVE 2026 TAX ADVANCES

"Be it resolved by the Board of Education of the Jefferson Township Local School District, a majority of its full membership therein concurring, that the Treasurer/CFO of this Board be authorized to request and receive advance payment of taxes collected and held by the county treasurer pending final settlement. The Auditor of Montgomery County be and is hereby requested to draw his warrants to the Treasurer/CFO of this Board."

Roll call: Ms. Babetto, aye; Ms. Bembry, aye; Ms. Cooper, aye; Ms. Gillespie, aye; Ms. McDaniel, aye. Motion carried.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT AND RECOMMENDATIONS:

(Resolution #26.012) APPROVE ADDING ADDENDUM ITEMS TO THE AGENDA
Ms. Babetto moved and Ms. McDaniel seconded the approval of adding addendum items to the agenda in accordance with board policy 0165.1 Regular Meetings.

➤ APPROVE SUPPLEMENTAL CONTRACTS FOR THE 2025-2026 SCHOOL YEAR*

<u>Name</u>	<u>Position</u>	<u>Step</u>
Stepp, Kevin	Student Council	1

➤ APPROVE AMENDING RESOLUTION #25.122, SUPPLEMENTAL CONTRACT FOR THE 2025-2026 SCHOOL YEAR*

<u>Name</u>	<u>Position</u>	<u>Step</u>
Smith, Brenna	Jazz Band (7%)	Step 1 to 0

Roll call: Ms. Babetto, aye; Ms. Bembry, aye; Ms. Cooper, aye; Ms. Gillespie, aye; Ms. McDaniel, aye. Motion carried.

(Resolution #26.013) APPROVE SUPERINTENDENT RECOMMENDATIONS*
Ms. McDaniel moved and Ms. Babetto seconded the approval of the following Superintendent recommendations:

➤ Approve Certified Staff Resignation for the 2025-2026 School Year*

<u>Name</u>	<u>Position</u>	<u>Effective</u>
Brown, Belinda	7-12 Intervention	01/02/2026

Roll call: Ms. Babetto, aye; Ms. Bembry, aye; Ms. Cooper, aye; Ms. Gillespie, aye; Ms. McDaniel, aye. Motion carried.

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May 5, 2026 Levy Update:

- Treasurer/CFO Jones reviewed the deficit spending letter received from ODEW and provided to all board members. The letter recommended the following best practices:
 1. Forecast accuracy is necessary.
 2. Eliminate and then avoid deficit spending (Line 6.010).
 3. Require district administration to annually operate within available revenue.
 4. Establish annual operational budgets for all managers with spending authority.
 5. Implement board policies that require administrators to achieve and then maintain minimum cash balances (Line 7.020) equivalent to a minimum of 60-90 days of district expenditures (Line 5.050).
 6. Require fiscal transparency.

- Superintendent Clifford gauged the board's comfort with the possibility of significant cost savings by not transporting high school students (9-12). Ohio requires school districts to provide transportation for students in grades K-8 who live more than 2 miles from their assigned school, including nonpublic and community schools. Districts are not mandated to transport high school students (9-12), but must transport students with special needs. Students may walk up to 0.5 miles to a bus stop. The Feb2026 forecast will reflect the cost savings from implementing minimum transportation requirements.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:


None.

(Resolution #26.014) ADJOURNMENT

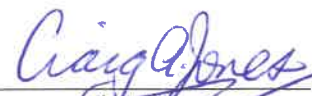
It was moved by Ms. Gillespie and seconded by Ms. McDaniel that the meeting be adjourned.

Roll call: Ms. Babetto, aye; Ms. Bembry, aye; Ms. Cooper, aye; Ms. Gillespie, aye; Ms. McDaniel, aye. Motion carried.

The Treasurer/CFO declared the meeting adjourned at 9:42 p.m.



President



Treasurer/CFO