

JACKSON TOWNSHIP BOARD OF EDUCATION
OFFICIAL BOARD MEETING
FEBRUARY 5, 2025
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, Tina Kas, at 5:02 p.m. on February 5, 2025.

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

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

On a motion by Mrs. Rivera, seconded by Mrs. Gardella, 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 6:00 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, Mrs. Kas, at 6:10 p.m.

Recon-
vene

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

Also present: Mrs. N. Pormilli, Superintendent of Schools; 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, Mrs. Kas, made the following statement:

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

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

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

On a motion by Mrs. Rivera, seconded by Mr. Walsh, the Board of Education approved the agenda as submitted by the Superintendent of Schools.

Approve
Agenda

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

MOTION CARRIED

Mrs. Kas turned the meeting over to Mrs. Pormilli for her superintendent report and a SRRP recommendation update.

SUPERINTENDENTS REPORT/INFORMATION ITEMS

Mrs. Pormilli announced a delayed opening tomorrow was just sent out for the safety of our students and staff. She said the purpose of a public forum tonight is for the public to a comment on the SRRP. Administration has continued to read and respond to every communication received and they have been shared with the Board and updated on the shared Q&A document. She presented the following slides on a few of the major questions received. She noted some things cannot be answered until there is a final decision. The Board recognizes these big changes are difficult and filled with emotions, but there are well-intended people making recommendations and considering those recommendations. She respectfully requests when speaking tonight it is done respectfully keeping in mind we are one community and we are trying to create a path forward together to unite everybody and to create wonderful opportunities for our students. She wants the community and Board to know this school district will do everything in its power to support all of its students and staff through the transition.

Mrs. Pormilli presented the following slides:

Second Public Hearing

Jackson School District
Strategic, Redistricting,
& Restructuring Planning (SRRP)
Recommendations to BOE

February 5, 2025

Tonight's Public Forum

- Share additional information requested since our first public forum
- Open discussion for public input
- BOE will not be voting tonight - will take input into consideration and voting at the next meeting on Feb. 19, 2025.

Would You Like to Participate During the Public Forum?

When the public forum is announced, please come to the microphone and write your name down before speaking.

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

To do this we need fiscal sustainability.
We have an opportunity to achieve this.

Summary of Things to Consider During SRRP Process

- Consolidation for lowering operating costs
- Equitable courses, programs, opportunities for co-curricular and athletics
- 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
- 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)
- Content of community emails/feedback shared with committee & BOE

Refresher: Models Considered by the Committee

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

Recommendation for BOE Consideration

PreK - 4
(at current
Elementary Schools)

5-6 Upper Elementary
(at McAuliffe)

7-8 Middle School
(at Memorial)

9-12 High School
(at Liberty)

- Goetz Middle School be closed and sold/rented to lower our operating costs
- We utilize McAuliffe Middle School as our ONE Upper Elementary School for ALL 5th and 6th graders
- We utilize Jackson Memorial as our ONE Middle School for ALL 7th and 8th graders
- We utilize Jackson Liberty as our ONE High School for ALL 9th-12th graders

Recommendation reflects MODEL
SRRP Committee reached consensus on.

Transportation Tiers Under This Recommendation

Transportation Tier	School Hours 2025-2026	School Location
Tier 1	7:10 a.m. - 1:33 p.m.	Liberty Location - Grades 9,10,11,12
Tier 1		MATES, ALPS, GPAA
Tier 2	8:10 a.m. - 2:32 p.m.	Memorial Location - Grades 7 and 8
Tier 2		OCVTS Vo-Tech (BK, JK, TR)
Tier 2	8:10 a.m. - 2:20 p.m.	Johnson, Holman
Tier 3	9:10 a.m. - 3:20 p.m.	McAuliffe Location - Grades 5 and 6
Tier 3	9:10 a.m. - 3:20 p.m.	Crawford-Rodriguez, Elms, and Switlik
Tier 3	9:10 a.m. - 3:20 p.m.	Preschool Annex

We tried everything to not need to make this change. Without it, there are more runs on a particular tier than we can operate.

Considerations Regarding 7-12 Model

- This model was discussed extensively
- We cannot afford to run two of everything. Neither 7-12 model lowers operating costs to a degree we need to be more sustainable because two of every program, co-curricular (including athletics) would need to still be in place.
- Model that includes PreK-2 would require moving sending area lines and separating students from their current cohorts
- Neither 7-12 model allows for equity among programs unless these lines are redrawn
- Concerns regarding the developmental differences of having 7th and 8th grades with high schoolers, with particular concerns about traveling on the bus together.

#5 PreK - 4 5-6	#6 PreK - 2 3-4 5-6
7-12 (2 HS)	7-12 (2 HS)
2 HS	2 HS
Closes 1 Middle School	Closes 1 Middle School

Considerations Regarding 5-8 Model

- This model was also among those considered (Model #2)
- We cannot afford to run two of everything. Does not lower operating costs to a degree we need to be more sustainable because two of every program, co-curricular (including athletics) would need to still be in place.
- There were concerns regarding the developmental differences between grades 5 and 8, with particular concerns about students travelling on the bus together.
- Keeping two middle schools did not allow us to achieve equity in programs without redrawing elementary sending areas OR to lower operational costs - both of which were key goals to this restructuring.

#2

PreK - 4
5-8

9 -12
(2 HS)

2 HS

Keeps
all
schools

Dan Baginski presented the following slides:

Breakdown of Operating Cost Savings Estimates

There are two general categories of savings under this recommendation

1. LOWERING OVERALL OPERATING COSTS by closing a school, which provides more financial stability for our district

2. REVENUE from SALE/RENTAL of Middle School

- Our goal is to get as much for renting/sale as possible for our valuable property
- Renting the facility is the most desirable action to create a consistent revenue stream, however, our budget deficit may not allow for renting (see slide ahead)
- As we will be embarking on an aggressive, competitive bidding process, providing details now of specific savings could hinder our ability to earn the most amount possible

Permanent Operational Savings in Restructuring Recommendation

The merging of the high schools and middle schools and the closing of one middle school allows a reduction of staff in all areas.

The MAJORITY of these cuts can be accomplished through ATTRITION (e.g. retirements, turnover)

- Administration
- Instructional Staff
- Instructional Support Staff
- Non-Certified Support Staff
- Facilities
- Co-Curricular Advisors
- Coaches

Personnel Reduction Estimates:

Salaries: \$ 5,714,387

Health Benefits: \$ 1,972,920

Other Operational Savings:

Energy and Maintenance Savings by closing Goetz: \$ 430,000

Estimated Permanent Operational Savings Under Recommendation:

\$8,117,307

Note: Estimated operational (energy, maintenance) savings by closing McAuliffe = \$280,000

IF WE DO NOT RESTRUCTURE		We are looking at an approximately \$13.8 MILLION DEFICIT for the 2025-2026 School Year	Even with the operational savings from closing middle school (approx. \$8 million) still leaves us with a large gap to fill
Negative Impacts to the 25-26 Budget			
85% Reduction in State Categorical Aid for 25-26	\$2,510,127		
Sale of Property Budgeted in 24-25 (that will not be budgeted for in 25-26)	\$7,000,000		
Contractual Salary Increases	\$2,469,000		
Out-of-District Special Education Tuition Cost Increases	\$1,311,524		
Transportation Increases for Aid-in-Lieu Payments	\$1,740,762		
Employee Benefit Cost Increases	\$2,200,000		
Utility Increases (Electric, Natural Gas, Water, Diesel Fuel)	\$368,133		
Total Negative Impacts		\$17,599,546	
Positive Impacts to the 25-26 Budget			
Maximum General Fund Tax Levy Increase Allowed for 25-26 (2% cap) (\$7.2 million less than last year's "one-time" 9.9% increase allowed by law)	\$2,050,172		
Surplus Funds We are Able to Apply to 25-28 Budget	\$750,000		
Use of Capital and Maintenance Reserves	\$1,000,000		
Total Positive Impacts		\$3,800,172	

IF WE DO NOT RESTRUCTURE to Generate Revenue and Permanently Lower Operating Costs	
IF we do not do this, we will not have the programs, people and supports we need for our students.	
For 2025-2026, we will need to begin immediately to plan for:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Loss of positions - more than a total of 200 positions (including administrative, certified, and non-certified staff)Eliminating all Academies, ROTCReducing Advanced Placement Courses, Electives, World Languages, Honors CoursesSignificant Reduction to Athletics and Co-CurricularsEliminating all intervention and supportsMassive increase in class sizes - possible 40 students in a classNo maintenance to facilities or any improvement to existing structures	

Mrs. Pormilli presented the following slides:

Recognizing Concerns	
Concern / Idea	Response
Did the district consider traffic at different times of the day in their considerations?	Yes. We made sure to study traffic at all hours of the day to ensure there was a full understanding of the conditions. Particular attention was paid to times students and staff would arrive, dismiss or be arriving/dismissing from extra-curricular activities or athletic practices or games. One factor in recommending Jackson Liberty as the district's high school location was due in part to the fact that utilizing that building as a high school (earliest Tier 1 time) versus a middle school (Tier 2) time would mean there is less traffic congestion during those earlier Tier 1 times. We recognize that arrival and dismissal traffic also includes increased student drivers with the classes combined into one high school. We are planning to reinforce lessons on defensive driving and expand upon our orientation for our new student drivers and we will be working on traffic flow plans within the campus.
Regarding comments from traffic officer about Memorial being a better option due to traffic. Why did we make recommendation before getting full traffic data?	We traverse the roads of Jackson every day, at all times of the day. We are well aware of the traffic that exists and of the impact of growth in various areas of the township. We are not ignoring the traffic factor and it was featured heavily in our discussions. On balance, considering ALL factors - including the timing of traffic in that first early high school tier - Liberty represented the school that was best for high school educational purposes.
Restructuring Concerns and Responses are available online www.jacksonsd.org/strategicplanning	

Recognizing Concerns	
Concern / Idea	Response
Will the total bus time for students traveling from one side of town to the other be kept to a maximum number of minutes?	Transportation travel times were a factor in our analysis. The transportation department works to keep bus runs to 50 minutes or less.
What is the long range projection for the district vs. graduating from it, as well as enrollment shifts up or down due to trending decreases and/or possible increases due to underways, pending or possible developments and the changing allowable housing obligations that must be satisfied by the township. Should enrollment numbers drop significantly more than the projections further down the road, this configuration could allow for the fifth grades to be placed back into elementary schools and the sixth grades to be placed into the middle school level.	Looking at Slide 22 from the 1/22/25 BOE presentation (see link at the top of this page to the text-only version of the presentation), we show how our enrollment numbers warrant the building usage being recommended. There is also flexibility in this configuration to allow for both the expected drop in enrollments due to smaller cohorts of students entering the district vs. graduating from it, as well as enrollment shifts up or down due to trending decreases and/or possible increases due to underways, pending or possible developments and the changing allowable housing obligations that must be satisfied by the township. Should enrollment numbers drop significantly more than the projections further down the road, this configuration could allow for the fifth grades to be placed back into elementary schools and the sixth grades to be placed into the middle school level.
Restructuring Concerns and Responses are available online www.jacksonsd.org/strategicplanning	

We recognize that if these changes are implemented, there will be challenges. We will work through them TOGETHER. This district has found ways to survive unprecedented funding losses and challenges. Making these hard choices allow us to to PRESERVE the programs that make us an outstanding school district. We have an OPPORTUNITY to become ONE JACKSON!	
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PUBLIC FORUM Would You Like to Participate During the Public Forum? When the public forum is announced, please come to the microphone and write your name down before speaking.	
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Mrs. Pormilli concluded her superintendent's report and presentation and turned the meeting over to Mrs. Kas for Board comments.

Dr. Osmond stated all of the Board live in town and are committed to making the best decision they can with the information they have. She noted there are rules the Board has to follow to ensure transparency. The seven Board members cannot meet privately to discuss BOE items; they can only speak as a group at a public meeting so she wants to open the conversation tonight for everyone to hear what they are thinking.

She noted at the last meeting, a parent asked where each Board member lives. She doesn't think it matters because the Board is here for the right reasons, are trying to be ethical and she never heard any of them say they want to do what is best for their own child. She is a memorial graduate and her 2 children graduated from Memorial and one will graduate this year so next year doesn't affect her personally. She recognizes and is troubled by the animosity and division among the community as seen on social media, in emails and at public forums. Her biggest concern is with student safety. She is concerned with the Liberty's proximity to the police department so she would like to know the perspective of law enforcement. She wants to know how we can ensure students are safe in the hallways. She doesn't want her words to be twisted no one in Liberty is in danger but as the number of students increases there is a real concern.

Mr. McCarron stated he is a retired police officer and SRO and from that perspective, he thinks having the high school closer to the police station seems safer and being more centralized in town makes sense. As someone in real estate, he takes into consideration logistically where the schools are located, the values of our different buildings and what is going to carry our district into the future instead of continuously going out to the public to raise taxes.

Mrs. Gardella asked about one time use things in order to balance a budget. She thinks Jackson's been having to do it wrong because we start off with a deficit and we sell land, close Rosenauer or cut staff to patch up a budget. She asked what the standard of accounting in a school is for a one-time use fund; what is the actual thing that we want to do with it.

Mr. Baginski said you don't want to add to recurring costs that grow year to year. This happened with COVID funds because we were at such a budget deficit we needed to use some of those funds to support the existing programs and staffing but that cost us because when that goes away we're left with an even bigger hole.

Mrs. Gardella asked, looking at families with 2nd and 3rd graders, how many years can we use one-time funds and patch holes.

Mr. Baginski said if operating costs are permanently reduced to a point where the revenue levels are then you're at a balanced budget. He said it is extremely difficult to do this as an S2 School District and with NJ's 2% cap while things become more expensive. This is a deficit model for every NJ school district; Jackson arrived here sooner than other school districts. Mathematically, you cannot continue to operate in that fashion without just being in a deficit.

Mrs. Gardella noted at the Ocean County school board meeting, the BA from Point Beach made it sound amazing to be a BA of a non-S2 school district and they can rely on \$50 to 100K a year from his community and their Education Foundation. We are such a big community with so many niches and we have never raised that kind of funds. She appreciates the slides showing our fixed costs because from this educational piece, the budget planning starts right after the budget ends.

Dr. Osmond addressed committee members, Mr. McCarron, Mrs. Barocas and Mrs. Gardella, and asked what was shared and learned from law enforcement regarding safety at the committee meetings.

Mrs. Gardella noted that before Thanksgiving, Mr. Palmeri reached out to town council and traffic safety regarding traffic concerns on the east side of town and McAuliffe was discussed because during Board facility tours it took 15 minutes to turn into the lot. They spoke with an SRO officer and the captain who said it was a 4-minute turn at both arrival and dismissal times and that is not considered a traffic concern. She noted there are traffic concerns when bringing a large number of students to one school and there have been a lot of tragic deaths of teens. She noted we are a large 100 square mile district - that is the size of many beach towns combined. From her perspective, she thinks the SROs and the Committee had big concerns regarding traffic safety.

Mrs. Barocas noted that traffic is not how we make decision on educating students. We make decisions on what the committee did great job on setting up and that is grade banding. She noted the financial aspect was not discussed and the Board needed more information on financials to vote on this decision. She will have a Senior next year but her concern is that our younger children are going to be living here and what does the future of the district look like and is what we have now sustainable with no income coming in. She noted there are a lot of important things that need to be looked at and that is why it is taking time to make these decisions. She noted she was on the committee and supported the selected model because we needed to make a decision that was fiscally responsible for this district. She reiterated it is not the buildings that make these kids; it's the people in them and the families they come from that make them. She noted she is happy her own child is getting a lot out of her classes. She noted these are the reasons why it's taking the Board so much time because they have to look at all of these things. Most of the Board hasn't slept thinking about what the traveling to different schools will look like for district families. She noted she was born in NY and growing up she switched schools and was separated from friends many times within her school district and yet she is fine.

Dr. Osmond asked for more safety and animosity discussion. She appreciates all the good points but it is not about traffic. She doesn't think the animosity will go away instantly so she wants to know if anyone talked about what is going to be like putting all the kids in one a school.

Mrs. Pormilli stated there was a police officer on the committee who brought up the location of the police station so that point was discussed and valued. She wants the community to know our students are safe. The committee discussed how to positively unite our students. There are plans already in the works for uniting and our principals and staff can do that well. To address safety, we will have both SRO's and armed officers in the one HS as well as armed officer.

Dr. Osmond doesn't think the kids can be made safe overnight. She is concerned by the emails and online comments received.

Mrs. Kas stated there is a great team working on this but she thinks it starts at home and parents need to change the narrative. The negative emails are coming from parents not students. We need to salvage our district and come together as one. We know our community is changing and costs are going to continue to rise so, we're trying to do the best that we can in a short amount of time. We constantly need to plug a budget. Everyone is valued and the Board is not trying to take away legacies. Everyone on the BOE is researching this thoroughly but they felt they need extra information on certain things. She wants everyone to know that no one on the Board is just sitting – they are all pouring over data, looking at traffic reports, fighting against the governor and driving back and forth to schools for research.

Mrs. Barocas stated she and Mrs. Gardella, as volunteers, have been sitting with assemblymen and senators advocating for everyone. We have the advocacy committee working for us. We created the Jackson Education Foundation, comprised of five volunteers, to raise funds so we can have money to give for grants to our teachers and scholarships to our students. We are all working really hard outside the Board to give all of the kids of Jackson something extra but we need help.

Mrs. Gardella noted this situation has been coming for seven years but it has been masked by things like Covid funds and preschool grants. The state determines S2 district cuts based on enrollment and property value. She thinks we are here because all these pieces of information came together and we had to use one time use money. Whatever decision the Board makes, the focus is on the length of time before we have to do this again to balance our budget. She noted we'll be electing a new Governor soon and the community can advocate in that regard. She noted we got here because of state aid cuts and enrollment drops and increased property value. She noted whether it is true or not, we are looked upon as being able to afford more.

Mr. Walsh stated he lived in Jackson his whole life, worked in Memorial and was an administrator. He noted at one point there were over 3,000 students in Memorial and with the help of security, teachers and staff, it all worked out.

Dr. Osmond agrees that in time things do get worked out but she is worried about the short term. She noted the state makes it hard to sustain. She noted the state monitor can overturn our vote because we have to balance the budget. We hear a lot about how enrollment is and will continue to drop so in terms of 5-6 years from now, are we making the best recommendation knowing we may have to redistrict again. She thinks our biggest valued assets in District are Liberty and McAuliffe so, if thinking long term, would it make more sense to sell those. We are all learning about the process like, you can't sell 2 schools at once and there are rules on how to use money from a school sale but these are complicated answers. All scenarios are going through her head and every day she goes back and forth between scenarios. She noted they don't want to have to disrupt the town again and so if thinking about the biggest assets -Liberty and McAuliffe and if in the long term we are going to sell another building would they make most sense – this is a question that needs thought. She noted other ideas about uses for Memorial, McAuliffe and Liberty and when numbers decrease, bring everyone back to a centralized location in the town.

Mrs. Gardella asked how hard is it to come across a facility that is state of the art.

Mr. Walsh commented that it is extremely hard to find a state-of-the-art building because technology-wise, buildings turn over every 10 years and teachers are better with the technology.

Dr. Osmond is not convinced that if you sell some of your biggest assets that you wouldn't have the money to get the tools to rebuild things and make it better because some of these properties are probably worth a lot of money.

Mrs. Kas asked any other BOE members want to talk before public forum.

Mrs. Gardella noted there are pros and cons to every building and we are going to rely on the people in the buildings and community to make great things happen. There are going to be disappointments and joys no matter what is decided. She noted she appreciates all of the tough emails but the Board members are volunteering for your kids who are in or will soon be in the district. The town is 100 square miles and had a lot of changes throughout the community. She feels like it's division. She noted there was a referendum years ago to build all these elementary schools and it we decided then to not have a mega high school.

Mr. Walsh noted many referendums were turned down. He noted the referendum for Liberty passed by 12 votes so it's not easy to pass a referendum and it's probably harder now than it's ever been.

Mrs. Barocas noted when Liberty opened there were 3,000 kids in Memorial so when it was voted to open Liberty in 2006 there were 9,681 kids then the population stayed at around 9,500 for the next five years. She noted it then started to go down before anything changed in this township. She questions why did the population drop – is it the schools, people moving in town, was there no more building going on like she thought there would be. Regardless, this is where we are and we're trying to help our district. Although we are here now, our decisions are not just for the today; they are to make sure our schools are sustainable for the three, five and seven years from now for the younger children in our district.

Mrs. Gardella noted even though enrollment is declining, we are still the 32nd largest district in the state. There are a lot of things to consider; the parents of the 7,300 students want the Board to look at all their kids and not just the ones that are here now. This is what Board is contemplating and it is not easy but it could be easier if everybody supported them.

Board Secretary's Certification:

Pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6:20-2.12(d), I certify that as of December 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

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

Public
Forum

Mrs. Kas 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." She requested everyone to be respectful when speaking.

Christine McGinley - Parent – She appreciates the Board for all their efforts. She hopes decisions can be made quickly regarding structures because the animosity gets dealt with when the kids are brought together to plan. She noted kids need to be involved in the decisions. Regarding S2 funding, she asked where the large NJ teachers union has been in supporting S2 districts and our students because this funding model has to change. She noted we should not have long-term worries like this. She addressed the students to keep their futures in sight and asked them to not let animosity or anger screw up their future choices. She noted we are one town no matter what the building is selected.

Donald Lasko – parent, police officer & traffic safety unit officer - He gave the details of a motor vehicle accident from October 9, 2012 in which 2 Memorial students were on their way to an event at Liberty High School and was pulled over for a traffic violation then shortly after was involved in a motor vehicle crash on South Hope Chapel Road where both the passenger of the vehicle and the driver died. He noted the case number for this is incident and offered people to come to his office to see autopsy photos if they think Liberty should be the high school. He noted public officials should minimize risks when possible and tragedies like this should never happen. He noted at the request of the BOE, the traffic safety unit has pulled crash data and conducted traffic studies around Memorial and Liberty. He stated it must be taken into consideration that the data leads to the conclusion that the area surrounding Memorial would minimize the driving risk for our high school students. He provided statistics regarding the number of crashes within a one mile radius of Liberty and Memorial. He also has all the traffic study data available. He thinks it is the opinion of the Jackson Police Department's traffic safety unit to establish Memorial as the main high school because it is more centralized within the town and has safer traffic statistics for inexperienced drivers. He stated if Liberty is chosen as the high school, he thinks you will see an increase in crash reports.

Jennifer Aronson – Memorial parent – She thanked the Board and committee for their hard work. She is concerned about the transition for high school students. She asked if there is a way some of our high school students can finish their high school careers in their home schools since Memorial was originally set up to be two schools. She stated it is not clear from the slides why closing one of our other elementary schools is not an option given the fact that we have lower enrollment. She thinks this will give more transition time in the schools.

Jeff Henba – parent and police officer - He reviewed some projects already approved around Liberty including single family homes and a house of worship. He noted the 420 acre Pine Baron's Golf Course was recently sold to a developer. He noted

there are 4 projects approved near Memorial including a three-story office building with 57 parking spaces, 192 residences and 4 commercial buildings. There are 4 schools that have not gone to the planning board so it may be 3-5 years before construction starts. He noted the area around Memorial has limited buildable land as some is owned by the state and is preserved land. He noted around Liberty there are two parcels owned by Ocean County with total land preserved of approximately 3,000 acres. He asked if the Board spoke to the bus drivers on the road every day. He noted Liberty will be paid off this year and he predicts in 3 to 5 years a developer will offer a lot of money for the building and it will be sold. Traffic safety and the safety of students is very important so he fears what the roadways by Liberty and McAuliffe will look like in 2-3 years. He noted the private school aid-in-lieu cost is predicted to increase next year so those costs will continually increase.

Christopher Velotti – parent – He noted having classes with 40 students is not ideal so he recommends team teaching or parallel teaching. We have the resources these high schoolers need to gather knowledge for college or vocational schools.

Scott Seidel – Liberty graduate and resident - He noted driving to school for Seniors is important and Liberty has 400 more parking spots. He noted Liberty has double the sports fields, a larger gym and football stadium and has over double the acreage of Memorial. If the population rises, Liberty has room for expansion where Memorial is landlocked. He noted Liberty has circular designed hallways for easier movement in hallways. He asked the Board to do what's fiscally responsible for the future of this town. He asked the Board to petition the zoning and planning Board to pause all projects on Brewers Bridge, Hope Chapel, East Veterans Highway and Cooksbridge. He thinks all traffic studies done in those areas should be considered null and void because if the schools are changing, the traffic's going to increase. He noted that he lives near Liberty and there is no traffic at 7 a.m. In terms of rebranding, he asked the Board to do what is fiscally responsible and he suggested making McAuliffe students Jaguars and High school students Lions so everyone is a Jaguar and a Lion.

Mrs. Kas stated to the audience that if they can't act respectfully, they will be asked to leave.

Carolyn Orecchio – resident, parent and out of district teacher – She thanked administration for taking questions. She had a lot of 5/6 grade questions that were answered on the Q&A that made her feel better about the recommendation. She hopes the Board is not just thinking about high schoolers because the younger students will be here longer and should not be overlooked. She noted both schools are being used and which is better suited for high school and middle school it should be look at. In her opinion, Liberty seems like the logical choice for a high school because it was built with that in mind and it has the facilities. She thinks Memorial could fit more middle schoolers. She noted it is possible to have traffic on this side of town too.

Jaiden Stokes – Memorial freshman – He expressed his concern for the well-being of his classmates, friends and teachers due to the traffic and safety issues in the Liberty area. He asked to retain the name Memorial because the name holds profound significance symbolizing a place of learning and a tribute to values and history.

Jennifer Kosek – resident and teacher – She stated safety should always be a concern. She noted there has always been animosity on both sides of town. If she were transferred to move to a different school, she would never think to treat a student differently because of where they live. The children play sports together and when off the field, they are fine. She thinks the animosity comes from the parents at home. She noted we are all the same community.

Debbie Hoehman – parent – She moved to Jackson for the academics. If thinking of long term sustainability, she stated we need to consider our biggest assets and consider leasing Liberty. She doesn't think we should sell to the township because it is changing.

Elaine Coger –Liberty parent – She heard people talking around town and questioned if the Board is more concerned with saving a building than investing in the children's future. She asked if the Board looked at the data. She thinks it is a conflict of interest for Board members who have students in the district to vote. She asked the Board and parents to be responsible adults and vote on facts. She did minimal research on surrounding towns and states that merged schools and found 17 experienced very similar problems to Jackson and none picked an older school. She thinks Liberty has everything and thinks quality tools for a better education would be lost if Memorial was selected.

Steve Wisniewski – parent – He notes when the Board approves this plan there will be an imbalance of Goetz / Memorial students being moved and many staff members will be relocated or shifted within their current building. In regard to moving staff members, he asked what the financial costs is, how the cost will be covered and if it will it be done internally or with a moving company. He asked how the rising health care costs will be funded. He asked what the cost of rebranding is at 3 schools and if it can be completed within three summer months. He asked if academic continuity will be maintained and if the academic experience will remain strong especially for our rising seniors who have a few short months to showcase their academic and extracurricular activities before applying to college. He asked if the savings from closing Goetz will be used to make payroll or be reinvested in the school's infrastructure, staffing and academic programming. He asked if there are hidden costs if selling or repurposing Goetz. He noted decisions are being made before the state releases an official funding allocation and the anticipated number could change. He asked if the district developed a financial pro forma for beyond 2025-26. He thinks the Board needs to consider the human impact of the potential for staff layoffs, turnover and reductions could significantly impact the plan's success and district morale.

Alaina Nelson - Liberty student – She noted each school is equally amazing but you need to choose the place with excellence and opportunity and Liberty has more parking spaces, better ramp, 3 entries and is newer. She noted it is further but traffic is everywhere and students can always use the bussing option. One school will lose the building but not the memories.

Vin Mistretta – parent and teacher – He thanked the BOE for the time and work put into the decision. He noted the animosity was non-existent when Goetz and McAuliffe came together in 2023 when there was 1 high school – everyone got along. He stated when we come together, regardless of which school, it is parents, teachers and coaches who need to set tone and build strong relationships. He said the longer it takes to make the decision, the bigger the divide becomes. He asked if it is back to square one if the Board votes no to the proposed plan. He thinks Memorial is the correct opinion but he agrees with Mr. Walsh that kids are resilient. He said we need to get them together as soon as possible so we can start moving forward.

Veronica Burnett – resident and teacher – She has ties to the school on both sides of town and she is sad to see the divide. She noted the merge is happening and she is already talking about getting the kids together to bond, heal and make one great Jackson. She said too many closed minds are not allowing this to happen. Traffic is is not going to change it will only get

worse as more things are approved and built. She thinks we need to a plan to fix the traffic because we want everyone to be safe. The BOE has big difficult decision to make. A decision in which allegiances are put aside and what is best for all the students is decided then we need to come together and make the best of it.

Isaac Elsner – resident and former OOD student – He emphasized how important smaller class sizes are. He is conflicted on the rebranding because it would cost money to change and changing the entire identity doesn't always work but whatever is decided, everyone needs to unite. He asked if this plan will last more than a year noting last year's sale of Rosenauer and how we can't keep selling schools. He noted a new governor doesn't mean the formula is going to change immediately.

Diane Campagna- Liberty parent – She drives her daughter to school from the north side of town and there is not a lot of traffic. She is glad to hear there will be increased resources for driver safety. She appreciates all the fiscal numbers provided. She has had experienced positive unity of students from both sides of town through the ROTC, boy scouts and girl scouts and she thinks tone is taught from the top – the ROTC Major, parents and teachers have to show kids we are united. She would like to find ways to unify with parent committees and bring this town together and keep our kids safe.

Jim Osmond – parent – He encouraged parents to get involved and be informed of what's happening in the schools. He assured everyone the BOE members are taking this decision very seriously – they are doing everything they can in best interest of all the students to make an informed decision. He is glad to hear people talk about unity because the divisiveness is atrocious. He noted everyone has an opinion but we have to think about what's in the best interest of the community and we have to trust the BOE to make that decision. We need to make a decision so this back and forth banter can stop and we can move on and come back together as one town and be one Jackson again.

Tara Mazzella– Liberty parent – She noted she lives by Liberty and the traffic is a concern but it is nothing like when she lived in NY. She appreciates the Board listening to all the concerns about the difficult decision to be made and she hopes best decision for kids is made. She said the committee consists of a select group Jackson representatives who looked at all the data and surveys and the committee said Liberty is the best choice. She noted Liberty has been open for 20 years and traffic has never been a discussion before today and we let our kids drive to work, the mall, beach and Great Adventure with no concern. The committee's decision should be considered as recommended. She also noted the changes seen on the Liberty side are coming to Memorial side.

Carole Morris, State Monitor, left the meeting at 6:27pm.

Kim Nelson – Memorial and Switlik 4th grade parent – She is concerned more about the younger grades and how long this will last or will we need to redistrict in another 5-6 years. She would like to know if this is a band-aid or a permanent solution. She asked if there is a plan for the current 4th graders who will unexpectedly be going to a new school next year.

Jocelyn Salais – Liberty parent – She noted Liberty is the best facility because we don't need to put money into it and we should not do construction on buildings while kids are there. She noted funds from the state aided getting the preschool annex and she stated these funds could have been allocated elsewhere to retrofit another building for the preschool so Memorial could remain the high school. She raised a concern that moving the preschool could incur significant expenditures the district cannot afford. She noted the district needs to prioritize funding and make decisions that support our children's education without unnecessary financial strain. She noted, with the 7th and 8th graders at Memorial, there is an opportunity to reconfigure office space to enhance district efficiency. She observed traffic flow around Memorial near the Don Connor traffic light as a challenge. She thinks a practical approach is needed to address our financial priorities, the practical aspects of our facilities layout and Community traffic patterns.

Drew Gibson – Memorial teacher – He does not think uniting is going be an issue and there won't be all the problems people think. He thinks it will be hardest for the current Juniors because like him, they will have to finish their final year at a different school. He noted the younger kids will be fine and adapt because they will come through the process together. He emphasized that we need to unite. He thinks we need to do what is the best decision for town in the long term. He noted everyone cares about the kids. He has been a Memorial teacher for a long time and loves it but the Liberty teachers can say the same thing. He knows the town will come together and it will be great.

Shannon Pazinko – Liberty parent – She expressed her appreciation to administration and the SRRP committee for their dedication, hard work and commitment to the success and wellbeing of our students. She thanked the BOE members for their ongoing support vision and efforts in ensuring that our educational system thrives. She noted the police station location does not matter because the police do not sit in headquarters – they patrol. She hopes the facts, data and research provided by the experts are used to make a unified, objective and not emotional vote on the superintendent's recommendations.

Chris Adolfsen – parent – He attended Lakewood schools and saw what happed there and doesn't want that to happen here so he asked if the Board reached out to Lakewood to learn from their mistakes. He asked how long will it take to develop a new plan if the vote fails and if there will be time to make those changes. He asked how you would address it if too many students want to be a part of a specific program.

Stacey Ricciardi – parent – She thanked Mr. McCarron and Mrs. Kas for their email responses. When she was part of the high school split in the 90's there was no parents involmment and no social media but they came together and were fine. She thinks once the kids are together they will be fine and parents need to step back. She noted all of the talk about Memorial being safer doesn't make her feel like her Liberty student is safe.

Dyanne Lepold – teacher – She noted that regardless of what building you are in sometimes technology is outdated or doesn't work but that doesn't matter because the teachers will still teach and it is the teachers that make education. Teachers put kids first and will do whatever needs to be done. She noted parents need to stop talking about just one building or one side of town because it is about a whole town.

Katelyn (Ace) Coburger – Liberty student – She is on the merged girls bowling team. When the teams merged she was nervous about all of the talk about fighting but she does not see fighting or the prejudice. She is glad they merged because she now has best friends from both schools. She noted she only heard about fighting but most of the kids never met so she doesn't think it will be a big issue once kids meet.

Andrea Frangella – parent and staff – She noted she never worried about the value of the education her kids received in this district. She thinks high school sports should be competitive and unfortunately not everyone makes the team. She noted technology does enhance education. She stated even though we can fit everyone in Memorial, she asked why would you pick an old building over new one. She noted everyone should know about the S2 funding by now because it has been explained numerous times over the past 7-8 years. She thinks prolonging the vote is a disservice because time is of the essence.

Ava Bocchiaro– Liberty student – She noted when she merged into middle schools with 3 elementary schools, she thought it was great because she made new friends when they came together. She asked what changed from then to now with this merge. She thinks it is all about perspective.

Tom Smith – parent – When he was in school he experienced a high school split and it was painful but here, this is a consolidation where you're bringing all the best from two schools into one and he thinks students should look at it as an opportunity to be better together.

Darren Trautwein – volunteer Memorial coach – He coaches a volleyball club with students from Liberty and Memorial and all the kids get along fine. He thinks the division and animosity is parent driven because he has seen the kids cheer for each other and get along fine. He has seen fabrications on social media so he asked people to use data and speak at the meetings. He noted it is not proven that schools with greater technology have better education. He said we need to bring these kids together as they already do without the parents getting involved.

Alison Milone – Memorial parent – She thanked administration and BOE for their hours of dedication. She noted the kids will be fine and the parents need to stop posting negative things on Facebook about Memorial. She noted the kids just want to know where they will be going to school in September and she hopes there will be orientations so the kids feel welcome on their first day of school.

Darlene Demerest – resident – She was on the committee when the schools split so she thought this was going to be a good thing and our district will be a powerhouse by coming together. She noted a lot of kids know each other from town wide athletics. She noted there is traffic at prime travel times at both locations. The animosity stemming from the parents needs to stop. She noted if parents are worried about their kids driving to school, the safest way to get there is on the bus. She noted because of the animosity, there is a need for SRO's and someone to direct traffic in whatever school chosen.

Jeff Henba – parent and police officer - He agrees we need to unite the kids soon. He asked why, since the school selected shouldn't matter, the 2025-26 coaches can't be selected tomorrow so the kids and coaches can meet and know who will be coaching them. He thinks the positions should go to most qualified and productive, not the most tenured. He asked why 6th graders won't be able to play middle school sports.

Scott Sidell – graduate and parent – He asked what the process is if the BOE votes no to the decision. He asked what is the cost per student in 5 years and 10 years for each school and is it a large or small difference. The choice is between a new school and an old school. He is unsure if the Board can advocate to the zoning and planning boards to pause projects or maybe taxpayers and voters need to petition those boards.

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

Mrs. Kas thanked everyone for speaking tonight and the Board is taking the comments to heart. She turned the meeting over to Mrs. Pormilli to respond to questions.

Mrs. Pormilli stated she may not answer everyone's questions but she will address them in the Q&A or individually. She encouraged everyone to continue to send questions. She asked everyone to be patient as this was a lot of information.

Regarding the timeframe for a decision, Mrs. Pormilli noted the Board is working hard to make an informed decision as soon as possible so we can move forward. Administration does not want to start working on changes until the vote is finalized. Draft timelines are in place and ready to go. Committees, including a student committee, will be set up as soon as possible.

Mrs. Pormilli thanked the police department for the information they shared as it is important to review and consider it.

Regarding the question about slowing the process down and letting students finish out in current school, Mrs. Pormilli noted that splitting grade levels does not allow the district to offer equitable programs and opportunities to all students across schools. As stated before, we need to act now otherwise there is a great risk of having to take things away from students. The district did not want to sell Rosenauer but we were forced to balance the budget. This is about the future, sustaining programs and keeping the excellent district in place. We need to unite and come together. The staff will assist with making the transition smooth for students and teachers by offering orientations and opportunities to see their new spaces.

Mrs. Pormilli noted the elementary students were considered in strategic planning. There were a lot of conversations about the lack of space in our elementary schools. The free preschool program is funded by state grants and that helps not only students and parents but fiscally helps the district's elementary schools. She noted currently many unified arts classes are on carts that go into the classrooms so this was considered in strategic planning. She noted that moving preschool into the Memorial annex and removing 5th grades from the elementary schools reduces overcrowding and opens space for the unified arts to have classrooms. In the long term, it is hard to predict enrollment and it is hard to plan and budget without knowing state aid numbers. She noted the district strongly feels this plan should be able to carry us well into the future while preserving programs and extracurriculars.

Mrs. Pormilli clarified that the comment regarding having 40 students in a class is only if we do not restructure. She noted the purpose of restructuring is to lower permanent operational costs from year to year versus one-year that do not benefit the district.

In regard to rebranding costs and moving expenses, Mrs. Pormilli noted that for the middle schools and high school, it will be a long process and a committee will be formed to do it well. There are volunteers who offered to help make that happen and talk about what we can do in the short term. Mrs. Pormilli will also talk to PTNs and JEF to help support the rebranding.

In regard to the questions concerning the sale of schools, Mrs. Pormilli noted she presented at a hearing to DOE assistant commissioner about the formula and urged them to differentiate the formula. She noted money from selling a building will go back into buildings and facilities to offset budget expensed and lower operational costs. She believes selling another building will take us through several years of not being in a budget deficit and other factors may change including enrollment. She noted this will be outlined in the Q&A.

If Board says no to all or part of the recommendation, Mrs. Pormilli noted the Board will have to recommend what they want to happen. She noted the Board is informed about how important of the decision and the process to roll out the plan is so she is sure they will make a good recommendation.

Mr. Zitomer confirmed and stated he understands that the Board intends to make a final decision at the next meeting and they understand the timeline. Mrs. Kas confirmed the Board plans to vote at the next meeting.

Mrs. Pormilli thanked everyone for sharing their insights, thoughts and input. She appreciates the messages of unity. She asked that we work together to support our students.

Mrs. Pormilli noted staffing decisions and packing timelines are in the planning stage and will be communicated as soon as decision is made.

She noted she will update the Q&A and reach out regarding any questions she possibly didn't get to tonight.

Mrs. Pormilli concluded her comments.

OFFICIAL MEETING SCHEDULE

On a motion by Mrs. Rivera, seconded by Mr. Walsh, the Board of Education approved the following motion:

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

OFFICIAL MEETING SCHEDULE

1. The Board of Education approves a revision to the 2025 official meeting schedule as follows:

<u>Date</u>	<u>Type of Meeting</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Location</u>
January 7, 2025	Reorganization	5:30 PM	Administration Building Conference Room
January 22, 2025	Business Meeting	6:30 PM	JMHS Fine Arts Auditorium
February 5, 2025	Special Meeting Restructuring Redistricting Plan	6:00 PM	JMHS Fine Arts Auditorium
February 12, 2025 February 19, 2025	Business Meeting	6:30 PM	JMHS Fine Arts Auditorium
March 19, 2025	Business Meeting/ Adopt Tentative 2025-2026 Budget	6:30 PM	JMHS Fine Arts Auditorium
April 30, 2025	Business Meeting/ 2025-2026 Budget Hearing	6:30 PM	JMHS Fine Arts Auditorium
May 21, 2025	Business Meeting	6:30 PM	JMHS Fine Arts Auditorium
June 25, 2025	Business Meeting	6:00 PM	JMHS Fine Arts Auditorium
July 16, 2025	Business Meeting	6:00 PM	JMHS Fine Arts Auditorium
August 20, 2025	Business Meeting	6:00 PM	JMHS Fine Arts Auditorium
August 27, 2025	Business Meeting-Personnel only	6:00 PM	Administration Building Conference Room
September 17, 2025	Business Meeting	6:30 PM	JMHS Fine Arts Auditorium
October 15, 2025	Business Meeting	6:30 PM	JMHS Fine Arts Auditorium
November 19, 2025	Business Meeting	6:30 PM	JMHS Fine Arts Auditorium
December 17, 2025	Business Meeting	6:30 PM	JMHS Fine Arts Auditorium
January 7, 2026	Reorganization Meeting	5:30 PM	Administration Building Conference Room
January 21, 2026	Business Meeting	6:30 PM	JMHS Fine Arts Auditorium

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

MOTION CARRIED

Mrs. Kas asked audience members talking to move their conversations to hallway. She announced the Jackson Education Foundation is hosting a comedy night on February 27th all are welcome to come out and support the district, the JEF awards scholarships for the students and teacher grants throughout the district.

Mrs. Kas opened the floor to Board comments.

Board Comments

Mr. Walsh noted senior scholarships close on February 13. He congratulated the girls wrestling team on winning the Shore Conference. The teachers may be in a different classroom but they are the same and our staff is very good and they know how to use the technology they have.

Mr. McCarron thanked everyone for coming out and participating in the meeting and for all the emails. He noted the Board is listening and a decision will be made next meeting.

Dr. Osmond responded the committee did think about the younger kids because the 5/6 and 7/8 grade model is a really smart model because you only have two grades in a school. Younger kids lost part of their educational foundation due to Covid so she thinks the new model will help the learning gaps for that age group.

She commended that the community voted the Board into office for this responsibility and if they didn't all vote the process would be slowed down. She noted it is a good thing the Board is debating this; it means they are volunteering their time to debate the pros and cons, looking for gaps that may have been missed and are trying to figure out the best decision for everyone. In regard to a plan to fix traffic, she noted the BOE can't do that. The Board can look at getting kids to school, bus rides and educational aspects. The Board agrees the town needs to fix the traffic but it is something the police needs to fix not the BOE. She reiterated the Board questioning things is not a bad thing. She noted she does not want her words twisted but she has legitimate safety concerns. She noted safety should be number one for everyone in the buildings. She is not saying that students currently in a school are not safe but rather this is going to be a new, larger population of people with potentially more problems so it should be in the conversation. She noted the Board should be debating all of the pros and cons before making a decision.

Ms. Rivera thanked everyone for coming out this evening and viewing on live stream and for their input and comments. She noted we all need to unite as one Jackson. She noted the Board has a lot of things to consider including the data and facilities. She travelled by Liberty during tier one and didn't see too many traffic concerns. She is concerned the engineers deemed Goetz as a tear down with multi-million dollars upgrades. She noted the Liberty transportation depot is newer and the Memorial one needs a complete renovation. She noted the Board is doing the best they can during this critical time. She thanked everyone for coming out.

Mrs. Barocas stated none of the Board wanted to do this. She noted they asked about closing elementary, combining PreK or pushing off for a year – they thought about everything people are asking about. She noted she is up all hours looking at information and emails. She understands graduation is a big deal and students want to graduate from the school they are in. She reminded people the students graduating during Covid did not have a ceremony at all and the students affected by the California fires don't even have a school to go to anymore. She urges people to think about what is going on around you and know the students will survive. She encouraged the community to sign up and attend the JEF comedy show on February 27th. She wished everyone a good night.

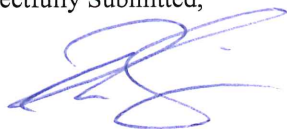
Mrs. Gardella agrees with the sentiments of the other Board members. She stated the committee did great work and came up with an educational model that takes into consideration the development of students at every grade level. She noted the unknown is scary and the committee looked at so many different models. She stated we need to consolidate because we're facing a fiscal issue that none of us can control but we can only do what is in our control. She understands that the facility matters to a lot of people but in the end, some will be happy others disappointed. She noted there are concerns and the Board has looked at all the data and people are coming up to them and acting like they didn't look at the data and read the traffic reports multiple times. She noted the town is not the same as it was 25 years ago and people aren't used to that. She thinks the police are feeling the same types of pressures as the Board and they are dealing with their own constraints. She noted she just wants the kids to have great experiences and the parents and adults write the narrative. She thanked everyone for making the narrative better tonight. She thanked everyone for their participation tonight.

Mrs. Kas stated thank everyone for coming. She noted she got some ideas and questions from tonight's comments that she will look at again. She said the Board is taking this seriously and is looking at unity. She noted she is looking at all aspects of the decision including the fiscal responsibility, the sustainability, the longevity and facilities. She said there will be a vote on February 19th. There is a process to follow if there is something that the Board needs to change or the Board doesn't agree with but majority will win. She wants everyone to keep in mind the word "unity" is in "community". She wished everyone a good night.

There being no further discussion, on a motion by Mrs. Rivera, second by Mr. Walsh, the meeting was adjourned by acclamation at 8:59 p.m.

Adjourn

Respectfully Submitted,



Daniel Baginski
Business Administrator/Board Secretary