

# Jasper County Charter System Board Bullets

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Highlights of the Jasper County Charter System Board of Education Meeting  
held on Tuesday May 10, 2022 6PM,  
at the Central Services Office

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Thank you to those Principals, Administrators, and Staff attending:

Audrey Stokes, Anne Harrison, Jim Strength, Dan Kelley, Cara Bockholt, Robbie Key,  
Peyton Proctor, Mary Richardson

- Mr. Schilling called the meeting to order and welcomed all present.
- The agenda was approved as presented
- Opening ceremonies were held.
- Mr. Schilling led the Board and audience in the reading of the mission and vision statement.
- Five community members signed up for public comment:
  - Ashley Pulliam-Dress Code & Chromebook Policies
  - Shelby Cannon-Bullying
  - Ashley Connell-Bullying
  - Sheila Jones-Resource Officer
  - Sharon Ivey-Senior Citizens Tax Increase
- The April 2022 Financial and Expenditure reports were not presented to the Board due to the meeting occurring one week earlier in the month as compared to the traditional Board calendar. Mr. Garland stated the report would be presented to the Board in an email and delivered at the June regular business meeting.
- Mr. Garland presented his recommendation for the FY 23 budget. The overall budget presented demonstrated an 8.16% increase from the FY 22 budget. The total amount proposed was \$26,767,225. He stated most of the increase was due to the increase in salaries of \$2000 by the state, the January 2022 Board approval of a \$1400 increase to the certified salary schedule and a \$ .90 increase to the non-certified scale. He noted the operational budget proposal decreased by 5.4% from \$4,326,067 to \$4,092,083.

In terms of projected revenues, Mr. Garland stated the system would receive a significant decrease in equalization funding of \$1,146,534. This is due to the significant increase in property values, overall growth within the county, and adjustments statewide due to revenue growth across the state. While the decrease was expected, he also noted it was more than expected.

On a brighter note, he noted a \$37-million-dollar increase to the digest due to real growth. This equates to approximately \$626,000 in additional revenue to the school system. Also, with the agreement in conjunction with the Board of Commissioners, the school system would receive an estimated \$241,408 for FY 23. He also noted TAVT and other local revenues have maintained a healthy rate during the pandemic. The tax collection rate is holding at the projected level of 94%.

Some of the highlights of the presentation included the addition of 11.5 positions throughout the system. This is due to the current and potential growth in the school system. He also noted most of the positions will receive funding from the state after the October FTE and midyear adjustments. He noted the system received a midterm adjustment of \$592,836 during FY 22.

One unknown yet to be released from the state is the transportation allotment for FY 23. He expected the allotment to increase as fuel cost rise. Mr. Garland stated the last purchase of diesel for school buses was approximately \$39,000.

In order to keep up with potential minimum wage changes from national legislation, Mr. Garland recommended a two grade increase for paraprofessionals. He noted the current salaries are not where they need to be even with the adjustments of the pay scale for FY 23.

Finally, Mr. Garland recommended to the Board a full rollback of millage rate from 16.838 to 14.789. While the budget presented using \$2,091,113 of fund balance, he stated the conservative revenue estimates coupled with an FY 23 midterm adjustment due to growth should offset a significant portion of the fund balance reduction. The JCCS current fund balance of approximately \$9.8 million demonstrates approximately eight months of personnel budget as the goal is to maintain six months of personnel budget for such matters. Mr. Garland stated a healthy fund balance allowed for the Board to consider the salary schedule increase and prepare for future growth in moving forward. In summary, the healthy fund balance allows the recommendation of a full rollback of the millage rate at this time.

The Board determined to hold a budget hearing on June 14 at 6PM and meet on June 21 at 6PM to approve the final budget and millage rate.

- Mr. Garland presented two bid amounts received regarding the JCHS roof repair. The amounts were \$298,500 and \$306,500. He asked the Board to authorize him to issue a notice to proceed with the lowest vendor once the bidding process was complete. The architect, LS3P, is currently checking the bids for errors and omissions as required by process. Mr. Garland requested the consensus of the Board as it is the goal to begin the project on or around June 1<sup>st</sup>. He stated a formal approval would be an agenda item for the June business meeting. The Board concurred with the request.
- Mr. Garland presented several recommendations regarding CARES 2 and American Rescue Plan Act funds for consideration moving forward. He provided a large portion of the funds would be recommended for flooring replacement at

WPES and another significant portion be used for HVAC replacement at the schools. Another recommended use of funds would be to purchase 87 Chromebook charging devices for the schools. The purchase of these devices would eliminate the multiple charging cords needed to keep devices fully powered. Finally, he recommended a portion of the funds be used to support learning loss as this is required by Federal law and ensure staffing for summer programs across the district.

Mr. Garland also announced he will be delivering a State of the Schools address in the JCHS Auditorium on May 31, 2022 at 8:30 AM to kickoff summer planning for FY 23. The public is welcomed to attend.

- The Board approved minutes from the April 19, 2022 regular business meeting as presented.
- The Board approved the following fundraiser requests:
  - JCHS Baseball- Youth Camp June 6-June 8
  - JCHS Baseball-Middle School Camp June 13-June 15
  - JCHS Tennis-Apparel FY 23
  - JCHS Softball-Text Based Donations- June 1-August 15
  - JCHS Softball-Golf Tournament- July 23
- Mr. Garland presented to the Board the administrative workdays draft calendar (May31-June 9).
- Mr. Garland presented Spring MAP data for JCHS. In his presentation, he noted 67% of JCHS and JCVA students meeting the reading goal. This exceeded the district goal for the school year. In mathematics, 35% of the students at JCHS and JCVA met their benchmark. This was slightly under the district goal of 37%. In further analysis, a significant gain was noted among the freshmen in mathematics of 10%. Mr. Garland also noted significant gains in preliminary results in mathematics at JCPS and with iReady results at WPES and JCMS. Mr. Garland expressed confidence in overall gains at all schools in many areas even with interruptions due to the pandemic.
- The Board approved the technology handbook for FY 23 as presented. There was much discussion regarding the implementation of a \$35 user fee for grades 9-12 that would allow 24/7 access to Chromebook devices. Beginning next school year, the system will allow the incoming freshmen class to participate as a 24/7 user. If a student participates all four years in the program, upon graduation they would receive the device. The Chromebook will be assigned to the student upon initial participation and remain with the student during all four academic years. The device would be returned during the summer months for upgrades to the various applications on the devices.
- Mr. Garland presented recommended changes to the 2022-2023 student handbooks.

- Makeup work: Students with excused absences have 5 days to make up work from the day of return. Students with unexcused absences can make up work aligned with the number of absences (example, a student misses two days of school will be allowed two days upon return to make up work.) There will be an after school day dedicated to all students with unexcused work under 10 days from till 5 PM at each location. Once a student has reached 10 days of unexcused absences, then the student will not be eligible to make up work.
- Dress Code: The major changes recommended for approval states students will not be allowed to wear pants with holes. In regards to hoodies, the following will apply for the upcoming school year.

Hoodies can be worn with the hood down while inside the school building. If this is violated the following process will be in place:

- Violation 1- verbal warning to remove the hood
- Violation 2- parent contact
- Violation 3- parent contact and student may no longer wear hoodies to school for the remainder of the year.
- Violation 4- student may receive ISS, OSS or assignment to the alternative setting.

There was a lengthy discussion with the Board regarding the amount of time spent addressing dress code issues. The Board focused the discussion on the loss of instructional time dealing with dress code issues.

- Grading: The following changes were recommended.

K-2 – Standard based report cards, common assessments.

3-5-- No homework, 6-9 grades per nine weeks, 10% of average grades would be from summative tests and 90% from daily grades.

6-8— 70% average of formative assessments (minimum of 9) 30% average of summative assessments (minimum of 3). Any students attempting high school credit will follow the high school grading policy

9-12--- 40% average of summative assessments (minimum of 8) 50% average of summative assessments (minimum of 5) 10% average of daily grades.

All recommendations as stated above were approved by the Board

- Mr. Garland presented a partnership proposal from the Morehouse School of Medicine with implementation of the Rural Communities Opioid Response Program-Behavioral Health Care Support Initiative. The Jasper County Charter Systems role will be to select BOE approved prevention courses that are evidenced-based to adolescents at all schools. The Board approved the request.

- Mary Richardson gave a brief presentation regarding supply chain issue with milk products. She stated our current vendor has communicated to her office a termination of the existing contract effective May 31. In order to serve milk products during summer activities, Mr. Garland has reached out to the hospital in working with their provider of milk products to provide an adequate supply for the system during the summer in order to allow full meals to be served during summer feeding (breakfast and lunch). Mr. Garland thanked the hospital for their assistance.
- The Board voted to enter executive session:
- The Board voted to exit executive session:
- The Board approved the following personnel actions recommended by the Superintendent:

#### New Hire

- a. Marty Claxton, Assistant Principal, Jasper County High School(effective 07/2022)
- b. Alicia Cottingham, Data Clerk, Jasper County Primary School(effective 07/2022)
- c. Amanda Paulk, Teacher, Jasper County Middle School(effective 08/02/2022)
- d. Alissa Madonna, School Social Worker, Jasper County Board of Education(effective 08/02/2022)
- e. Denise Tweed, Clerical, Jasper County High School(effective 07/2022)
- f. Paula Caldwell, Teacher, Jasper County High School(effective 08/02/2022)
- g. Antonio Standifer, Custodian, Washington Park Elementary School(effective 04/18/2022)
- h. Vickie Vickers, Substitute Teacher, Jasper County Board of Education(effective 08/02/2022)
- i. Cynthia Jackson, Teacher, Jasper County Board of Education(effective 08/02/2022)
- j. Doraine Strock, Nurse, Jasper County High School(effective 08/02/2022)
- l. Jared Jones, Teacher, Jasper County High School(effective 08/02/2022)
- m. Kaden Miller, Teacher, Jasper County Middle School(effective 08/02/2022)
- n. Kimberly Holliday, Teacher, Jasper County PreSchool(effective 08/02/2022)

#### Resignation

- a. Brittany Ross, Substitute Custodian, Jasper County Board of Education(effective 04/21/2022)
- b. Steve Durden, Groundskeeper, Maintenance Department(effective 04/29/2022)
- c. Maureen Ryan, Teacher, Jasper County Middle School(effective 05/27/2022)
- d. Laura Rolader, Teacher, Jasper County Middle School(effective 05/27/2022)

#### Transfer

- a. George Roberts, District Athletic Director, Jasper County Board of Education, transfer from District Athletic Director at Jasper County Board of Education to Teacher at Jasper County Middle School(effective 08/02/2022)
- b. Brittany Kimble, Paraprofessional, Jasper County PreSchool, transfer from Paraprofessional at Jasper County PreSchool to Teacher at Jasper County PreSchool(effective 08/02/2022)

#### Retirement

- a. Willie Little, Custodian, Jasper County High School(effective 05/25/2022)

#### Release from Contract

- a. Abraham Holloway, Teacher, Jasper County High School(effective April 29, 2022)

- The Board approved contracts as recommended by the Superintendent
- The Board tabled approval of the Superintendents evaluation as the board chair will review with Mr. Garland specific district goals in moving forward.

OLD BUSINESS: NONE

NEW BUSINESS: Dr. Barton requested an invitation for Tiffani McClain, a recently crowned state champion in extemporaneous speaking, to attend a future Board meeting to be recognized for her outstanding accomplishment.

Mr. Garland stated to the Board a training needed to be conducted sometime in June to meet the requirement set forth by GSBA. The Board directed Mr. Garland to secure Mark Wilson for either June 14 or June 21 to conduct a training on school improvement and the governing bodies role.

The Board Approved a motion to adjourn at 9:08 PM

Next Meeting: FY 23 Budget Hearing 6:00 PM June 14<sup>th</sup>

Business Meeting 6:30 PM June 14<sup>th</sup>

Approval of Budget and Millage Rate/Business Meeting 6:00 PM June 21st