

JACKSON TOWNSHIP BOARD OF EDUCATION
OFFICIAL BOARD MEETING
DECEMBER 11, 2024
JACKSON MEMORIAL HIGH SCHOOL FINE ARTS CENTER AUDITORIUM

An Official Meeting of the Jackson Township Board of Education was held in compliance with the Open Public Meeting Law and was called to order by Board President, Giuseppe Palmeri, at 5:33 p.m. on December 11, 2024.

Present: Mrs. Gardella
Mr. McCarron
Dr. Osmond
Mrs. Rivera (arrived 5:35 pm)
Mrs. Kas
Mr. Palmeri

Absent: Mrs. Barocas

Also present: Mrs. N. Pormilli, Superintendent of Schools; Mr. D. Baginski, Business Administrator/Board Secretary; Mr. R. Rotante, Assistant Superintendent; Dr. L. Godlesky, Assistant Superintendent; Mr. M. Zitomer, Board Attorney; and Ms. C. Morris, State Appointed Monitor.

On a motion by Mr. Palmeri, seconded by Dr. Osmond, the Board of Education opened the Executive Session to discuss contracts; employment of personnel-terms and conditions of employment; pending litigation; investigations, and matters falling within the attorney-client privilege with respect to these subjects. This meeting was not open to the public. The Board would reconvene at approximately 6:30 p.m. in the Jackson Memorial High School Fine Arts Auditorium at which time action would be taken.

Exec
Session

The Official Meeting of the Jackson Township Board of Education reconvened in compliance with the Open Public Meeting Law and was called to order by Board President, Giuseppe Palmeri, at 6:30 p.m.

Recon-
vene

Present: Mrs. Gardella
Mr. McCarron
Dr. Osmond
Mrs. Barocas
Mrs. Rivera
Mrs. Kas
Mr. Palmeri

Also present: Mrs. N. Pormilli, Superintendent of Schools; Mr. R. Rotante, Assistant Superintendent; Dr. L. Godlesky, Assistant Superintendent; Mr. D. Baginski, Business Administrator/Board Secretary; Mr. M. Zitomer, Board Attorney and Ms. C. Morris, State Appointed Monitor.

After the salute to the flag and the Certification of the meeting according to the tenets of the Open Public Meeting Law, the Board President made the following statement:

Mr. Palmeri called for a moment of silence for the loss of Jackson Memorial High School student Jim Morrell.

“This meeting is in compliance with the Open Public Meeting Law and has been duly advertised in the newspaper as an Official Meeting.”

On a motion by Mrs. Rivera, seconded by Mrs. Kas, the Board of Education approved the agenda with addendums as submitted by the Superintendent of Schools.

Approv
Agenda

Roll Call Vote: Yes: Mrs. Gardella
Mr. McCarron
Mrs. Barocas
Dr. Osmond
Mrs. Rivera
Mrs. Kas
Mr. Palmeri

MOTION CARRIED

BOARD OF EDUCATION RECOGNITION

- 2024-2025 Educators of the Year and Educational Service Professionals of the Year:

Mr. Palmeri and Mrs. Kas presented the Teachers of the Year and Educational Services Professionals of the Year.

Mr. Palmeri expressed the pleasure of celebrating and honoring this year’s Teachers of the Year and Educational Services Professionals of the Year. Mr. Palmeri expressed his gratitude for being able to join together tonight to celebrate our educators and the immeasurable impact they have on our students and their fellow educators. Those honored tonight embody dedication and the unwavering belief in the potential of each student. Their dedication to fostering a positive learning environment enhances growth and inspires students to believe in their own potential. On behalf of the Board, the students and colleagues, he thanked each award recipient for their commitment to excellence and teaching and supporting our students. He noted they are true inspirations and we are lucky to have them as a part of our community. They have done so much for our students that they will carry with them beyond graduation. The recognition tonight is a testament of their hard work, dedication, and the incredible difference they make every day.

Round of applause for all of our extraordinary educators.

On behalf of the Board of Education and all the students of Jackson, he congratulated and recognized the following. He asked the Principals of each school to come up with the staff members being honored tonight and proceed to the stage.

From Crawford-Rodriguez Elementary School:
Teacher Tracy Carbo
Guidance Counselor Erin Schnorbus

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Jackson Memorial High School Fine Arts Auditorium

From Elms Elementary School:
Teacher Nicole Avila
Guidance Counselor Dara Feibelman

From Holman Elementary School:
Teacher Shari Berger
Speech Language Specialist Jill Nix

From Johnson Elementary School:
Preschool Disabled Teacher Kimberly Coder
Personal Paraprofessional Kathleen Raimondi

From Switlik Elementary School:
Teacher Kaitlin Levine
Paraprofessional Felicia Marchisotto

From Preschool Annex @ Jackson Memorial High School:
Preschool Teacher Maria Caloia
Preschool Classroom Paraprofessional Joan Savage

From Goetz Middle School:
World Language Teacher Yvette Marilyn Brewer
School Nurse Cecilia Ferreira

From McAuliffe Middle School:
Physical Education Teacher Kelly Nieduzak
Title I Basic Skills Interventionist Stacey-Ann Louis

From Jackson Memorial High School:
Special Education Teacher Meghan Mauro
Classroom Paraprofessional Brenda Mersinger

From Jackson Liberty High School:
Social Studies Teacher Donald Connor
Guidance Counselor Catherine Ferrara

DISTRICT AWARDS

Mr. Palmeri presented the district awards. He stated it is a difficult decision selecting a district Teacher of the Year and district Educational Services Professional of the Year.

First, he presented the award for the District Educational Services Professional of the Year. He stated the person chosen despite her enormous responsibilities she is someone who when called responds immediately. Her classroom teacher experience has given her empathy, knowledge and background to assist teachers in the classroom. She says the difficult things parents need to hear to help teachers preserve the relationship they cultivated with the parents. She helps students get to a safe mental health position to sit in a classroom. She values the exchange of ideas. Students seek her out as a trusted adult and a safe place. He announced as our District Educational Services Professional of the Year - from Crawford Rodriguez Elementary School - Guidance Counselor Erin Schnorbus.

Mr. Palmeri presented the award for the District Teacher of the Year. He stated this teacher is a dedicated professional whose passion for teaching and support for staff has created a nurturing environment that fosters learning and growth. She connects with students and staff from diverse backgrounds and makes them feel valued. She incorporates interactive activities to make learning fun. In her classroom, mistakes are seen as learning opportunities, encouraging students to take risks and build their confidence. She is always ready to listen and to make adjustments that benefit everyone, reinforcing a culture of respect. She is a positive influence, fair and has a genuine concern for the welfare of the students. Mr. Palmeri announced as our District Teacher of the Year – from Goetz Middle School - World Language Teacher Yvette Marilyn Brewer.

On a motion by Mrs. Rivera, by acclamation, the meeting took recess at 6:49 pm to celebrate the award recipients and enjoy light refreshments.

Meeting was called to order and resumed at 6:59pm

SUPERINTENDENTS REPORT/INFORMATION ITEMS

Mrs. Pormilli congratulated all of the winners and noted she appreciates all that they do.

Mrs. Pormilli invited Colin to the podium for the Student Board Member Report.

- Colin Williams – Memorial – Student Council President
- Colin thanked everyone for allowing him to speak. He shared achievements, upcoming events, and opportunities at JMHS.
- The Drama Club’s fall production of Mean Girls was a success.
- The JMHS Chorus hosted its Winter Concert. The annual Holiday Band concert is next week. All are invited.
- Spirit Week is next week to celebrate the winter season with fun themes like pajama day and ugly sweater day and activities.
- INTERACT Club is hosting Adopt-a-Family by collecting gifts and donations. Seeing our students giving back is inspiring.
- A Student Wellness and Resource Fair is an opportunity for students to engage in wellness-focused activities, visit a therapy dog, and learn about resources that support students' mental health.
- The Off the Grid Club is hosting a Recyclable Art Contest - students submit creations using paper, plastic and aluminum.
- Cap and gown orders are now open.
- The library will host our second craft session of the year. The Jackson Public Library will provide supplies for ornaments.
- Winter sports teams, wrestling, basketball, bowling, ice hockey, swimming, and winter track are preparing for the season.
- Winter break begins soon, and students truly look forward to sleeping in for a few days.
- He thanked Mrs. Pormilli and the Board of Education for their ongoing support and looks forward to next month’s report.

Mrs. Pormilli thanked Colin for his report.

Mrs. Pormilli invited Ava who is filling in for Katie to the podium for the Student Board Member Report.

- Ava Bocciaro – Liberty
- Ava thanked everyone for allowing her to speak. She shared what has been happening this month.
- Indoor Track is kicking have their first meet this week and other winter teams start soon.
- A pep rally is this Friday - a fun-filled afternoon is planned.
- The JLHS Choir and the AtLib Players Drama Club presented You're a Good Man Charlie Brown Christmas. The entire basketball team was in attendance to support the show.
- Mr. Connor was named Teacher of the Year and Mrs. Ferrara was named Educational Service Professional of the Year.
- A. Everett and R. Malangone were named Seniors of the Month. G. Chiafullo and J. Teopacco are Athletes of the Month
- Liberty Band hosted a Vendor & Craft Fair and the Class of 26 is hosting a bake sale to raise funds for the Junior formal.
- The Leadership Academy is working to incorporate activities for our students. The AP Government class will visit the NJ State House for Model Congress. The Performing Arts Academy has a trip to Broadway planned.
- Various outreach events include Key Club's toy drive, the boys' wrestling team's clothes drive, the National Honor Society's holiday cards for senior citizens. NHS is selling holiday grams. Staff has the annual Holiday Giving event. The Student Council and the Leadership Academy are using a giving tree to help others.
- Seniors are awaiting responses from their chosen universities. The Rider Instant Decision Day was a huge success.
- Guidance hosted a FAFSA workshop. The support offered by the counselors and staff at Liberty makes a difference.
- The school is in the middle of the 12 Days of Holiday Spirit Week - including festive outfits and door decorations.
- There is excitement about Challenge Day because it will help lay the groundwork for an amazing kickoff to next year.
- She appreciates the platform to present the good news circulating around Liberty.
- She wished everyone a safe and happy holiday season and looks forward to 2025.

Mrs. Pormilli thanked Ava for stepping in to make the report.

Mrs. Pormilli noted it is a busy time for students a lot of academic things are happening in our high school including SATs and testing, seniors are getting acceptances to college, armed services and trade schools. She congratulated the seniors.

She noted the district administration and the staff have been working on the district goals.

Health and safety and connection goals - removed some of the trailers at our elementary schools, implemented a change in the cell phone procedures at the high school level, grant funds used to address chronic absenteeism at the high schools, created a grant funded supervisor position of mental health.

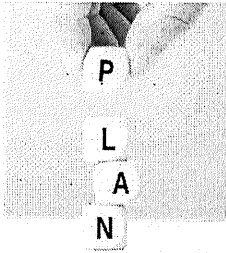

Academic growth and rigor goals - implemented an elementary literacy curriculum, new math curriculum for grades 6-8, math and literacy curriculum in I Excel for grade 9, new high school math curriculum that provides student centered resources and problem centered learning. Used Title I and Title IV funds at the middle school to help with after school academic support. Will continue with professional development and will use the LinkIt platform for tiered system of support. A grant allowed our High Schools to partner with Big Brothers Big Sisters and learn about health care careers. A trade job fair is also planned.

Finance, facility and transportation goals - the board advocacy committee is advocating for fair funding, met with Senator Henry to continue to advocate for fair funding for Jackson Schools, utilized targeted assistant grants in both of our high schools, expanded our mental health grant, worked with our architect to create a master plan for our facilities, completed the preschool annex, and completed the upgrade to our transportation tran system.

Homeschool connection and human resources goals - a design plan is created for a new website and are establishing a training schedule, completed our Rosenauer celebration, and we reached 1,000 Facebook followers.

Strategic planning goals – the number one goal - There have been multiple meetings and several meetings are scheduled. She noted there are many rumors and a lot of emotional reactions. She encouraged everyone to listen to what the Board is saying and not to rumors. She encouraged people to remember why we need to restructure and know there are good intended people trying to keep this district strong, sustainable and united. She knows change is hard but our current situation is not sustainable.

Mrs. Pormilli went to the podium to give a strategic planning goal refresher and an update. She presented the following slides.

<h2 style="text-align: center;">Community Update on Jackson School District Strategic, Redistricting, & Restructuring Planning (SRRP) Committee Progress</h2> <p style="text-align: center;">Presented Dec. 11, 2024</p>	<h3 style="text-align: center;">Why Plan?</h3> <div style="display: flex; align-items: center; justify-content: center;">  <div style="margin-left: 20px;"> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Is your school enrollment changing? • Is the make up of your school population changing? • Are there more people in your community who don't have children in school? • Would you benefit from a roadmap for the district's future? </div> </div> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between; align-items: center; margin-top: 10px;">  njsra.org Facebook njshs Twitter njshs Instagram njshsraired YouTube njshs </div>
<h3 style="text-align: center;">WHY STRATEGIC PLANNING?</h3> <div style="background-color: #333; color: white; padding: 10px; margin: 10px 0;"> <p>We have smart, creative, talented, innovative, problem-solving, hard working staff helping students to succeed.</p> <p>However, our situation is no longer sustainable without making adjustments and changes.</p> </div> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Financial challenges (reduced state aid & inflation) • Challenges to keep strong, expansive programs & co-curricular activities • Increased needs of students (academic, mental health, MLL) • Aging facilities and facility maintenance (projects postponed for years due to financial challenges) • Outdated trailers being used for classrooms and staff offices • Class sizes • Decreases in enrollment K-12 	<h3 style="text-align: center;">GOALS & TIMELINE</h3> <p style="text-align: center;">To assist administration in making recommendations to the Board of Education about how to best provide strong, equitable and sustainable opportunities for our students within the limitations of our financial challenges.</p> <p>We want to establish clear priorities to move the district forward and expect to make key decisions about how to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Address class size inequities among grade levels 2. Ensure all students have access to the same academic and extra-curricular opportunities as their classmates 3. Rectify serious facility needs that impact student learning

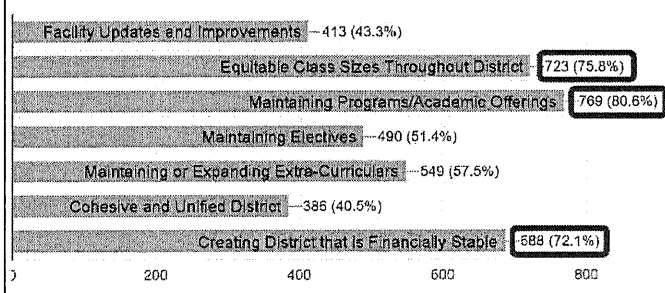
SRRP COMMITTEE PURPOSE/ROLE

- Review data and other information presented
- Identify priorities
- Provide perspective, input and insight
- Act as “think tank” to address challenges
- Help administration make recommendations to the Board of Education to address the challenges faced by the District

Summary of Things to Consider During SRRP Process

- Consolidation for lowering operating costs
- Locations of schools
- Busing time for students and limitations of necessary transportation tiers
- Limiting number of transitions for students
- Minimizing # of students impacted
- Grade level enrollments
- Equitable courses, programs, opportunities for co-curricular and athletics
- More equitable class sizes
- Developmentally appropriate grade span cohorts
- Long-term restructuring vs. having to restructure again within a few years
- Facilities layout & upgrades needed (architect assessment)

What Would Be the Most Important Outcomes?



IMPORTANT:

This is a report to the public on what the committee is considering. The committee is continuing its work and we will make a full, detailed report at the Public Forum at the Jan. 22, 2025 Board of Education Meeting.

Jan. 22, 2025

- Public Presentation of Recommendations
- Public Forum
- Time to Consider Information Presented

Feb. 5, 2025

- Second Public Forum and Possible BOE Vote
- Sole Focus is Recommendations, Questions, Input

SRRP Committee Meetings To Date
Included in last month's update

- October Meeting #1**

 - Outline The Challenges
 - Review Enrollment / Building Capacities
 - Referendum & Architects' Facility Assessment
- November Meeting #3**

 - Review school sending area borders and transportation challenges
 - Review models and restructuring recommendations, narrow down
 - Identify barriers/challenges to options
- October Meeting #2**

 - Share Survey Results & Identity Trends in Survey Data
 - Grade Level Spans - Evaluate Various School Models
 - Discussion & Identify Priorities

WHERE WE STARTED in October

Current	#2	#3	#4	#5	#6	Red	Gray
PreK - 5 6-8	PreK - 4 5-8	PreK - 4 5-6 7-9	PreK - 4 5-6 7-8	PreK - 4 5-6	PreK - 2 3-4 5-6	PreK - 3 4-6 7-9	PreK-3 4-5 6-8
9 -12 (2 HS)	9 -12 (2 HS)	10-12 (1 HS)	9-12 (2 HS)	7-12 (2 HS)	7-12 (2 HS)	10-12 (1 HS)	9-12 (1 HS)
2 HS	2 HS	1 HS	2 HS	2 HS	2 HS	1 HS	1 HS
Keeps all schools	Keeps all schools	Closes 1 Middle School	Keeps all schools	Closes 1 Middle School	Closes 1 Middle School	Closes 1 Middle School	Closes 1 Middle School

SRRP Committee Meetings Since Last Update

November Meeting #4

- Consensus was reached to narrow 8 options to those 4 options that that allowed us to achieve goal of **consolidating schools to lower operating costs**
 - This means closing one middle school (to be determined) and reconfiguring grades
- To move forward we needed to decide on High School configuration options, including exploring a 10-12 high school configuration to open up space if we consolidated high schools
- Discussed in depth what would be necessary to **ensure 9th grade students retained comprehensive academic & extracurricular experiences AND** benefits/challenges to various middle school and "jr. high school" configurations
 - Analysis incl. impact to academics, activities/athletics, social/friendships, maturity levels and appropriateness of varied age groups together

Narrowed Options at Meeting #4

#3	#4B (Modified by committee)	#7 Red	#8 Gray
PreK - 4 5-6 7-9	PreK - 4 5-6 7-8	PreK - 3 4-6 7-9	PreK-3 4-5 6-8
10-12 (1 HS)	9-12 (1 HS)	10-12 (1 HS)	9-12 (1 HS)
1 HS	1 HS	1 HS	1 HS
Closes 1 Middle School	Closes 1 Middle School	Closes 1 Middle School	Closes 1 Middle School

SRRP Committee Meetings Since Last Update

December Meeting #5

- After reviewing community input and committee feedback, discussed scope of challenges related to 10-12 model, including:
 - Altering busing tiers to open up options for 9th graders to easily participate in HS activities is not possible
 - Concerns about planning time necessary to ensure we can support 9th grade academics/activities in alternate location
 - Do we have enough information to help the community understand this significant change?
- Analyzed side-by-side comparisons of school capacities, ages, conditions, rooms, classrooms, departments, offices, bus ramps, cafeterias, special program rooms
- Took first of 2 tours of high school buildings (Memorial) with other school being toured at next meeting (Liberty)

SRRP Committee Meetings Since Last Update

December Meeting #5 - Continued

- Consensus was reached that we cannot pursue a 10-12 high school configuration. We would need more RESEARCH and more PLANNING to transition to a 10-12 model / 7-9 junior high school model.
- Consensus was reached to narrow options to TWO MODELS.
- BOTH models remaining in committee consideration:
 - CLOSE one middle school - (Goetz OR McAuliffe)
 - Middle School grade configurations TBD (see next slide)
 - CONSOLIDATE our high schools into ONE - Memorial OR Liberty (Grades 9-12)

Committee Consensus: Remaining Models

#4B	#8 Gray
PreK - 4 (current elems)	PreK - 3 (current elems)
5-6 (Goetz OR McAuliffe)	4-5 (Goetz OR McAuliffe)
7-8 (Liberty OR Memorial)	6-8 (Liberty OR Memorial)
9-12 (Liberty OR Memorial)	9-12 (Liberty OR Memorial)
1 High School Closes 1 Middle School	1 High School Closes 1 Middle School

NEXT STEPS:

At Meeting # 6 - We will Continue to Evaluate:

- Further analysis of enrollment #s in Middle and Elementary Schools
- Further analysis of transportation impact on remaining models
- Further analysis of both middle schools and both high school facilities to determine recommendation to BOE
- How we can minimize change - evaluating options that require little to no redrawing of school attendance boundaries in elementary

IMPORTANT:

There have been
NO RECOMMENDATIONS or DECISIONS
yet about which school could remain
the district's 9-12 high school
OR
about which middle school could close.

There will be no decisions made until we hold
TWO public forums on the recommendations
and the BOE votes on those recommendations.

Doing nothing is not an option for us.

Neither our enrollment, nor our budget situation
support maintaining all of the buildings we have.

We can better educate and support ALL of our students
if we make hard choices now.

We want STRONG PROGRAMS for ALL:
Timely Curriculum Updates, AP, Academies, Robust Electives

We want STRONG SUPPORTS for ALL:
Intervention, Enrichment, Supplies, Technology

We want STRONG OPPORTUNITIES for ALL:
Athletics, Activities, Co-Curriculars

WHY MUST WE CHANGE?

ENROLLMENT DECREASES

- Our enrollments have decreased and we have an opportunity to be more efficient and save operating costs.
- As cohorts progress through our district, the total amount of students in younger grades is less than the graduating classes.
- The SRRP Committee is considering enrollments in analysis of grade configurations, models.

BUDGET DEFICIT CONTINUES

- We are grateful for legislators' actions on our behalf - but so far we do not expect any impactful changes to the state aid formula that would result in any meaningful relief for the JSD.
- We will not have state aid figures until late February
- We are possibly facing a \$17 million deficit.

REMINDER: NEW PUBLIC MEETING SCHEDULE

- Jan. 22, 2025
 - Public Presentation of Recommendations
 - Public Forum
 - Time to Consider Information Presented
- NEW - Feb. 5, 2025
 - Second Public Forum and BOE Vote
 - Sole Focus is Recommendations, Questions, Input
- This week's communication:
 - Announces this new timeframe
 - Lists composition of committee (parent reps, admin, staff, departments)
 - Announces dedicated email where concerns, questions can be sent

All meetings feature opportunities for public comments, questions.

Mrs. Pormilli opened the floor to the Board for questions.

Ms. Gardella stated two slides with models that the committee is currently going to be reviewing. She asked after additional meetings, could they potentially look different? Mrs. Pormilli stated she can't answer that because she doesn't go in with a predetermined decision. The committee analyzes things and has conversations. So she thinks anything is possible but a lot of work and analysis was done on these models.

Mrs. Pormilli wished everyone a safe and happy holiday. She thanked Mr. Palmeri for all his time and the hard work he put in over the last 3 years and wished him the best as he moves on from the BOE. She concluded her superintendent's report and turned the meeting over to Mr. Palmeri.

Discussion Items

Standing Committee Reports:

- Buildings & Grounds – Mr. McCarron (Chair), Mrs. Rivera and Mrs. Kas (Alt: Mr. Palmeri) Superintendent Pormilli, Asst. Superintendent Rotante, Anthony Bruno
 - Updates on District Wide Projects including:
 - Holman's 4 trailers have been decommissioned. Waiting on buyer to pick up and haul away.
 - Liberty Repaired roof leak inside the Lecture Hall.
 - Liberty 4 sub-contracted roof leaks have been repaired.
 - District - All outdoor non-heated areas have been winterized.
 - Goetz 2 new OEM Control Boards for boilers have been replaced.
 - Johnson/Switlik started decommissioning 18 trailers (in progress).
 - Holman Elementary School Gym HVAC Project- Installation in progress.

Ad Hoc Committees will meet as needed:

Advocacy Committee – Mrs. Gardella (Chair)

Met on November 26, 2024: In attendance were Board Members Mrs. Barocas and Mrs. Gardella had a virtual meeting with Assemblywoman Matsikoudis's Chief of Staff and reviewed the following information:

- Funding Concerns
- District Impacts to Student programs and Buildings
- Ideas for Solutions
- Notified him of Assemblyman Sauickie Bill A 5041
- The chief of staff asked us what we think the legislators lack of interest in addressing school funding, which we could not answer as it affects almost every legislative district.
- Next meeting will reach out to legislators and or stakeholders to request in person or virtual meetings. Maintain communication with Assemblyman Sauickie to support his current legislation. Develop a letter of support to legislators of Bill A 5041. Reach out to Senator Vin Gopal to request a meeting to review his most recent legislation to require consolidation of districts. This would require regionalization and shared services, which according to this conversation, would save districts money on personnel.
- Will meet in January 2025.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

On a motion by Mrs. Rivera, seconded by Mrs. Kas, the Board of Education approved the following Board Meeting minutes:

Official Board Meeting – November 11, 2024 Closed Session Meeting
Official Board Meeting – November 20, 2024 Closed Session Meeting
Official Board Meeting – November 20, 2024 Business Meeting

Approve
Minutes

Official Board Meeting
December 11, 2024
Jackson Memorial High School Fine Arts Auditorium

Roll Call Vote: Yes: Mrs. Gardella
Mr. McCarron
Mrs. Barocas
Dr. Osmond
Mrs. Rivera
Mrs. Kas
Mr. Palmeri

MOTION CARRIED

FINANCIAL REPORT

On a motion by Mrs. Rivera, seconded by Mrs. Kas, the Board of Education approved Bills and Claims for December 1-11, 2024 and November 2024:

Total Computer Checks, December 1-11, 2024	\$ 3,573,715.75	Bills/
November Bill List	\$ 3,970,120.48	<u>Claims</u>
Total Hand Checks, November 30, 2024	\$ 37.99	
Total Payroll, November 30, 2024	\$ 8,281,622.09	
FICA:	\$ 390,466.49	
Total Board Share	\$ 216,095.60	
Retired Health Benefits and Pension Payment	\$ 7,688.20	
Health Benefits	\$ 1,748,922.71	
Voids	\$ (2,010.88)	
Total Budgetary Payment, for the month	\$ 14,612,942.68	

FOOD SERVICE
BOARD BILLS AND CLAIMS November 2024 \$ 309,722.84

Roll Call Vote: Yes: Mrs. Gardella
Mr. McCarron
Mrs. Barocas
Dr. Osmond
Mrs. Rivera
Mrs. Kas
Mr. Palmeri

MOTIONS CARRIED

On a motion by Mrs. Rivera, seconded by Mrs. Kas, the Board of Education approved the Treasurer’s & Board Secretary’s reports for the month of October 2024.


Roll Call Vote: Yes: Mrs. Gardella
Mr. McCarron
Mrs. Barocas
Dr. Osmond
Mrs. Rivera
Mrs. Kas
Mr. Palmeri

Treas/Bd
Sec’y
Rpt

MOTION CARRIED

Board Secretary’s Certification:

Pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6:20-2.12(d), I certify that as of October 31, 2024, no budgetary line item account has obligations and payments (contractual orders) which in total exceed the amount appropriated by the Jackson Township Board of Education pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:22-8 and 18A:22-8.1.


Daniel Baginski
Business Administrator/Board Secretary

PUBLIC FORUM – AGENDA ITEMS ONLY

On a motion by Mrs. Rivera, seconded by Mrs. Kas, the public forum on agenda items only was opened by acclamation.

Mr. Palmeri made the following statement: “Please state your name and whether or not you are a Jackson resident. Each person has three minutes to speak. No person may speak more than once on a topic until all others have been heard.”

Mr. Palmeri asked if anyone would like to speak on agenda items only please come up.

Seeing no one come forward, on a motion by Mrs. Rivera, the public forum on agenda items only was closed by acclamation.

Public
Forum

RESOLUTIONS FOR ACTION

Based on the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the following resolutions were presented for formal approval by the Board of Education.

FINANCE

On a motion by Mrs. Rivera, seconded by Mrs. Kas, the Board of Education open discussion on Finance.

Mrs. Gardella wanted the public to recognize and to publicly thank Mr. Baginski for going out to bid for all of the scrap that we are getting rid of including busses, buildings and trailers – it wasn’t a big dollar amount but she appreciated it.

The Board of Education approved the following motions on Finance:

1. The Board of based on the recommendation of the Board Secretary, approves the line-item transfers for the month of October, 2024.

Document A

2. The Board of Education, based on the recommendation of the Board Secretary, approves the adjustments to the Federal and State Fund 20 Projects for the 2024-2025 school year for October, 2024.

Document B

3. Pursuant to PL 2015, Chapter 47, the Jackson Township Board of Education intends to renew, award, or permit to expire the contracts subsequently awarded by the Board of Education, these contracts are, have been, and will continue to be in full compliance with all state and federal statutes and regulations; in particular, New Jersey Title 18A:18. et.seq, NJAC Chapter 23, and Federal Uniform Administrative Requirements 2CFR, Part200.

Document C

4. The Board of Education approves the following line item transfer for the 2024-2025 Title IV grant funds:

Transfer Amount	From Account #	To Account #
\$2,000.00	20-280-100-500-09	20-280-100-110-09
\$153.00	20-280-100-500-09	20-280-200-200-09

5. The Board of Education, based on the recommendation of the Board Secretary, approves the sale of Holman Elementary School Trailers T-1, T-2, T-3 and T-5, as auctioned off on GovDeals to the highest bidder - Ace Trailer Sales, 16 Empire Lane, Lakewood, New Jersey, as per the Auction results below:

Trailer T-1	\$2,000.00
Trailer T-2	\$2,025.00
Trailer T-3	\$2,025.00
Trailer T-5 (no bathroom)	\$1,525.00
Total:	\$7,575.00

6. The Board of Education authorizes the Board Secretary to complete a Request for Proposal for School Physician for Services for February 1, 2025 through Jan 31, 2026.
7. The Board of Education approves the donation of one (1) Switlik Elementary School trailer to the Jackson Township Fire Department Fire District 3.
8. The Board of Education accepts the generous donation from the Hennessy family, Jackson, New Jersey for the purchase of basketball jerseys for the Elms 5th grade intramural team.
9. The Board of Education accepts the generous monetary donation from several local businesses for the purchase of a refurbished Dr. Dish Rebel automated basketball shooting machine for the Jackson Memorial High School boys and girls basketball programs.
10. The Board of Education declares items the following vehicles as surplus, as filed with the Business Office:

	VIN	BUS	YEAR	PASS	LOCATION	MILEAGE
a.	4DRBJABN12A947416	374	2003	54	Liberty	273,000
b.	4DRBJABN52A947418	376	2003	54	Liberty	280,000
c.	4DRBJABN74A962165	400	2004	65	Liberty	293,000
d.	4DRBWAFN25A978822	511	2005	54	Memorial	231,000
e.	4DRBWAFN35A978828	517	2005	54	Memorial	249,000
f.	4DRBWAFN15A978830	519	2005	54	Liberty	264,000
g.	4DRBWAFN35A978831	520	2005	54	Liberty	274,000
h.	4DRBWAFN76A221139	623	2006	54	Liberty	280,000
i.	4DRBWAFN76A221142	626	2006	54	Liberty	272,000
j.	4DRBWAFN96A221143	627	2006	54	Liberty	225,000
k.	4DRAPAFK67A441744	7025	2007	24	Liberty	240,000
l.	4DRAPAFK87A441745	7026	2007	24	Liberty	235,000
m.	4DRAPAFK17A441747	7028	2007	24	Liberty	257,000

11. The Board of Education, based on the recommendation of the Board Secretary, approves the sale of Johnson Trailers, 1, 2, 3, and 4, as auctioned off on GovDeals and the highest bidder - Ace Trailer Sales, 16 Empire Lane, Lakewood, New Jersey, as per the Auction results below:

Trailer 1	\$200.00
Trailer 2	\$310.00
Trailer 3	\$ 200.00
Trailer 4	\$ 200.00
Total	\$910.00

12. The Board of Education approves the following Resolution for the sale of the Rosenauer Elementary School:

RESOLUTION

Whereas, the Board previously determined that the parcel of land identified on the Jackson Township tax map as Block 7111, Lot 20 and Block 7111, Lot 34, commonly known as the Rosenauer Elementary School, is no longer needed for school purposes and advertised for bids on the property; and

Whereas, pursuant to the bid advertisement, a second round of bids for the sale of the property were received and opened on December 10, 2024. Two (2) bids were received, the highest of which was in the amount of Thirteen Million, One Hundred and Ten Thousand Dollars (\$13,110,000.00); and

Whereas, in accordance with N.J.S.A. 18A:20-6, the Board wishes to sell the Rosenauer Property for the sale price proposed in the highest overall bid;

Now, therefore, be it resolved, that the Board hereby authorizes the sale of the Rosenauer Property, as defined in the specifications and identified as Block 7111, Lot 20 and Block 7111, Lot 34, to Bais Yaakov of Jackson, as authorized by its President, Aharon Rottenberg, for the amount of \$13,110,000.00; and be it

Further resolved, that the sale shall be subject to finalization of a Purchase and Sale agreement for the premises with the buyer upon the terms presented to the Board and satisfaction of any contingencies listed in the specifications and/or attached to the property, following attorney review and approval; and be it

Further resolved, that the sale shall also be subject to receipt of Commissioner of Education approval for the sale, as required by law; and be it

Further resolved, that upon receipt of such approval, the Board authorizes transfer of title to the property to Bais Yaakov of Jackson upon satisfaction of the terms of the Purchase and Sale Agreement; and be it

Further resolved, that the Board authorizes its President and/or Business Administrator to execute said Purchase and Sale Agreement on behalf of the Board, and to take any other action necessary to effectuate the terms of this Resolution.

Roll Call Vote: Yes: Mrs. Gardella
 Mr. McCarron
 Mrs. Barocas
 Dr. Osmond
 Mrs. Rivera
 Mrs. Kas
 Mr. Palmeri

MOTIONS CARRIED

FACILITIES

On a motion by Mrs. Rivera, seconded by Mrs. Kas, the Board of Education approved the following motions on Facilities:

1. The Board of Education approves the use of facilities for groups as filed.

Document D.

Roll Call Vote: Yes: Mrs. Gardella
 Mr. McCarron
 Mrs. Barocas
 Dr. Osmond
 Mrs. Rivera
 Mrs. Kas
 Mr. Palmeri

MOTION CARRIED

PROGRAMS:

On a motion by Mrs. Rivera, seconded by Mrs. Kas, the Board of Education approved the following motions on Programs.

1. The Board of Education approves the following student teachers as filed with the Assistant Superintendent:

REQUEST	COLLEGE/ UNIVERSITY	NAME	DATES	COOPERATING TEACHER(s)	SCHOOL
Practicum	Kean University	Lauren Scott	1/2/25-5/31/25	Kathleen Lynch	Holman
Practicum	Monmouth University	Gianna Rutigliano	1/2/25-5/31/25	Erin Schnorbus	Crawford- Rodriguez
Clinical Practicum	Seton Hall	Alyssa Caruso	1/22/25-5/31/25	Victoria Martinez	Crawford- Rodriguez

2. The Board of Education approves guest speakers from Beautiful Tomorrow for the Christa McAuliffe Middle School students in grades 6-8, to be funded by 2024-2025 Title I grant funds (20-231-100-300-07), not to exceed \$3,000.00, at no cost to the Board.
3. The Board of Education approves the following personnel to attend the “Alice in Wonderland: Teaching for Critical Thinking” at TCNJ (The College of New Jersey), Educator Professional Development, to be paid by Title I SIA Funds (20-237-200-590-01), in the amount of \$285.00, at no cost to the Board:
- a. Dyanne Lepold/JMHS, February 21, 2025
4. The Board of Education approves Stephanie Rahill to provide two (2) days - October 21 & 28, 2024 of PrePaRE Training to be funded by the School Based Mental Health Training grant funds (20-456-200-320-09-570000) in the amount of \$1,600.00.

5. The Board of Education approves the following personnel to attend the “College Readiness and High School Research” at TCNJ, (The College of New Jersey), Educator Professional Development, to be paid by Title I SIA Funds (20-237-200-590-01), in the amount of \$285.00, at no cost to the Board:
- a. Dyanne Lepold/JMHS, January 17, 2025
6. The Board of Education approves the following personnel to attend the “Planning High School Mathematics Reform: A Learning, Sharing and Working Conference with Steve Leinwand & Eric Milou”, Rutgers Lifelong Learning Center, New Brunswick, NJ, Educator Professional Development, March 20 & 21, 2025, to be paid by Title I SIA Funds (20-237-200-590-01), in the amount of \$349.00) and Title I SIA Funds (20-237-200-590-12 in the amount of \$698.00), total not to exceed \$1,047.00, at no cost to the Board:
- a. Laura Pratte/JMHS
 - b. Fran Cafferty/JLHS
 - c. Lori Henry/JLHS
7. The Board of Education approves the following personnel to attend the “The Witches of Salem 1692” at TCNJ, (The College of New Jersey), Educator Professional Development, February 28, 2025, to be paid by Title I SIA (20-237-200-590-01) in the amount of \$570.00, at no cost to the Board:
- a. Joseph Pienkowski/JMHS
 - b. Sara Leanza/JMHS
8. The Board of Education approves the following personnel to attend the TCNJ (The College of New Jersey) Educator Professional Development “What is College Writing” workshop, to be paid by Title I SIA grant funds (20-237-200-590-12) in the amount of \$285.00, at no cost to the Board:
- a. Erik Brodowski/JLHS, January 28, 2025
9. The Board of Education approves the Title IV Student Support Services for the 2024-2025 school year, to be paid by Title IV Grant funds (20-280-100-110-09), in the amount of \$10,800.00.
10. The Board of Education approves The New Jersey Learning Acceleration Program: High Impact Tutoring Grant Extension for the 2024-2025 school year, to be paid by grant accounts (20-458-100-110-09 in the amount of \$25,200; 20-458-200-100-09 in the amount of \$5,900.00), pending NJDOE grant approval, total amount \$31,100.00, at no cost to the Board.
11. The Board of Education approves the Title I: High Impact Tutoring Program for the 2024-2025 school year, to be paid by grant funds, (accounts as follows: #20-231-100-110-03 in the amount of \$4,800; # 20-231-200-110-03 in the amount of \$2,500; #20-231-100-110-04 in the amount of \$6,000; # 20-231-200-110-04 in the amount of \$2,700; #20-231-100-110-06 in the amount of \$7,200; #20-231-200-110-06 in the amount of \$2,900; #20-231-100-110-10 in the amount of \$10,800; # 20-231-200-110-10 in the amount of \$3,500), totaling \$40,400.00, pending NJDOE grant approval, at no cost to the Board.
12. The Board of Education approves professional day requests and the travel related expense resolution from school board and staff members as filed with the appropriate supervisor.

Document E.

Roll Call Vote: Yes: Mrs. Gardella
Mr. McCarron
Mrs. Barocas
Dr. Osmond
Mrs. Rivera
Mrs. Kas
Mr. Palmeri

MOTIONS CARRIED

STUDENTS:

On a motion by Mrs. Rivera, seconded by Mrs. Kas, the Board of Education approved the following motions on Students.

1. The Board of Education approves the following out of district placements (accounts 20-250-100-566-09/11-000-100-566-09, unless otherwise noted):

a.	One (1) Student	Placement:	Jackson Regional Day with Aide
		Tuition:	\$123,500.00
		Effective:	October 17, 2024

b.	One (1) Student	Placement:	Fusion Academy
		Tuition:	\$87,175.00
		Effective:	October 21, 2024

2. The Board of Education approves the *revised* service fee for the 2024-2025 school year with Preferred Behavioral Health to provide fit to return evaluations to various district students on an as needed basis, at a cost of \$350.00 per standard fit-to-return assessment report and \$400.00 per standard fit-to-return substance abuse assessment report, total cost not to exceed \$20,000.00 (11-000-213-300-09-210000).
3. The Board of Education approves a trip for the Jackson Memorial High School Concert Band to Marion Anderson Hall; Allentown, Pennsylvania on Thursday, March 6, 2025 to hear an open rehearsal of the world-renowned Philadelphia Orchestra, at no cost to the Board.

4. The Board of Education accepts, in accordance with N.J.S.A. 18A:37-15b(6), the monthly Harassment, Intimidation and Bullying (HIB) Report as presented to the Board of Education during Executive Session.

Document F

5. The Board of Education approves educational field trips as filed with the Transportation Director.

Document G

6. The Board of Education approves the following volunteer clubs and advisors for the 2024-2025 school year:

	Volunteer Club	Volunteer Advisor(s)	School
a.	Table Tennis Club	Richard Brown	JMHS

7. The Board of Education approves a weekend trip for the Jackson Liberty High School Wrestling team members to attend the Beast of the East Tournament at University of Delaware in Dover, Delaware, afterschool Friday, December 20, 2024 through Sunday, December 22, 2024, transportation to be provided by parents, cost to the Board being tournament entry fees.

Roll Call Vote: Yes: Mrs. Gardella
Mr. McCarron
Mrs. Barocas
Dr. Osmond
Mrs. Rivera
Mrs. Kas
Mr. Palmeri

MOTIONS CARRIED

PERSONNEL

On a motion by Mrs. Rivera, seconded by Mrs. Kas, the Board of Education approved the following motions on Personnel.

1. The Board of Education approves the employment of the following substitutes for the 2024-2025 school year, effective December 12, 2024, unless otherwise noted:
- a. James Marshall, Custodian, \$16.50 per hour
 - b. Elvia Robles, Lunchroom Aide, \$15.13 per hour (\$15.49 per hour, effective January 1, 2025)
2. The Board of Education approves the following substitutes and daily rates for the 2024-2025 school year, to include one (1) day orientation at their daily rate:

	Last Name	First Name	Paraprofessional \$110.00 per day	Paraprofessional with 60 credits \$130.00 per day	Teacher (Substitute Certification-60 credits) \$130.00 per day	Teacher (Substitute Certification- BA/MA) \$150.00 per day	Teacher (CE/CEAS/ Standard) \$170.00 per day	Teacher-Long Term Leave/ > 8 weeks \$225.00 per day
a.	Del Core	Jessica				X		
b.	Keller	Jacqueline					X	X
c.	McClaghry	Melissa	X					
d.	Adem	Samantha				X		

3. The Board of Education approves the following staff members for student teaching, co-curricular advisors and/or athletic coaches for the 2024-2025 school year, effective December 12, 2024, unless otherwise noted:
- a. Alyssa Caruso, Student Teacher, *pending certification*
 - b. Pietro Gianguzzi, House Manager, *pending fingerprints*
 - c. Gianna Rutigliano, Student Teacher, *pending fingerprints*
 - d. Lauren Scott, Student Teacher, *pending fingerprints*
4. The Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, accepts with best wishes, the resignation of the following employees, due to retirement:
- a. Deborah Delisi, Driver-Transportation/District, effective March 1, 2025.
 - b. Judy Hackett, Assistant Food Service Director/JLHS, effective July 1, 2025.
 - c. Jill Sweet, Paraprofessional/Elms, effective April 1, 2025.
 - d. Dr. Michael Raymond, Principal/Switlik, effective January 21, 2025.
 - e. Cynthia Amey, Teacher/Johnson, effective July 1, 2025.
 - f. Lisa Zammit, Preschool Teacher/Preschool Annex @ JMHS, effective March 1, 2025.
 - g. Lisa Howell, Teacher-Physical Education/Goetz, effective July 1, 2025.
 - h. Sharon Truhan, Special Education Teacher/Goetz, effective July 1, 2025.
5. The Board of Education accepts the resignation of the following employees:
- a. Melissa McClaghry, Preschool Paraprofessional/Holman, effective November 25, 2024.
 - b. Peter Rinaldi, Biology Teacher/JMHS, effective February 1, 2025.
 - c. Rose Zingaro, Lunchroom Aide/Holman, effective December 9, 2024.
 - d. Nadine Turowski, Preschool Paraprofessional/Annex at JMHS, effective January 6, 2025 or sooner.
6. The Board of Education approves a leave of absence for the following personnel:
- a. Jisette Sanders, Board Certified Behavior Analyst/District, unpaid Medical Leave of Absence, effective January 15, 2025 through TBD.

- b. Deborah DeLisi, Driver-Transportation/District, paid Medical Leave of Absence, effective November 4, 2024 through February 3, 2025; unpaid Federal Family Medical Leave of Absence, effective February 4, 2025 through February 28, 2025, retiring March 1, 2025.
 - c. Jean Pfeiffer, Lunchroom Aide/JLHS, unpaid Medical Leave of Absence, effective October 18, 2024 through November 27, 2024, returning December 2, 2024.
 - d. Jennifer Berrien, Paraprofessional/Elms, paid Sick Leave of Absence, effective November 18, 2024 through December 9, 2024; unpaid Leave of Absence, effective December 10, 2024 through December 20, 2024, returning January 2, 2025.
 - e. Deborah DeChamplain, Paraprofessional/Elms, paid sick leave, effective September 3, 2024; revised unpaid Federal and NJ Family Medical Leave of Absence, effective September 4, 2024 through November 26, 2024, returning November 27, 2024.
 - f. Emily Dudasko, Paraprofessional/Elms, paid Medical Leave of Absence, effective December 2, 2024 through December 6, 2024; unpaid Federal Family Medical Leave of Absence, effective December 9, 2024 through December 20, 2024; unpaid Federal and NJ Family Medical Leave of Absence, effective January 2, 2025 through March 14, 2025, returning March 17, 2025.
 - g. Stacy Perinelli, Paraprofessional/Elms, paid Medical Leave of Absence, effective January 2, 2025 through January 9, 2025; unpaid Federal Family Medical Leave of Absence, effective January 10, 2025 through February 4, 2025; unpaid Federal and NJ Family Medical Leave of Absence, effective February 5, 2025 through May 9, 2025; unpaid Child Care Leave of Absence, effective May 12, 2025 through May 30, 2025, returning June 2, 2025.
 - h. Lauren Tolska, Preschool Paraprofessional/Elms, unpaid intermittent Federal and NJ Family Medical Leave of Absence, effective November 1, 2024 through June 30, 2025.
 - i. Kathleen Dembinski, English Teacher/JLHS, paid Medical Leave of Absence, effective January 2, 2025 through TBD.
 - j. Christopher Perry, Math Teacher/JLHS, paid Medical Leave of Absence, effective January 2, 2025 through February 21, 2025; unpaid Federal Family Medical Leave of Absence, effective February 22, 2025 through TBD.
 - k. Erica Sandin, TV Production Teacher/JMHS, paid Medical Leave of Absence, effective June 7, 2024 through September 6, 2024; unpaid Federal and NJ Family Medical Leave of Absence, effective September 9, 2024 through December 9, 2024; revised unpaid Child Care Leave of Absence, effective December 10, 2024 through January 31, 2025, returning February 1, 2025.
 - l. Kristen Rayner, Special Education Teacher/Switlik, paid Medical Leave of Absence, effective March 3, 2025 through May 9, 2025; unpaid Federal and NJ Family Medical Leave of Absence, effective May 12, 2025 through TBD.
 - m. Doris Evans, Lunchroom Aide/Goetz, unpaid Medical Leave of Absence, effective November 11, 2024 through December 13, 2024, returning December 16, 2024.
 - n. Arleen Angert, Paraprofessional/Goetz, revised paid Medical Leave of Absence, effective September 5, 2024 through half day December 9, 2024; unpaid Federal Medical Leave of Absence, effective half day December 9, 2024 through TBD.
 - o. Kaitlin Camano, Social Studies Teacher/JLHS, paid Medical Leave of Absence, effective September 3, 2024 through September 27, 2024; revised unpaid Federal and NJ Family Medical Leave of Absence, effective September 30, 2024 through January 9, 2025; unpaid Child Care Leave of Absence effective January 10, 2025 through January 27, 2025; Paid Leave of Absence (Personal Days) effective January 28, 2025 through January 30, 2025, returning January 31, 2025.
 - p. Gretchen Sharp, Math Teacher/JMHS, paid Medical Leave of Absence, effective October 31, 2024 through December 17, 2024, returning December 18, 2024.
 - q. Rachel Aviles, Math Teacher/Goetz, paid Medical Leave of Absence, effective January 27, 2025 through February 26, 2025; unpaid Federal and NJ Family Medical Leave of Absence, effective February 27, 2025 through June 2, 2025, returning June 3, 2025.
7. The Board of Education approves the following contract adjustments:
- a. Michelle Hulse, Driver-Transportation/District (11-000-270-160-08), increase from 6 hours 30 minutes per day to ~~7 hours 30 minutes~~ **8 hours per day**, effective November 21, 2024 through June 30, 2025, route adjustment, no change in the hourly rate.
 - b. James Zapata, Driver-Transportation/District (11-000-270-160-08), increase from 6 hours 30 minutes per day to ~~7 hours 30 minutes~~ **8 hours per day**, effective November 21, 2024 through June 30, 2025, route adjustment, no change in the hourly rate.
 - c. Jessica Dickson, Food Service Worker/Crawford-Rodriguez (61-910-310-100-10), 4 hours per day, replacing Maureen Lafonte (deceased) (PC #1607), effective November 21, 2024 through June 30, 2025, salary correction ~~\$11,059.68~~ **\$11,509.68** pro-rated, as per Step 1 of the 2024-2025 Teamsters contract.
 - d. Sally Botros, Food Service Worker/Holman (61-910-310-100-04), 4 hours per day, replacing Dawn Slay (transfer) (PC #1074), effective November 21, 2024 through June 30, 2025, salary correction ~~\$11,059.68~~ **\$11,509.68** pro-rated, as per Step 1 of the 2024-2025 Teamsters contract.
 - e. Socorro Jimenez Moreno, Food Service Worker/JMHS (61-910-310-100-01), 4 hours per day, replacing Laura Flecker (retired) (PC #258), effective December 1, 2024 through June 30, 2025, salary correction ~~\$11,059.68~~ **\$11,509.68** pro-rated, as per Step 1 of the 2024-2025 Teamsters contract.
 - f. Deborah DeChamplain, Paraprofessional/Elms (11-212-100-106-09-86%, 11-000-270-107-08-250311-14%), adjust salary to add transportation stipend, salary from \$39,376.00 to \$45,976.00 (\$38,551.00 plus \$825.00 hygiene stipend plus \$6,600.00 transportation stipend) pro-rated, effective December 9, 2024 through June 30, 2025, as per Step 6 of the 2024-2025 JEA contract.
 - g. Matthew Rubino, Special Education Teacher-MD/Elms (11-212-100-101-09), adjust salary to reflect correct degree, salary from \$67,952.00 to \$65,202.00 pro-rated, as per BA Step 10 of the 2024-2025 JEA contract, effective December 16, 2024, pending fingerprints through June 30, 2025.
8. The Board of Education approves the following contract adjustments for longevity for the 2024-2025 school year, in accordance with the current negotiated contracts:

	Last Name	First Name	Title	Bargaining Group	Effective Date	Reason	Current Salary	Adjustment	Adjusted Salary (Prorated)
a.	DiGirolamo	Michael	Computer Technician	None	12/1/2024	10 Year Longevity	\$78,547.00	\$1,000.00	\$79,547.00
b.	Zemel	Justyna	Paraprofessional -Shared	JEA	1/1/2025	20 Year Longevity	\$41,801.00	\$250.00	\$42,051.00

c.	Daut	Jeffrey	Teacher	JEA	1/1/2025	20 Year Longevity	\$93,027.00	\$500.00	\$93,527.00
d.	Gottesman	Aaron	Physical Education Teacher	JEA	1/1/2025	17 Year Longevity	\$96,077.00	\$1,500.00	\$97,577.00
e.	Limongelli	Dawn	Special Education Teacher	JEA	1/1/2025	25 Year Longevity	\$93,527.00	\$500.00	\$94,027.00

9. The Board of Education approves the transfer of the following personnel:
- a. Kathleen Boyer, transfer from Food Service Worker/JLHS to Food Service Worker/JMHS (61-910-310-100-01), from 4 hours per day to 5 hours per day, replacing Michael Piazza (PC #1608), effective December 11, 2024 through June 30, 2025, salary \$14,924.00 pro-rated, as per Step 5 of the 2024-2025 Teamsters contract.
 - b. Danielle Matteo, transfer from Paraprofessional/Elms to Preschool Paraprofessional/Preschool Annex at JMHS (20-218-100-106-09), replacing Nadine Turowski (resigned) (PC #1826), effective January 6, 2025 or sooner through June 30, 2025, no change in salary.
 - c. Michael Saulnier, transfer from Assistant Principal/Switlik to Acting Principal/Switlik (11-000-240-103-06/95% and 20-218-200-103-09/5%), replacing Michael Raymond (retired) (PC #1448, effective January 21, 2025 through June 30, 2025, salary \$164,443.14 pro-rated (\$162,943.14 plus \$1,500.00 longevity), as per Off Guide 1 of the 2024-2025 JTAA contract.
 - d. John Pejoski, transfer from SLEO/JMHS to Director of Security and Attendance Officer/District (11-000-266-100-09-250206/50% and 11-000-211-100-09-210910/50%), replacing Raymond Milewski (resigned) (PC #389), effective February 1, 2025 through June 30, 2025, salary \$65,500.00 pro-rated, non-unit position.
10. The Board of Education approves the final contract including salary guides between the Jackson Township Board of Education and the Teamsters Local 97 – Maintenance and Tradesmen, terms of the agreement shall be for the period July 1, 2024 through June 30, 2027.

Document H.

11. The Board of Education approves the salaries for the following personnel for the 2024-2025 school year:
- a. Teamsters Local 97 – Maintenance and Tradesmen

Document I.

12. The Board of Education approves the employment of the following personnel:
- a. Jocelynn Rodriguez, Receptionist-PM/JMHS (11-000-262-107-01-250214), 3.5 hours per day, replacing Mary Sharo (transfer) (PC # 203), effective December 12, 2024, pending fingerprints through June 30, 2025, salary \$9,670.50 pro-rated, effective December 12, 2024 through December 20, 2024 and salary \$9,891.00 pro-rated, effective January 2, 2025 through June 30, 2025, as per Step 1 of the Receptionist Guide.
 - b. Emily Wyskowski, Special Education Teacher/Holman (11-213-100-101-09), replacing Shannon McEneaney (transfer) (PC #469), effective January 2, 2025, pending fingerprints through June 30, 2025, salary \$57,727.00 pro-rated, as per BA Step 1 of the 2024-2025 JEA contract.
 - c. Paul Raucci, Special Education Teacher/Crawford-Rodriguez (11-213-100-101-09), replacing Amy Riello (transfer) (PC #681), effective December 11, 2024, pending fingerprints through June 30, 2025, salary \$64,152.00 pro-rated, as per MA Step 7 of the JEA contract
 - d. Deanna Little, Preschool Inclusion Teacher/Elms (20-218-100-101-09), replacing Marilyn Ribera (retired) (PC #1674), effective February 3, 2025, pending fingerprints through June 30, 2025, salary \$57,727.00 pro-rated, as per BA Step 1 of the 2024-2025 JEA contract.
 - e. Ashley Miranda, Preschool Paraprofessional/Holman (20-218-100-106-09), new position, new PC, effective December 12, 2024, pending fingerprints through June 30, 2025, salary \$38,876.00 (\$37,551.00 plus \$825.00 hygiene stipend plus \$500.00 educational stipend) pro-rated, as per Step 1 of the 2024-2025 JEA contract.
 - f. Janice Reh fuss, Preschool Paraprofessional/Holman (20-218-100-106-09), replacing Melissa McClaughry (resigned) (PC #1930), effective December 12, 2024 through June 30, 2025, salary \$38,876.00 (\$37,551.00 plus \$825.00 hygiene stipend plus \$500.00 educational stipend) pro-rated, as per Step 1 of the 2024-2025 JEA contract.
 - g. Nicole Trevena, Math Teacher/JMHS (11-140-100-101-01), replacing Maria Gkionis (retired), effective February 1, 2025, pending fingerprints through June 30, 2025, salary \$58,727.00 pro-rated, as per BA Step 4 of the 2024-2025 JEA contract.
13. The Board of Education approves the following coaches for the 2024-2025 school year:
- a. Resignations:
 - 1. Kayla Clougher, Assistant Cheerleading Coach-Fall/JMHS and Assistant Cheerleading Coach-Winter/JMHS, effective September 1, 2024.
 - 2. Carley Sabatini, Co- Head Cheerleading Coach-Winter/JMHS, effective 2024-2025 school year.
 - b. New Hires:
 - 1. Scott Levine, Equipment Manager/Goetz, effective August 1, 2024 through June 30, 2025, stipend \$5,517.00 (100%-Fall, Winter and Spring Seasons), as per the 2024-2025 JEA contract.
 - 2. Patrick Novak, Equipment Manager/McAuliffe, effective August 1, 2024 through June 30, 2025, stipend \$5,517.00 (100%-Fall, Winter and Spring Seasons), as per the 2024-2025 JEA contract.
 - 3. Carley Sabatini, Assistant Cheerleading Coach-Winter/JMHS, effective the 2024-2025 school year, stipend \$4,703.00, as per Step C2 of the 2024-2025 JEA contract.
 - c. Contract Adjustments:
 - 1. Jessica Singer, Head Cheerleading Coach-Winter/JMHS, adjust stipend from \$2,540.00 (50%) to \$5,080.00 (100%), effective 2024-2025 school year, as per Step C2 of the 2024-2025 JEA contract.
14. The Board of Education approves the following new positions for the 2024-2025 school year:
- a. Paraprofessional - PSD/Holman
15. The Board of Education approves the following Co-Curricular Advisor adjustments for the 2024-2025 school year:
- a. Contract Adjustments:
 - 1. Megan Bender, Art Club Advisor/JLHS, adjust stipend from \$1,867.50 (50%) to \$3,735.00 (100%), effective the 2024-2025 school year, as per Step A5 of the 2024-2025 JEA contract.

- 2. Michael Disanza, Interact Club Advisor/JLHS, adjust stipend to correct step, salary from \$3,735.00 to \$3,553.00, effective the 2024-2025 school year, as per Step A2 of the 2024-2025 JEA contract.
 - 3. Nancy Petrocelli, Interact Club Advisor/JMHS, adjust stipend, salary from \$1,803.50 (50%) to \$3,607.00 (100%), effective the 2024-2025 school year, as per Step A4 of the 2024-2025 JEA contract.
 - b. Resignation:
 - 1. Robert Franz, Interact Club/JMHS, effective 2024-2025 school year. (covered leave of absence).
16. The Board of Education approves the following personnel as House Managers for Outside Events (11-401-100-100-09-300000), \$40.00 per hour:
- a. Pietro Gianguzzi, *pending fingerprints*
 - b. Cecelia La Point
 - c. Susan O'Connor
 - d. Maria Roberts
 - e. Coleen Walter

17. The Board of Education approves the following additional staff and salaries for the Child Care Academy 2024-2025 school year (62-990-320-100-09):

	Last Name	First Name	District Lead Teacher \$35.00/hour	Teacher/ Substitute Teacher \$32.50/hour	Paraprofessional/ Substitute Paraprofessional \$20.00/hour	Receptionist/ Substitute Receptionist \$15.13/hour (\$15.49/hour, effective 1/1/25)	Child Care Assistant \$30.00 Flat Rate
a.	Harrison	Samantha		X	X	X	
b.	Panebianco	Melanie					X
c.	Potenza	Dean		X	X	X	

18. The Board of Education approves the following personnel for the Title IV Student Support Services for the 2024-2025 school year, to be paid by Title IV Grant funds (20-280-100-110-09), \$50.00 per hour, in the amount of \$10,800.00, pending NJDOE approval:
- a. McAuliffe Staff:
 - 1. Willard Brown
 - 2. Robert Clarke
 - 3. Marianne Higgins
 - 4. Dianna Kennedy
 - 5. Eileen Kochis
 - 6. Jerri Parlow
 - 7. Valerie Peclet
 - 8. Christopher Roma
 - 9. Melissa Svoboda
 - b. Goetz Staff:
 - 1. Stephanie Mezza
 - 2. Graeme Whytlaw
 - 3. Dianna Kennedy
 - 4. Erin Murry-Ballou

19. The Board of Education approves the following personnel for the New Jersey Learning Acceleration Program: High Impact Tutoring Grant Extension for the 2024-2025 school year (20-458-100-110-09 in the amount of \$25,200 and account 20-458-200-110-09 in the amount of \$5,900), not to exceed \$31,100.00, pending NJDOE grant approval, at no cost to the Board:
- a. Coordinators, \$1,700.00 each:
 - 1. Jennifer Giaconia/Elms
 - b. Tutors, \$1,200.00 tutoring plus \$200.00 training each:
 - 1. Stephanie Rochette, AM ELA/Crawford-Rodriguez
 - 2. Alyssa Agoston, WIN – Math/Elms
 - 3. Nicole Beetel, AM – Literacy/Elms
 - 4. Rose Gochal, WIN – Literacy/Elms
 - 5. Melissa Haley, AM Math/Elms
 - 6. Anna Ovalles, WIN – Literacy/Elms
 - 7. Charlotte Paquette, AM – Math/Elms
 - 8. Melissa Zecca, WIN – Literacy/Elms
 - 9. Molly Zimny, WIN – Math/Elms
 - 10. Jennifer Gruosso/Holman
 - 11. Deborah Kowalewski/Holman
 - 12. Stephanie Macaluso/Holman
 - 13. Caitilin Mazzella/Holman
 - 14. Marcie Such/Holman
 - 15. Brittany Angiolini, Math WIN/Johnson
 - 16. Lisa Cirigliano, Literacy AM/Johnson
 - 17. Heather Donnelly, Literacy WIN/Johnson
 - 18. Kelly Barth, AM Math/Switlik
 - 19. Tracey Fisher, AM Math/Switlik
 - 20. Faye Gilmore, AM Math/Switlik
 - 21. Alexandria Shadell, AM Math/Switlik

20. The Board of Education approves the following personnel for the Title I: High Impact Tutoring Program for the 2024-2025 school year (to be paid by accounts as follows: 20-231-100-110-03 in the amount of \$4,800; 20-231-200-110-03 in the amount of \$2,500; #20-231-100-110-04 in the amount of \$6,000; 20-231-200-110-04 in the amount of \$2,700; 20-231-100-110-06 in the amount of \$7,200; 20-231-200-110-06 in the amount of \$2,900; 20-231-100-110-10 in the amount of \$10,800; 20-231-200-110-10 in the amount of \$3,500; totaling \$40,400.00, pending NJDOE grant approval, at no cost to the Board:
- a. Coordinators, \$1,700.00 each:
 - 1. Laura Hughes/Crawford-Rodriguez
 - 2. Melissa O’Neil/Holman
 - 3. Kim Carretta/Johnson
 - 4. Susan Magee, Switlik
 - b. Tutors, \$1,400.00 each (\$1,200.00 each for tutoring and \$200.00 each for training):
 - 1. Roseanne Carello, WIN Math/Crawford-Rodriguez
 - 2. Michelle Glucksnis, WIN Math/Crawford-Rodriguez
 - 3. Maria Gonzalez, AM ELA/Crawford-Rodriguez
 - 4. Laura Hughes, WIN ELA/Crawford-Rodriguez
 - 5. Gina Karatzia, WIN Math/Crawford-Rodriguez
 - 6. Nicole Koopman, WIN MATH/Crawford-Rodriguez
 - 7. Melissa Kosakowski, AM ELA/Crawford-Rodriguez
 - 8. Brielle Leon, AM ELA/Crawford-Rodriguez
 - 9. Paula Mika, AM Math/Crawford-Rodriguez
 - 10. Michele Lardieri/Holman
 - 11. Joanne Lykes/Holman
 - 12. Lacey Majors/Holman
 - 13. Jenna Mayer/Holman
 - 14. Kelly McHugh/Holman
 - 15. Jillian Barracatto, WIN Literacy/Johnson
 - 16. Kaitlyn Cipully, Math AM/Johnson
 - 17. Marissa Cirz, Literacy WIN/Johnson
 - 18. Loraine Glushko, Math AM/Johnson
 - 19. Kathleen Lykes, AM ELA/Switlik
 - 20. Christine Perrine, AM ELA/Switlik
 - 21. Tracy Rucci, AM ELA/Switlik
 - 22. Teresa Toddings, AM Math/Switlik
 - 23. Marie Vlahos, AM Math/Switlik
 - 24. Rosemary White, AM ELA/Switlik
21. The Board of Education approves a contract with Colleen Dalrymple to serve as Interim Supervisor of Special Education, effective January 2, 2025 through June 30, 2025, \$400.00 per diem plus one (1) sick day per month worked.
22. The Board of Education rescinds the following contracts:
- a. Adis Monroy, Van Aide-Transportation/District (11-000-270-107-08-250311), 5 hours and 45 minutes per day, replacing Judy McGuckin (retired) (PC #302), effective November 21, 2024, pending fingerprints through June 30, 2025, \$18.50 per hour, pending negotiations, as per the 2023-2024 Teamsters contract.
 - b. Sukhjinder Singh, Driver-Transportation/District (11-000-270-161-08), 6.5 hours per day, replacing Alissa Nerney (resigned) (PC # 481), effective November 21, 2024, pending fingerprints through June 30, 2025, \$30.00 per hour, pending negotiations, as per the 2023-2024 Teamsters contract.
23. The Board of Education approves the termination of one (1) employee (I.D. #2425-14/100963), for failure to follow district policy and procedures, name on file with the Superintendent.

Roll Call Vote: Yes: Mrs. Gardella
Mr. McCarron
Mrs. Barocas
Dr. Osmond
Mrs. Rivera
Mrs. Kas
Mr. Palmeri

PUBLIC FORUM

On a motion by Mrs. Kas, seconded by Mrs. Rivera, the public forum on any item was opened by acclamation.

Mr. Palmeri made the following statement: “Please sign in and state your name and whether or not you are a Jackson resident. Each person has a maximum of three minutes to speak. No person may speak more than once on a topic until all others have been heard.”

Public
Forum

Julie Kozlowski – Liberty parent - Liberty is better choice for a high school in supporting academic and extracurricular programs because it is newer, has more room in the lecture halls and library, has more parking and more space. Memorial is older and smaller although it has a larger weight room and dedicated wrestling rooms. Liberty has larger and better athletic facilities including a fieldhouse with locker rooms with larger band access and extensive storage. Liberty has a bus ramp with three entrances and exits on two different streets. Liberty’s TV studios although smaller in occupancy is superior in technology.

Elaine Coger – Liberty parent – Her the oldest son was in the first graduating class in Liberty and her youngest son will be the last graduating class of Liberty. She and her husband graduated from Memorial. She noted her memories, are not in the walls rather with the friends and teachers that had made an impact in their lives. She thinks the district needs to do what is financially responsible but that Liberty is the better choice because it is new. She compared the choosing of the high school to buying a new home versus an old home – she thinks most would choose the newer updated home. She asked the board to be responsible, credible and logical. She encouraged all to make new memories because the old ones live within your heart.

Marcie Such – Liberty parent - She asked if high schools are combined, will GPA's and class rank be kept separate or be combined. She asked for the sake of unity and new traditions if there will be a new mascot and new name – for emotional wellbeing of students. She asked if a committee will be in place to get the Liberty and Memorial students to work together. She reminded the board to be financially responsible and to look at the two facilities and ask which can be sustain without great cost.

Jay Such – Liberty parent – He ran for BOE and thanks those that voted for him. He noted Ms. Morris and state administration contributed to the situation we have been over the last seven years. He questioned if the actual costs to bring Memorial up to par to where Liberty were provided to the committee. Was a comparison provided on what Liberty has to offer versus what Memorial has to offer? He noted the committee should consider the financial situation; cost means everything.

Mr. Palmeri noted that all questions will be answered at the end of public forum.

Christine McGinley –Memorial / Goetz parent – She asked what Mrs. Morris' role is in the decision process of strategic planning. She asked how the impact of transportation is being determined and if there is a report that can be viewed showing all students being transported to one location. She questioned how many committee meetings there are before the plan is announced.

Peyton Brown – Liberty student (junior) – Even though Memorial is older with a longer history, Liberty has also established traditions of its own. Liberty has a lot space including the main hallway that hosts homecoming, sports banquets and events. As part of student council this year, she noted their success in involving a diverse group of students and already brainstormed ways Liberty could collaborate with Memorial to organize a Spring event. She looks forward to working with friends and future classmates from both Liberty and Memorial next year. Tradition should be defined by the leaders who take challenges and make the most of them. She wants Liberty's newer school to be considered as a positive environment for all students.

Isabella Finer - Memorial student (junior) Her family has history at Memorial and is saddened by the possibility of not finishing high school at Memorial. She expressed concerns about the traffic and accidents by Liberty and adding additional student drivers to Liberty. She feels adding a few middle school busses to Liberty would be less of a concern. She expressed a concern about putting rival school teams together in one school. She noted Memorial's 60 years of tradition, high academic ranking, successful athletics program and safe environment. She asked to continue that reputation by welcoming others into Memorial.

Ryan Monday – Liberty student – He noted Liberty is simply the better choice because it is newer and more modern and more compliant with the ADA act. The STEM Lab at Liberty can accommodate more students and has a greenhouse. He noted that Liberty has traditions even though it is newer. We all need to accept the positives and negatives of this change. The decisions should be made for the future of all Jackson students. New traditions will be created while honoring history of both schools.

Kalyee Ambos – Memorial student (junior) - She noted her family has a 36 year history with Memorial and the coaches at Memorial including R. Goodale and a family history of teachers in the district including her mother and grandmother. She notes Memorial is a legacy and a tradition that stems from its building.

George D'Alessandro - Liberty student (junior) – He noted we all care about the future of the Jackson education system. He thinks Liberty is the better choice – newer with larger classrooms, more parking and better resources. He asked if and when a committee will be formed to help ensure a smooth transition and make this merger as seamless as possible.

Christopher Villotti – parent –As a doctoral, educator and principal, he thinks we need to focus on the high school students. Whether Liberty or Memorial is chosen, he wants to ensure they are provided the resources and tools to grow, mature, discover and learn a new trade or skill whether it is vocational or educational.

David Gromadzki – Liberty student (junior) - He is speaking on behalf of the Liberty Track, stating the Liberty track facilities are better for outdoor track as they accommodate more athletes and is more efficient because it has eight lanes compared to Memorial's six thus supporting a larger number of athletes and having the ability to host large scale championship meets.

Jared Teopaco (Liberty student (junior) - Speaking on behalf of the Liberty Track, he stated Liberty's home stadium has served as the venue for a variety of county, state and championship track events. As a result of the facilities status and hosting championship level meets, the Liberty track has generated revenue for the program. Profits are reinvested into the program to fund repairs and new equipment to keep facilities in top condition. He believes being unified at Liberty will benefit all.

Jeanine Volpe – Liberty parent — She understands the reason the district is making these difficult decisions is due to a decline in enrollment and funds. She believes Liberty or Memorial will eventually be too big for a middle school. She thinks keeping newer schools is a better financial option because less repairs and upkeep. She has had great experiences in Jackson and wants to stay here. She understands emotions are involved. She hopes it is a good transition.

Veronica Burnett – Jackson teacher (since 1988) and coach (36 years). She is grateful the restructuring committee is going through this process with sensitivity and kindness. She coached and was an advisor for many extracurricular activities in Jackson including Goetz, Memorial and Liberty. At each place the kids were always great. She will be sad if Goetz closes, because it is her legacy but her real legacy is not the building – it is all the children she coached over the years. She reminds everyone kids are resilient. They will struggle a bit with the changes but they will find their places and be successful. As adults we need to set the parameters and have the students pay attention to the experiences they are having right now and not worry about what might happen next year. Show them that in this financial crisis, we are not cutting things. So next year there will still be all the experiences and opportunities but it will just be with more kids. She wants to continue to do all the things that make the kids love Jackson. She thanked the Board for their current efforts and the many months ahead.

Angela Frangelli – Parent and building substitute – In the elementary schools, she hopes it's being taken into account that the unified arts classes (art and music) need to have their own space and not be on carts rolled into the classrooms. Those teachers

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need their own space for supplies and the children need to be in a different environment to enjoy these classes. Having just closed Rosenauer, the legacy and memories of the people who went there are not the building but rather the people in it.

Peyton Lohman – Liberty student (freshman) – She expressed concerns about how the Memorial students will treat the Liberty students when the high schools combine because of the current division. She expressed negativity she experienced from a Memorial coach and some Memorial teachers regarding Liberty athletics. She feels this Memorial coach thinks the Jag tradition is more important than building a new team or the actual players so Payton is concerned Liberty athletes will not be accepted when combined. She played for this coach in AU and had conversations with her about how she needs play for Memorial to excel in basketball although she felt pressured, Payton denied this then felt she was no longer needed as a player.

Joyce Jolliffe – Parent – As an architect, she asked if in both models one high school would become either 7-8 or 6-8? (She asked her question to be answered now but Mr. Zitomer noted all questions will be addressed at the end of public forum.) She summarized Memorial and Liberty will exist in different capacities and either Goetz or McAuliffe would close and the elementary schools would remain. She stated regardless of the model chosen, Memorial would require updates to accommodate those kids. She asked if the closed middle school would be sold. She thinks more housing and students may be coming into Jackson in the few years and wants to know what is being predicted on how to accommodate those students when schools are closing. She asked for more logistical information about bussing children across town for either high school or grades 6-8.

Ava Bocchiaro – Liberty student (senior) – She is an involved student and loves Liberty. She does not want to compare Liberty and Memorial because both unique and different. This is about unity. She wants a fair, respectful, equal unification of our schools for everyone because like it or not, our schools are merging. The fact that both sides are so passionate about why their school is better is positive because it means both schools are worth fighting for. More students mean a larger community and should be viewed as the birth of a new, completely different high school where both schools' strengths can be broadened and weaknesses can be supplemented. With Liberty's performing arts and Memorial's sports, our district will be unstoppable. She promised Memorial people they will love Liberty's just like the Liberty people will love Memorial. She assured everyone it will be okay because together they can make the best of any challenges. She knows it is difficult but hopes the Board does what is best for our beloved district.

Paul Hermann – Resident and Teacher – He noted the property around here is state owned, controlled and protected so growth will be slower than the other side of town. He noted we are retaining both buildings so they can continue to be used as a revenue generator from athletics to the arts. We're just reconfiguring. He looks forward to the decision.

Victoria Azzopardi – Memorial parent - She noted Memorial will still be used so maintenance is still needed. She asked if elementary school enrollment is down why is there not more emphasis on closing an elementary school. She questioned what will happen with clubs, sports and school ranking when combined. She asked if a traffic study was conducted regarding additional students and busses. She questioned why Memorial is nationally ranked higher than Liberty if it is one district.

Zia Gould – Memorial Student (freshman) - As part of the STEM and the soccer and basketball teams, she thinks although Memorial's facilities are not the best, because of the students and athletes Memorial should be chosen. Since the students are the ones affected, she is thankful for this opportunity to give her opinion. Liberty is less centralized within town so bussing would be difficult. Memorial's tradition is 60 years strong and should be saved. She is concerned about combining sports and academic programs because in the past the 2 high schools aren't allowed to play against each other.

Amanda Serino – Liberty student - She noted Liberty wore white today to the meeting to symbolize unity and a blank slate, reinforcing the idea of coming together as one community to determine the best path forward. As a student who's going to be affected by the changes next year, she hopes that what is best for the students and the future of Jackson schools is the outcome.

Taran Moon - Memorial student (junior) - He noted Memorial is in a better location and is concerned about transportation - especially the dangers for new drivers driving far distances on dangerous roads. He lost someone in a car crash doesn't want anyone to go through that pain.

Joseph Proetto – Liberty student (junior) – He experienced both Memorial and Liberty through Summer Camp. He compared the choice of high schools to choosing a home to live in – which would you choose – an older one or the newer one with more room? Memorial has received upgrades over time but Liberty also got a new basketball court.

Alaina Nelson – Liberty student – She asked if the start time of school will be change for students depending on which high school is chosen since the bussing will take longer.

Amanda Trombetta - parent – She asked what the status is of lawsuit against the state regarding the loss of S2 funds.

Tim Calcaterra – Parent – As a coach, he is concerned about what happens with cuts by sports teams for kids when there are less spots because of the merged schools. The top athletes will be ok but what about the athletes in the eighth and ninth spot? What happens to those kids who are competing for scholarships and now don't have that opportunity. He has concerns about what happens to coaches and teachers and administrators with the merge of high schools. He questioned how coaches will be chosen. He is concerned that the number one junior student at Liberty may not be the number one student next year if merged.

Donovan Mlodgenski - Liberty student - When combining Memorial and Liberty, he thinks you should take half the coaches from each high school and put them on one team so there's no favoritism.

Bonnie Holton - Liberty and McAuliffe Parent – She noted if the implementation of the strategic planning decisions is done right, Jackson could be a powerhouse for academics and sports. If the decision is based on emotion, tradition, history or with the attitude of people moving out, this could work against us. She noted the traffic in Jackson is a moot point because it is atrocious no matter where you live. She asked what the change management plan is to bring these students through this. She recommended letting students have a voice and be part of this change and don't make all these decisions for them.

Seeing no one else come forward, on a motion by Mrs. Rivera, the public forum on any item was closed by acclamation.

Mrs. Pormilli responded to questions.

Mrs. Pormilli thanked everyone for sharing their insights, thoughts and input. She noted she is committed to communicating and sharing the information at the next strategic Planning Committee meeting so the committee hears the input of the community. She noted she may not be able to answer all of the questions tonight but once she can they will be communicated to parents either in written communication or at the next board meeting when the recommendations are reported.

She congratulated Ava on a job well done and pointed out the students and parents who spoke to the importance of unity. It's crucial we unite and work together. Once this recommendation is presented and then approved, all of the hard work will begin including small subcommittees that will help with this transition and to make sure we provide enough opportunities for students through this process. She noted our students are our number one priority and there is a plan to continue to work through a transition with them and our staff. There is a plan for small subcommittees to make the hard decisions mentioned tonight. She noted it is a quick timeline but they will work hard to make it a smooth, collaborative and informative process for everyone.

Mrs. Pormilli noted as long as we still have the loan, Ms. Morris or another fiscal monitor will be assigned to us. She noted Ms. Morris is involved in the process of strategic planning, informed and provides input.

She recognized the impact of transportation issues and it will continue to be a big part of looking at the two remaining models. Bus times and how long students are on a bus will be considered. She will comment on it with the final recommendation.

Regarding one facility versus the other facility, we have a good, strong high school education in both of our buildings. They are good educationally and have strong staff and that's going to continue no matter what facility. Both high school buildings are being kept in the models that we have remaining, so we will be using both of them to whatever capacity the decision is made. Through our long-range facility plan, we are committed to updating the things that normally need to be updated over time, like windows and doors. Students will be in both of these buildings and it's important that they have a strong facility that supports a strong culture and climate. She agreed it is the people in the building that make the impact and difference. It is important to honor tradition, culture and history and that will continue. We need to chart a new course with everyone being a part of making a united school district for our students. But it's important that we move forward in a new direction.

In regard to what happens with a closed building, it is still being explored and determined but the options are selling or renting for revenue. It will help consolidate our expenses financially. With the possibility of a \$17 million gap it is important that whatever we do, we can close that financial gap and sustain us for a few more years. She hopes the formula changes after that.

Mrs. Pormilli noted the district is absolutely looking into and considering traffic because she noted traffic patterns have changed drastically in the town.

Mrs. Pormilli noted staffing decisions are important. Staff meetings are set up at both of the middle schools and both high schools to address that with our staff and help them through the process of change. She thinks there is an opportunity to get excited about some of the wonderful opportunities and new adventures that we'll have for our staff and our students.

Mrs. Pormilli noted more answers will come out as we move forward in the planning. The Board is committed to being transparent. She encouraged people to email her specific questions not answered tonight. Anything sent to her is shared with the committee and they try to provide input back to you if they are able. Some of decisions are still being analyzed and are not ready for public comment yet. She thanked everybody for their input and ensured it will be shared with our committee.

Mrs. Pormilli noted we have two SSRP meetings scheduled before we make the recommendation in January. However, if through the process and we think that we need more time, additional meetings will be added to that schedule to ensure the recommendation we make is strong and we feel comfortable with it.

Mrs. Pormilli concluded her comments.

Mr. Palmeri responded to a question about suing the state. He noted the Board didn't say we were going to sue the state but rather it would seek all legal options. He noted the Board was advised by our attorney at this time that the cost of litigation would far exceed any return that would we would get from the lawsuit. So, the door on legal options is not closed but at this time we are at a wait and see.

Mr. Palmeri stated public comment is closed. He noted Mrs. Pormilli would respond via email to any additional questions not answered. Mr. Palmeri reiterated that at this time, public comment is closed. Mr. Palmeri opened the floor to Board comments.

Board Comments

Mr. McCarron congratulated all our award winners tonight. He congratulated Giuseppe on making it on the Council and thank him for his years of service on the board and being the board president.

Mr. Palmeri called for order in the auditorium.

Dr. Osmond told Ava she did an amazing job tonight. She said it's really nice to see that regardless of which high school these kids go to, they're all so proud of where they go. She noted that when speaking privately with people, she can't say anything because when she speaks about the district, it needs to be done publicly. She noted we are not making changes because we want to. We are making these changes because financially we have to. She noted she grew up in this town and is a Jag but emotion can't be the driving force here. This is about a data driven conclusion because it's crisis management. As a professor, she stated culture is not about a building - it is what you and the kids in the buildings make of it. It's if they're going to be accepting of each other. In reading things online, she sees the "our side/your side" mentality and that needs to stop. Parents, teachers, administrators and coaches set the tone. Kids are resilient. If you provide programs, activities and extracurriculars, those should be the most important thing we look at. We can make it very nice in either building. She asked that you keep that in mind when having

conversations at home, writing on social media, because young eyes are watching and listening. She congratulated the kids who spoke today for doing a wonderful job. She noted it's important for students to be heard and for us to listen. She thanked everyone for coming out and wished everyone a happy holiday.

Ms. Rivera thanked everyone for coming out and watching on live stream. She thanked everyone for their comments, their input and the presentation. She congratulated all of the awards recipients. She thanked Mr. Palmeri for all that he did and wished him the best moving forward. She wished everyone a safe and wonderful holiday season.

Mrs. Gardella thanked everyone for celebrating the wonderful teachers and staff that we have. She told Mr. Palmeri he will be missed tremendously and wished him luck. She agreed with her colleagues and with some of the speakers that it is important for us to make the culture what we want it to be and always keep that in our minds and our hearts. She wished everyone a great night and a happy holiday.

Mrs. Barocas noted that both of our shows through our arts program were wonderful - it shows how amazing our students are. She thanked everyone for coming and the 546 watching online. She hopes attention was paid what to people like Ava and our teacher, Miss Burnett, were saying and take some of the things they said and utilize it at home and speak about them to your children. She said she is horrified by some of the things she has read online – that is not unity to her. She noted her sweatshirt says Jackson Lacrosse because for many years the children that played for the Rec program came from all different sides of the township and they are still very close and they wanted to play on the same teams. She noted some of them are wishing that they have the opportunity to come back and be combined. She reiterated, it's not the building, it's the people that make good culture. She congratulated the teachers of the year and our educational service professionals. She wished everyone a happy holiday.

Mrs. Kas congratulated all of the award winners because they create the environment for our students and they do a wonderful job. She thanked the Hennessy family for their basketball jersey donations and the local businesses that purchased a refurbished automated basketball shooting machine for Jackson Memorial High School boys and girls basketball program. She noted the district is appreciative of donations. She saw the production of “Mean Girls” at Memorial and it was great. She loves our school’s productions. She told Mr. Palmeri he will be missed and that it was an honor serving with him. She said the township is lucky to have him in his new role. She wished everyone a happy holiday. She reminded everyone the Jackson Education Foundation, who services all of the schools in the district, is having their second annual house lighting contest. She encouraged families to sign up to win a \$250 Shoprite gift card.

Mr. Palmeri was happy to see so many people in attendance tonight. He noted that serving as a member of this board has been one of the greatest honors of his life and he is thankful for the opportunity to contribute to the education and well-being of the children in our community. He thanked his fellow board members who brought unique perspectives, tireless dedication and unwavering commitment to the table. He noted together, they met challenges and celebrated achievements while keeping the best interests of students first. He thanked Superintendent Pormilli and Central Office for their leadership, vision and efforts to ensure our schools operate at the highest standards. He witnessed firsthand the dedication and care taken that often goes unnoticed by the community. He acknowledged and is inspired by the incredible administrators, teachers and support staff who work tirelessly every day to create a nurturing and dynamic environment for our students. The Jackson School District is exceptional because of the passion and dedication each person brings to their role. He has a deep appreciation for the strength and resilience of our community but is mindful there are challenges ahead. He believes as long as Jackson remains united and continues to listen, collaborate and support one another, the district will overcome any challenge in the way. Unity is our greatest strength and makes this community special. The future of our schools and our community depends on all of us working together, supporting one another and never losing sight of the reason we do what we do - our children. He thanked everyone for the opportunity to serve. He will cherish the memories, the lessons and the friendships gained while on this Board. He noted that while his time is ending on the Board, his dedication to Jackson and its future remains steadfast. He wished everyone a Merry Christmas, Happy Hanukkah and Happy New Year.

There being no further discussion, on a motion by Mrs. Rivera the meeting was adjourned by acclamation at 9:02 p.m.

Adjourn

Respectfully Submitted,



Daniel Baginski
Business Administrator/Board Secretary