

JACKSON TOWNSHIP BOARD OF EDUCATION  
OFFICIAL BOARD MEETING  
JANUARY 22, 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 Vice President, Megan Gardella, at 5:30 p.m. on January 22, 2025.

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

Absent: Mrs. Kas

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. Kathryn Perry, from Jump, Perry and Co., L.L.P (6:00 arrival).

On a motion by Mrs. Rivera, seconded by Mrs. Barocas, 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 Vice President, Mrs. Gardella, at 6:36 p.m.

Recon-  
vene

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

Absent: Mrs. Kas

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 Vice President, Mrs. Gardella, 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

Absent: Mrs. Kas

**ADMINISTRATION OF OATH OF OFFICE / AFFIRMATION**

At this time Board Secretary, Mr. Baginski administered the Oath of Office and swore in elected Board Member Erica Osmond as a member of the Jackson Board of Education.

Attorney, Marc Zitomer added agenda items: Personnel #24 and Students #11.

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

On a motion by Mrs. Rivera, seconded by Mr. Walsh, the Board of Education approved the agenda with addendums 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

Absent: Mrs. Kas

**MOTION CARRIED**

### **SUPERINTENDENTS REPORT/INFORMATION ITEMS**

Mrs. Pormilli stated that after a brief superintendent's report, she will do Board business then present to the Board and the public the Strategic Redistricting and Restructuring Plan update and recommendations followed by Board questions and comments. Then she will open the meeting to public forum.

Mrs. Pormilli turned the microphone to Kathy Perry, the auditor partner at Jump, Perry and Company, who completed the audit on June 30, 2024 that was due to the Department of Education on January 15<sup>th</sup>. It was filed properly and timely. She noted as part of that audit, Jump, Perry Co. gives an opinion on the financial statements, on how the district spent grants and its internal control.

Ms. Perry reported that in the audit testing, including payroll, disbursements, bids, grants and details on how grants should be spent, there were no findings or any significant question costs so, there were no issues. The financials uploaded had no findings. Everything was reviewed with the board office. She noted the board office did a great job gathering everything needed. This audit and all of the other school district audits are available on the NJ Department of Education website under Finance for anyone to review.

Mrs. Pormilli asked Ms. Perry to comment on the grant funds that were selected in the audit. Ms. Perry noted the district receives federal and state grants. When reviewing grants, there are significant rules on how selections are made based on money spent. Selections are based on what is a major program. Upon reviewing of those grants, there were no findings. The grants selected this year were a covid-19 Grant, some State grants and the district lunch program grant. Within those grants, grant documents, how you spent the money, selected invoices and lunch applications were reviewed and there were no findings on any of those things. So, you spent the money in accordance with the Grant and that was reported on your data collection form filed on January 15, 2025.

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.
- Interact Club is hosting its annual Socks for Seniors drive until January 21<sup>st</sup> - aims to keep the senior citizens of our community warm this winter.
- JMHS DECA, Model Congress and FBLA are competing for leadership positions and attending winter conferences.
- He congratulated Teachers of the Year, Megan Mauro and Brenda Mershernger.
- Students are preparing for final exams, scheduled for January 29<sup>th</sup>/30<sup>th</sup>. January 31<sup>st</sup> is a transition day.
- He wished Seniors all the best as they await early decision college acceptances.
- Winter sports teams, (basketball, ice hockey, winter track, and wrestling) are preparing for their seasons.
- 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 excellent report.

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

- Katie Yurgle – Liberty
- Katie thanked everyone for allowing her to speak. She shared what has been happening this month at JLHS.
- Winter sports – Boys' Wrestling team has a winning record, A. McCann won 1<sup>st</sup> place in the Mustang Classic Wrestling Tournament, the Boys' Basketball team had some great wins, Indoor Track had standout performances from D. Spalthoff, V. Akinboboye and B. Casais and Boys' Bowling's J. Cofinas bowled back-to-back 600 series.
- The Performing Arts Academy visited the Count Basie Theatre to see Newsies - it was a valuable exposure to the arts.
- AtLib Players began rehearsals for their spring production of Percy Jackson and the Lightning Thief, on March 6<sup>th</sup>/7<sup>th</sup>/ 8<sup>th</sup>.
- The Jackson Liberty Key Club is holding a hat and glove drive with non-profit Your Grandmother's Cupboard.
- The Leadership Academy is hosting a Valentine's Day drive benefiting CareOne, collecting socks, hygiene products, etc.
- The Class of 2025 is hosting a bake sale to help students enjoy the upcoming half-day.
- ESL Night on January 29<sup>th</sup> will be a night of games, raffles, and community tables and Lion's Closet will be open.
- Congratulations to J. Knuth (92.7 WOBM Student of the Week), D. Spalthoff (honored at the NJSIAA Girls and Women in Sports Day), C. Harnett and B. Casais (Athletes of the Month).
- Many Seniors are hearing back from colleges and trade schools. She thanked Liberty guidance and staff for their help.
- She wished everyone a pleasant evening.

Mrs. Pormilli thanked Katie for her report and noted she appreciates all of the activities supporting the community.

Mrs. Pormilli noted there was some snow but hopefully we don't have to adjust our school schedules. She noted the end of the semester is next week and students will take finals and staff has a professional development day on transition day. Many of our elementary chorus concerts were held instructed by our incredible music teachers. The 2025-2026 preschool lottery sign up is open until February 13<sup>th</sup> at 3p.m. - information is on our district website and it is free to Jackson residents.

Mrs. Pormilli concluded her superintendent's report and turned the meeting over to Mrs. Gardella.

### **Discussion Items**

#### **Standing Committee Reports:**

- *Buildings & Grounds – Mr. McCarron (Chair), Mrs. Rivera and Mrs. Kas (Alt: Mr. Walsh) Superintendent Pormilli, Asst. Superintendent Rotante, Anthony Bruno*
  - Updates on District Wide Projects *including:*
    - Holman - 4 trailers have been decommissioned and sold. (Removed)
    - Johnson - Trailers 1-4 have been decommissioned and sold. (Removal)
    - Liberty - Lecture hall roof drain leak has been repaired and painted.
    - Liberty - 4 sub-contracted roof leaks at have been repaired.
    - District - All outdoor non-heated areas have been winterized.
    - Goetz - 2 new OEM control boards for boilers have been replaced.
    - Switlik - In process of decommissioning 14 trailers.
    - Switlik - Installation of a brand-new fire alarm panel.

- Curriculum & Instruction – Dr. Osmond (Chair), Mrs. Rivera and Mrs. Gardella (Alt: Mrs. Kas)
  - Committee held a virtual meeting to review the QSAC monitoring of our curriculum and instruction elements
  - Under District performance elements 1-7, the district is evaluated on student Proficiency in ELA Math and Science, growth on state assessments based on student growth percentile scores, four and five year graduation rates and chronic absenteeism.
  - The scores are calculated based on the NJ DOE rubric.
  - The Department of Education has put out an equivalency application that revises the weighting of some categories. Districts can apply to use this alternative application.
  - Jackson will pass using either formula but will score higher using the equivalency waiver.
  - The application was reviewed and will be voted on tonight's agenda.

**Ad Hoc Committees will meet as needed:**

Advocacy Committee – Mrs. Gardella (Chair), Mrs. Osmond and Mrs. Rivera  
Met on January 14, 2025: In attendance were Board Members Mrs. Barocas and Mrs. Gardella and Mrs. Pormilli.  
Reviewed the following information:

- SFRA NJ DOE Public Hearing
  - Mrs. Pormilli spoke and gave insights on areas that could be reformed with S2 funding; such as differentiation between districts to account for their individual needs.
  - There were many districts in attendance (Old Bridge, Plumstead, South Brunswick, Cape May County, Lacey, Monroe to name a few); majority S2 affected districts. Along with statewide advocacy group representatives, like PTNs.
  - Ideas that were suggested: leaving off the top 1% of earners because it skews the average, especially if you have a lottery winner in your town; funding nonpublic transportation in districts with high nonpublic to public student ratio, fund MLL at 100%, fund to adequacy, fund security at 100%, share the formula so districts can prepare in advance of knowing state aid, have a rolling property value of over 5 years, allow districts to go above the 2% tax cap yearly, have a longer budget periods to offer stability, bring back old aid calculations for special education students.
  - Districts such as Newark and Lakewood pointed out the amount of funds mandated for charter schools and non-public students can be hard to manage under S2.
  - Most districts have a “revenue” problem.
  - We heard towns not purchasing necessities like toilet paper.
  - We heard towns not making payroll in the coming weeks.
  - We heard towns having to lay off teachers in the coming weeks.
  - We heard stories of what will happen this school year if the state does not offer relief.
  - All towns moved to the 9.9 tax levy.
  - Some towns went for referendum to raise additional funds that did not get voted through.
  - More than one town has closed down a school.
  - The DOE was writing ideas down. Time will tell if any changes will be made to the funding formula.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

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

Official Board Meeting – December 11, 2024 Closed Session Meeting	Approve
Official Board Meeting – December 11, 2024 Business Meeting	<u>Minutes</u>

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

Absent:                       Mrs. Kas

**MOTION CARRIED**

**FINANCIAL REPORT**

On a motion by Mrs. Rivera, seconded by Dr. Osmond, the Board of Education approved Bills and Claims for January 1-22, 2025 and December 2024:

Total Computer Checks, January 1-22, 2025	\$ 4,180,152.44	<u>Bills/ Claims</u>
December Bill List	\$ 3,573,715.75	
Total Hand Checks, December 31, 2024	\$ 1,377,391.81	
Total Payroll, December 31, 2024	\$ 8,184,000.69	
FICA:	\$ 383,928.10	
Total Board Share	\$ 208,626.94	
Retired Health Benefits and Pension Payment	\$ 7,830.69	
Health Benefits	\$ 2,414,879.72	
Refinancing of Existing Debts	\$ 446,775.00	
Voids	\$ (0.00)	
Total Budgetary Payment, for the month	\$ 16,597,148.70	

FOOD SERVICE  
BOARD BILLS AND CLAIMS December 2024      \$ 378,786.04

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

Absent:                        Mrs. Kas

**MOTIONS CARRIED**

On a motion by Mrs. Rivera, seconded by Dr. Osmond, the Board of Education approved the Treasurer’s & Board Secretary’s reports for the month of November 2024. Treas/Bd  
Sec’y  
Rpt

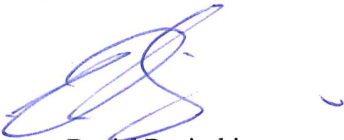
Roll Call Vote:    Yes:    Dr. Osmond  
                                      Mr. Walsh  
                                      Mr. McCarron  
                                      Mrs. Rivera  
                                      Mrs. Barocas  
                                      Mrs. Gardella

Absent:                        Mrs. Kas

**MOTION CARRIED**

**Board Secretary’s Certification:**

Pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6:20-2.12(d), I certify that as of November 30, 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 Mr. Walsh, seconded by Mrs. Rivera, the public forum on agenda items only was opened by acclamation. Public  
Forum

Mrs. Gardella 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.”

Mrs. Gardella asked if anyone would like to speak on agenda items only to please come up. She noted items pertaining to the redistricting should be held until the 2<sup>nd</sup> public forum.

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

**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 Mr. Walsh, the Board of Education open discussion on Finance.

The Board of Education approved the following motions on Finance:

1. The Board of Education, based on the recommendation of the Board Secretary, approves the line-item transfers for the month of November, 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 November, 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 accepts the June 2024 Annual Comprehensive Financial Report as submitted by the auditing firm of Jump, Perry and Company, LLP and accepts the Corrective Action Plan (CAP) for the June 2024 Annual Comprehensive Financial Report which contains no findings, as submitted and recommended by the Business Administrator/Board Secretary.

**Document D.**

5. The Board of Education, based on the recommendation of the Board Secretary, approves the sale of thirteen Switlik Trailers, 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 T-1	\$2,075.00
Trailer T-2	\$1,010.00
Trailer T-3	\$1,010.00
Trailer T-4	\$1,075.00
Trailer T-5	\$1,010.00
Trailer T-6	\$2,010.00
Trailer T-7	\$1,010.00
Trailer T-8	\$2,010.00
Trailer T-9	\$1,010.00
Trailer T-10	\$2,025.00
Trailer T-11	\$2,025.00
Trailer T-12	\$1,010.00
Trailer T-14	\$1,010.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$18,290.00</b>

6. The Board of Education declares items as surplus, as filed with the Business Office and approves the item listed as surplus property to be sold through GovDeals, as per the following Resolution:

**BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Board approves the following resolution **authorizing the sale** of Surplus Property on GovDeals:

The Jackson Township Board of Education IN THE TOWNSHIP OF JACKSON, NJ, COUNTY OF OCEAN  
Authorizing Disposal of Surplus Property

**WHEREAS**, the Jackson Township Board of Education is the owner of certain surplus property which is no longer needed for public use; and

**WHEREAS**, the Jackson Township Board of Education are desirous of selling said surplus property in an “as is” condition without expressed or implied warranties.

**NOW THEREFORE**, be it **RESOLVED** by the Jackson Township Board of Education:

The sale of the surplus property shall be conducted through GovDeals pursuant to State Contract A-83453/T2581 in accordance with the terms and conditions of the State Contract. The terms and conditions of the agreement entered into with GovDeals is available online at govdeals.com and also available from the Jackson Township Board of Education:

1. The sale will be conducted online and the address of the auction site is govdeals.com.
2. The sale is being conducted pursuant to Local Finance Notice 2008-9.
3. The surplus property to be sold:

Switlik Surplus Items	Quantity
Student Desks	107
Student Chairs	180
Teacher Desks	3
Book Shelves - 3 shelves	2
Filling cabinets - 4 drawer	3
Computer Tables	5
High School Desks	39
2 Door Cabinet	4
Book Shelves - 4 shelves	4
Ellison Machine and Dies	1
Tables 6’x3’	1
Kidney Table	2
Book Shelves - 5/6 shelves	3
Tables 4’x3’	5
Rolling 2 Door Cabinet	1
Rolling Computer Desk	1
Wooden Shelving	2

Rosenauer Surplus Items	Quantity
Student Desks	162
Student Chairs	119
Teacher Desks	4
Rectangular Tables	9
File Cabinets	3
Round Tables	4
Kidney Table	1
Computer Table	4
Cafeteria Tables	4
Bookshelves	3
Food Service-JLHS Surplus Items	Quantity
Fryers	3

The surplus property as identified shall be sold in an “as-is” condition without expressed or implied warranties with the successful bidder required to execute a Hold Harmless and Indemnification Agreement concerning use of said surplus property. Jackson Township Board of Education reserves the right to accept or reject any bid submitted. If not sold, item will be disposed of.

7. MOTION AND DOCUMENT E - DELETED ON ADDENDUM

8. The Board of Education approves the following Resolution:

**WHEREAS**, the New Jersey Department of Education (“Department”) has reappointed Carole Morris to serve as State Monitor for the Jackson Board of Education (“Board”) from January 23, 2025 through January 23, 2026, pursuant N.J.S.A. 18A:7A-55; and

**WHEREAS**, the Department and Ms. Morris have entered into a professional services contract for Ms. Morris to serve in this capacity;

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Board, as required by law, shall assume the costs of Ms. Morris’ appointment per the rates set forth in her contract with the Department pursuant N.J.S.A. 18A:7A-55(f).

9. The Board of Education approves the following line item transfers for the 2024-2025 Title II grant funds:

Transfer Amount	From Account #	To Account #
\$15,000.00	20-270-200-102-09	20-270-200-110-09

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

Transfer Amount	From Account #	To Account #
\$1,000.00	20-280-200-320-09	20-280-100-800-09

11. The Board of Education, based on the recommendation of the Board Secretary, approves the below listed additional advertising agreements effective July 1, 2025, as per the Sponsorship Promoter Services RFP awarded to Shore District Advertising:

Shore District Advertising Deals – 2024-2025				
Vendor	Dates	Location	Contract Amount	District Revenue (70%)
Farros Tees	9/1/24-8/30/25	Football field sign at Liberty/Memorial High Schools	\$1,000.00	\$700.00
Teen Suicide Prevention	9/1/24-8/30/25	Football field sign at Liberty/Memorial High Schools	\$1,000.00	\$700.00
Automotive Avenues 1200.00 per year 3 years	9/1/24-6/30/27	Football field sign at Liberty/Memorial High Schools	\$3,650.00	\$2,555.00
Plymouth Rock Assurance	12/1/24-11/30/25	Inventory, Banner in all parking lots, Ad banner on website - Teacher/Staff section	\$12,750.00	\$8,925.00
<b>Additional Advertising Agreement:</b>				
Kean University	7/1/25-12/30/27	Football field sign at Jackson Liberty and Jackson Memorial High Schools Football Stadiums	\$3,780.00	\$2,646.00
Totals:			\$22,180.00	\$15,526.00

12. The Board of Education approves the following resolution:

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF EDUCATION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF JACKSON IN THE COUNTY OF OCEAN, NEW JERSEY ON January 22, 2025 AS FOLLOWS:

The Board of Education approves the closing of the current Payroll Bank Account at Ocean First Bank (517006003447) due to a number of fraudulent/altered checks having been presented, as recommended by the bank.

The Board of Education approves the opening of a new Payroll Bank Account at Ocean First Bank to replace the Payroll Bank Account being closed due to fraudulent/altered checks.

13. The Board of Education accepts the generous donation for the Crawford-Rodriguez Elementary School from Mrs. Bettye Jean Crawford to be used for various facility projects at the school.

14. The Board of Education declares items as surplus, as filed with the Business Office, some items retain value and others have no monetary value as follows:

Location	Item(s)	Make/Model	Serial #	Value
JMHS IMC	400 VHS Tapes	n/a	n/a	\$0

15. The Board of Education appoints and approves a contract with Adam Redlich, MD from A+ Sports Medicine, LLC, as School Physician for the period February 1, 2025 through January 31, 2026, at an annual fee of \$30,000.00, hourly rate of \$350.00 for additional duties and a fee of \$60.00 for walk-in physical examinations.

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

Absent: Mrs. Kas

MOTIONS CARRIED



**FACILITIES**

On a motion by Mrs. Rivera, seconded by Mr. Walsh, 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 F.**

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

Absent: Mrs. Kas

**MOTIONS CARRIED**

**PROGRAMS:**

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

Discussion – Mr. Walsh asked for clarification on the meanings of the values listed in Item #5. Mrs. Pormilli asked Mr. Rotante to responded. Mr. Rotante responded that the DOE puts out a rubric and uses a standard formula in which different values are assigned to growth, scores, absentees and graduation rates. The new equivalency application changes the weighting on some of those to be in our district's favor so we end up with a higher score than on the initial rates. He noted we would pass with either formula. We would just pass with a higher score with the equivalency application. Mr. Walsh asked if we get to choose our score. Mr. Rotante replied we're going to apply to the DOE with the application and then if they approve it then that's how our scores will be weighted on the new application. Mrs. Pormilli commented the reason for the choice this year on which method we want to use is because of feedback the DOE received from school districts about how the calculations were occurring and how they didn't account for certain things. This is in response to those concerns from other schools. They are making this change for next year's QSAC so they're allowing school districts being QSACed this year to have an option to use the new way that will start next school year or to use the existing way. Next year there won't be a choice for cohorts.

- 1. The Board of Education approves the 2025-2026 District Calendar.

**Document G.**

- 2. The Board of Education approves the Title I/Title IV Elementary SEL/Intramural Sports Spring Program, for the 2024-2025 school year, to be paid by Title I Grant funds (20-231-100-110-03 in the amount of \$1,200.00; 20-231-100-110-04 in the amount of \$1,200.00; 20-231-100-110-06 in the amount of \$1,200.00; 20-231-100-110-10 in the amount of \$2,400.00 and Title IV Grant funds (20-280-100-110-09 in the amount of \$1,200.00), not to exceed a combined total of \$7,200.00, at no cost to the Board.
- 3. The Board of Education approves a contract with the American Red Cross Training Services to become an Authorized & Licensed Training Provider for Water Safety Certifications (11-402-100-500-01) for a period of three years, at a cost not to exceed \$200.00 per year.
- 4. The Board of Education approves an indemnity agreement with the Toms River Lions Club, agreement provides the Jackson School District with a device called the SPOT Screener to perform New Jersey’s required eye exams every other year on dates mutually agreed upon for one week at each school, at no cost to the school district.
- 5. The Board of Education approves the submission of a New Jersey Department of Education Equivalency Application pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:5 to utilize the point values contained in New Jersey State Board of Education proposed rulemaking for QSAC I&P indicators 1-7 for 2024-2025 comprehensive reviews.

Indicator	Existing Weights			Proposed Weights		
	K-8	K-12	HS	K-8	K-12	HS
1: ELA Academic Achievement	10	7.5	15	10	7	10
2: Math Academic Achievement	10	7.5	15	10	7	10
3: Science Academic Achievement	10	5	0	5	3.5	5
4: ELA Academic Progress	10	7.5	0	12.5	8.75	0
5: Math Academic Progress	10	7.5	0	12.5	8.75	0
6: State 4–5-year Graduation Rate	0	15	20	0	15	25
7: School Quality (Chronic Absenteeism)	10	10	10	10	10	10
Total	60	60	60	60	60	60
Total Academic Achievement (ELA, Math, Science)	30	20	30	25	17.5	25
Total Academic Progress (ELA, Math)	20	15	0	25	17.5	0
Total Graduation	0	15	20	0	15	25

- 6. The Board of Education approves the following personnel to attend the NJTESOL/NJBE 2025 Spring Conference, to be paid by Title I Grant funds (20-231-200-590-07 in the amount of \$325.00), Title I SIA Grant funds (20-237-200-590-12 in the amount of \$650.00), Title I SIA Grant funds (20-237-200-590-01 in the amount of \$325.00), Title III Grant funds (20-

- 241-200-590-09 in the amount of \$3,575.00), and Title II (20-270-200-590-09 in the amount of \$325.00), not to exceed \$5,200.00 in total:
- a. Title I:
    - 1. Shannon Downey, McAuliffe, 5/22/25
  - b. Title I SIA, Liberty:
    - 1. Carmen Ramos, Liberty, 5/21/25
    - 2. Emily Cascio, Liberty, 5/21/25
  - c. Title I SIA, Memorial:
    - 1. Dawn Coughlan, Memorial, 5/22/25
  - d. Title III:
    - 1. Melissa Kosakowski, Crawford-Rodriguez, 5/20/25
    - 2. Tripti Desai, Crawford-Rodriguez, 5/21/25
    - 3. Ana Ovalles, Elms, 5/22/25
    - 4. Stacy Mitchell, Holman, 5/20/25
    - 5. Irena Checorski, Holman, 5/20/25
    - 6. Diana Panora, Johnson, 5/21/25
    - 7. Jennifer Rebeiro, Switlik, 5/22/25
    - 8. Megan Crawford, Switlik, 5/22/25
    - 9. Christina Barton-Thrift, Goetz, 5/22/25
    - 10. Denise Katsoupous, Goetz, 5/22/25
    - 11. Justina Rose, McAuliffe, 5/22/25
  - e. Title II:
    - 1. Jennifer Torres, Supervisor – 5/20/25
7. The Board of Education approves the following personnel to attend the BER (Bureau of Education & Research) webinar event, “Strengthen Your MATH Instruction for Your English Language Learners, Grades 3-12” on January 28, 2025, to be paid by Title I Grant funds (20-231-200-590-07), in the amount of \$295.00, at no cost to the Board:
- a. Sharon Jaeger/McAuliffe
8. The Board of Education approves the Title I Family Literacy & Math Game Night Program at McAuliffe Middle School for the 2024-2025 school year, to be paid through Title I grant funds (20-231-200-110-07), in the amount of \$1,463.40, not to exceed \$1,463.40, at no cost to the Board.
9. The Board of Education approves the following personnel to attend the TECHSPO 25 Professional Development, “Accessible Technology is Transforming Education—Are You Ready?”, at Harrah’s Atlantic City Waterfront Conference Center, on January 30, 2025, to be paid by Title I Grant Funds (20-231-200-590-07), in the amount of \$730.00, and Title II Grant Funds (20-270-200-590-09), in the amount of \$730.00, totaling \$1,460.00, at no cost to the Board:
- Title I
- 1. Debra Phillips/McAuliffe
  - 2. Marcus Villecco/McAuliffe
- Title II
- 3. Lisa Koch/District Supervisor
  - 4. Lori Henry/District Supervisor
10. The Board of Education approves a consultant from Staff Development Workshops to provide two (2) sessions of staff development training for middle school teachers on January 25, 2025, to be funded by 2024-2025 Title I grant funds (20-237-200-320-07 for \$1,800.00); not to exceed \$1,800.00 in total, at no cost to the Board.
11. The Board of Education approves the Title III Math Tutoring Program for the 2024-2025 school year, to be paid by Title III Grant funds (20-241-100-110-09), not to exceed \$4,800.00 in total, at no cost to the Board.
12. The Board of Education approves the Title IV District Spelling Bee Program for the 2024-2025 school year, to be paid through Title IV grant funds (20-280-200-110-09), in the amount of \$1,000.00, at no cost to the Board.
13. The Board of Education approves the Title IV SEL/Intramural Middle School Sports Program for the 2024-2025 school year, to be paid by Title IV Grant funds (20-280-100-110-09), in the amount of \$5,400.00, at no cost to the Board.
14. The Board of Education approves the following personnel to attend the “School Health & The Law: Empowering School Nurses, School Physicians, and School Administrators to Work Together and Support Students” workshop at NJPSA/FEA (NJ Principals & Supervisors Association, Foundation for Educational Administration) Professional Development, to be paid by Title I SIA Funds (20-237-200-590-12) in the amount of \$125.00, at no cost to the Board:
- a. Elizabeth Smink/JLHS, February 26, 2025
15. The Board of Education approves the application for funds under the Esports Industry Career Exploration-Competitive in the amount of \$50,000.00 for fiscal year 2025, start date May 1, 2025, end date June 30, 2026.
16. 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 H.**

17. The Board of Education approves guest speakers from Telling Tales Publications LLC to present assemblies for Crawford-Rodriguez Elementary School students in grades PreK-5, February 10-12, 2025, to be funded by 2024-25 Title I grant funds (20-231-100-300-10), not to exceed \$4,500.00, at no cost to the Board.



18. 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	Georgian Court University	Madison Faulkner	2/1/25-5/31/25	Kevin Maher	Crawford-Rodriguez

Roll Call Vote: Yes: Dr. Osmond  
Mr. Walsh  
Mr. McCarron  
Mrs. Rivera  
Mrs. Barocas  
Mrs. Gardella Astain 9-2, Yes to all others

Absent: Mrs. Kas

**MOTION CARRIED**

**STUDENTS:**

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

1. 1. The Board of Education approves the following placements for the 2024-2025 school year beginning September 1, 2024 through January 31, 2025 (11-000-100-561-09):

a.	Two (2) Students	Placement:	Long Branch Public Schools Long Branch Board of Education
		Tuition 1	\$9,979.96
		Tuition 2	\$10,017.78
		Effective:	9/1/2024 – 1/31/2024

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

	<u>Volunteer Club</u>	<u>Volunteer Advisor(s)</u>	<u>School</u>
a.	Goetz Wrestling Club	Giancarlo Crivelli	Goetz

3. The Board of Education approves a trip for the Jackson Liberty High School Cheerleaders to attend a cheer competition at the Providence Convention Center, Providence, Rhode Island, after school Friday, February 28, 2025 through Sunday, March 2, 2025 Saturday, March 1, 2025, at no cost to the Board.
4. The Board of Education approves a trip for the Jackson Liberty High School Boys Wrestling team to compete at the NJSIAA State Championships, to be held at Boardwalk Hall, Atlantic City, New Jersey, to be held on Thursday, March 6, 2025, Friday, March 7, 2025 and Saturday, March 8, 2025, cost to the Board being registration fees.
5. The Board of Education approves a trip for the Jackson Memorial High School Girls Wrestling team to compete at the NJSIAA State Championships, to be held at Boardwalk Hall, Atlantic City, New Jersey, to be held on Thursday, March 6, 2025, Friday, March 7, 2025 and Saturday, March 8, 2025, cost to the Board being registration fees.
6. The Board of Education approves a trip for the Jackson Memorial High School Boys Wrestling team to compete at the NJSIAA State Championships, to be held at Boardwalk Hall, Atlantic City, New Jersey, to held on Thursday, March 6, 2025, Friday, March 7, 2025 and Saturday, March 8, 2025, cost to the Board being registration fees.
7. The Board of Education approves participation of Jackson Liberty and Jackson Memorial High Schools FBLA students in the State Leadership Conference at Harrah’s Atlantic City, New Jersey, after school Monday, March 10, 2025 through Wednesday, March 12, 2025, cost to the Board will include student registrations, transportation and the advisors lodging.
8. The Board of Education approves a trip for the Jackson Memorial High School Drama Club to The Bucks County Playhouse Student Theatre Festival in New Hope, Pennsylvania on Monday, March 31, 2025, at no cost to the Board.
9. 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 I**

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

**Document J.**

11. Resolved that the Board affirms the finding of unsubstantiated HIB in case # 271373JLH10242024; and be it further resolved, that the family shall be provided with a written decision along with information on their right of appeal.

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

Absent: Mrs. Kas

**MOTIONS CARRIED**

**PERSONNEL**

On a motion by Mrs. Rivera, seconded by Mr. Walsh, 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 January 23, 2025, unless otherwise noted:
  - a. Luis Zavaleta, Driver, \$28.00 per hour
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.	Masino	Alana					X	X
b.	Nikitin	Guinevere					X	X
c.	Savasta	Nicholas					X	X
d.	Scellato	Ashley			X			
e.	Wyskowski	Emily				X		

3. The Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, accepts with best wishes, the resignation of the following employees, due to retirement:
  - a. Donna Kourris, Food Service Worker/JLHS, effective July 1, 2025.
  - b. Jeffrey Portnoy, Lunchroom Aide/JLHS, effective February 3, 2025.
  - c. Elizabeth Schaffer, Paraprofessional/JMHS, effective July 1, 2025.
  - d. Phyllis Pisciotti, Paraprofessional/Goetz, effective May 1, 2025.
  - e. Sandra Taliaferro, Paraprofessional/Crawford-Rodriguez, effective July 1, 2025.
  - f. Traci Maloney, English Teacher/JLHS, effective July 1, 2025.
  - g. Arlene Angert, Paraprofessional/Goetz, effective March 1, 2025.
4. The Board of Education accepts the resignation of the following employees:
  - a. Heather Azemi, Van Aide-Transportation/District, effective January 3, 2025.
  - b. Kristen Holman, Transportation Driver/District effective January 30, 2025.
  - c. Lisa Noble, Preschool Van Aide/District, effective January 21, 2025.
  - d. Christina Rodriguez, Preschool Van Aide/Transportation, effective January 7, 2025.
  - e. Shaketta Vincent, Preschool Van Aide/District, effective December 12, 2024.
  - f. Luis Zavaleta, Driver-Transportation/District, effective January 9, 2025.
  - g. Erica Sandin, TV Production Teacher/JMHS, effective January 10, 2025.
  - h. Sara Kinneary, Mechanic Helper-Transportation/District, effective January 21, 2025.
5. The Board of Education approves a leave of absence for the following personnel:
  - a. Doreen Giuffrida, Van Aide-Transportation/District, paid Medical Leave of Absence, effective December 9, 2024 through January 3, 2025; unpaid Medical Leave of Absence, effective January 6, 2025 through TBD.
  - b. Laura Kleindienst, Driver-Transportation/District, paid Medical Leave of absence, effective January 9, 2025 through February 11, 2025; unpaid Federal Family Medical Leave of Absence, effective February 12, 2025 through TBD.
  - c. Kristy Moore, Driver-Transportation/District, unpaid Federal Family Medical Leave of Absence, effective February 10, 2025 through March 7, 2025; paid Medical Leave of Absence, effective March 10, 2025 through March 26, 2025; unpaid NJ and Federal Family Medical Leave of Absence, effective March 27, 2025 through September 10, 2025; unpaid Child Care Leave of Absence, effective September 11, 2025 through September 30, 2025, returning October 1, 2025.
  - d. Paul Patnode, Driver-Transportation/District, revised paid Medical Leave of Absence, effective October 7, 2024 through October 31, 2024; unpaid Federal Family Medical Leave of Absence, effective November 1, 2024 through TBD.
  - e. Patricia Caslin, Food Service Worker/Goetz, paid Medical Leave of Absence, effective January 2, 2025 through TBD.
  - f. Susan Goodwin, LDTC/JLHS, paid Medical Leave of Absence, effective January 2, 2025 through TBD.
  - g. Phyllis Pisciotti, Paraprofessional/Goetz, revised paid Medical Leave of Absence, effective November 4, 2024 through February 3, 2025; revised unpaid Federal Family Medical Leave of Absence, effective February 4, 2025 through TBD.
  - h. Jennifer Berrien, Paraprofessional/Elms, revised paid Sick Leave of Absence, effective November 19, 2024 through December 9, 2024; unpaid Leave of Absence, effective December 10, 2024 through January 17, 2025; unpaid Federal and NJ Family Medical Leave of Absence, effective January 21, 2025 through TBD.
  - i. Susan Ferro, Paraprofessional/Elms, paid Medical Leave of Absence, effective November 12, 2024 through TBD.
  - j. Jill Sweet, Paraprofessional/Elms, revised paid Medical Leave of Absence, effective September 11, 2024 through December 2, 2024; revised unpaid Federal and NJ Family Medical Leave of Absence, effective December 3, 2024 through March 11, 2025; revised unpaid Medical Leave of Absence, effective March 12, 2025 through March 31, 2025, retiring April 1, 2025.
  - k. Leslie Seich, Secretary-COSA/JLHS, paid Medical Leave of Absence, effective November 14, 2024 through January 3, 2025, returning January 6, 2025.
  - l. Jennifer Andrews, Special Education Supervisor/District, paid Medical Leave of Absence, effective January 29, 2025 through TBD.
  - m. Nicole Tirpak, Speech Language Therapist/Elms, paid Medical Leave of Absence, effective February 10, 2025 through April 30, 2025; unpaid Federal and NJ Family Medical Leave of Absence, effective May 1, 2025 through

- October 10, 2025; unpaid Child Care Leave of Absence, effective October 13, 2025 through October 24, 2025, returning October 27, 2025.
- n. Jessica Dominguez, Biology Teacher/JLHS, paid Medical Leave of Absence, effective February 21, 2025 through February 28, 2025; unpaid Federal Family Medical Leave of Absence, effective March 3, 2025 through TBD.
  - o. Harry Ferone, TV Production Teacher/JLHS, paid Medical Leave of Absence, effective January 14, 2025 through January 28, 2025, returning January 29, 2025.
  - p. Ashley Forsyth, Art Teacher/JLHS, paid Medical Leave of Absence, effective November 19, 2024 through February 4, 2025; unpaid Federal and NJ Family Medical Leave of Absence, effective February 5, 2025 through May 9, 2025, returning May 12, 2025.
  - q. Traci Maloney, English Teacher/JLHS, paid Medical Leave of Absence, effective February 26, 2025 through TBD.
  - r. Christopher Perry, Math Teacher/JLHS, revised paid Medical Leave of Absence, effective January 2, 2025 through February 19, 2025; revised unpaid Federal Family Medical Leave of Absence, effective February 20, 2025 through TBD.
  - s. Jamie Zenerovitz, Family and Consumer Science Teacher/JLHS, paid Medical Leave of Absence, effective January 7, 2025 through TBD.
  - t. Helena Brady, Special Education Teacher/JMHS, paid Medical Leave of Absence, effective December 17, 2024 through TBD.
  - u. Heather Connell, English Teacher/JMHS, revised paid Medical Leave of Absence, effective November 5, 2024 through December 3, 2024, returning December 4, 2024.
  - v. Rachel Aviles, Math Teacher/Goetz, revised paid Medical Leave of Absence, effective January 2, 2025 through January 31, 2025; revised unpaid Federal and NJ Family Medical Leave of Absence, effective February 3, 2025 through May 7, 2025; revised unpaid Child Care Leave of Absence, effective May 8, 2025 through May 16, 2025, returning May 19, 2025.
  - w. Jenna Trocchio, Special Education Teacher/Goetz, paid Medical Leave of Absence, effective November 11, 2024 through February 7, 2025; unpaid Federal and NJ Family Medical Leave of Absence, effective February 10, 2025 through May 14, 2025; unpaid Child Care Leave of Absence, effective May 15, 2025 through May 30, 2025, returning June 1, 2025.
  - x. Melissa Lambert, Title I Basic Skills/Intervention Teacher/McAuliffe, paid Medical Leave of Absence, effective October 7, 2024 through November 6, 2024; unpaid Federal and NJ Family Medical Leave of Absence, effective November 11, 2024 through January 28, 2025, returning January 29, 2025.
  - y. Patrick Novak, Physical Education Teacher/McAuliffe, paid Medical Leave of Absence, effective January 2, 2025 through TBD.
  - z. Melissa Svoboda, Math Teacher/McAuliffe, paid sick leave of absence, effective January 8, 2025 through TBD.
  - aa. Irina Checorski, Teacher-ESL/Holman, paid Sick Leave of Absence, effective January 23, 2025 through TBD.
  - bb. Amy Cook, Special Education Teacher/Johnson, intermittent unpaid Federal and NJ Family Medical Leave of Absence, effective December 1, 2024 through June 30, 2025.
  - cc. Michele Zanghi, Special Education Teacher/Switlik, paid Medical Leave of Absence, effective May 1, 2024 through June 30, 2024; unpaid Federal and NJ Family Medical Leave of Absence, effective September 1, 2024 through December 3, 2024; revised unpaid Child Care Leave of Absence, effective December 4, 2024 through April 30, 2025, returning May 1, 2025.
  - dd. Barbara Guhne, Secretary-COSA/Administration, paid Medical Leave of Absence, effective January 28, 2025 through February 12, 2025, returning February 13, 2025.
6. The Board of Education approves the following contract adjustments:
- a. Donna Long, Driver-Transportation/District (11-000-270-160-08), increase from 6 hours 30 minutes per day to 7 hours 30 minutes per day, effective January 23, 2025 through June 30, 2025, route adjustment, no change in the hourly rate.
  - b. Viktoria Mondik, Driver-Transportation/District (11-000-270-160-08), increase from 6 hours 30 minutes per day to 7 hours 30 minutes per day, effective January 23, 2025 through June 30, 2025, route adjustment, no change in the hourly rate.
  - c. Deana Scheddin, Driver-Transportation/District (11-000-270-160-08), increase from 7 hours 30 minutes per day to 8 hours per day, effective January 23, 2025 through June 30, 2025, route adjustment, no change in the hourly rate.
  - d. Marla DioVisalvo Lunchroom Aide/JMHS (11-000-262-107-01-250400), 3.5 hours per day, adjust salary from \$9,733.50 to \$9,859.50, to adjust step, effective September 1, 2024 through December 20, 2024; adjust salary from \$9,922.50 to \$10,017.00, to adjust step, effective January 2, 2025 through June 20, 2025, as per Step 3 of the Lunchroom Aide Guide.
  - e. Lisa Barbolini, Paraprofessional/Holman (11-213-100-106-09), adjust salary to remove Transportation stipend, salary from \$48,151.00 to \$41,551.00 (\$39,226.00 plus \$1,000.00 longevity stipend plus \$500.00 educational stipend plus \$825.00 hygiene stipend), effective January 2, 2025 through June 30, 2025.
  - f. Luz Gonzalez, Secretary-JEA/JMHS (11-000-240-105-01), adjust salary to increase Principal Secretary stipend per contract, adjust from \$61,713.00 to \$64,275.00 pro-rated (\$55,583.00 plus \$1,500.00 longevity plus \$7,192.00 Principal's Secretary stipend), effective January 1, 2025 through June 30, 2025, as per Step 19 of the 2024-2025 JEA contract.
7. 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.	Ciner	Jean Marie	Guidance Counselor	JEA	2/1/2025	17 Year Longevity	\$82,873.85	\$1,500.00	\$84,373.85
b.	Goldberg	Ellen	Paraprofessional	JEA	2/1/2025	20 Year Longevity	\$41,801.00	\$250.00	\$42,051.00
c.	Lemke	Joseph	Paraprofessional	JEA	2/1/2025	10 Year Longevity	\$40,051.00	\$1,000.00	\$41,051.00
d.	Marquez	Lance	Paraprofessional - Personal	JEA	2/1/2025	10 Year Longevity	\$40,551.00	\$1,000.00	\$41,551.00
e.	Brodowski	Erik	English Teacher	JEA	2/1/2025	20 Year Longevity	\$95,777.00	\$500.00	\$96,277.00
f.	Jardot	Lizette	Special Education Teacher	JEA	2/1/2025	17 Year Longevity	\$78,702.00	\$1,500.00	\$80,202.00
g.	Polhemus	Megan	Special Education Teacher	JEA	2/1/2025	17 Year Longevity	\$75,502.00	\$1,500.00	\$77,002.00
h.	Tilker	Dina	Social Studies Teacher	JEA	2/1/2025	17 Year Longevity	\$74,052.00	\$1,500.00	\$75,552.00
i.	Tilsner	Jennifer	Special Education Teacher	JEA	2/1/2025	25 Year Longevity	\$93,527.00	\$500.00	\$94,027.00

8. The Board of Education approves the transfer of the following personnel:
- a. Sierra Giliberti, transfer from Paraprofessional-PSD/Crawford-Rodriguez to Paraprofessional-PSD/Johnson (11-216-100-106-09), transfer positions (and PC # 1952), effective January 2, 2025 through June 30, 2025, no change in salary.
  - b. Deena Valentino, transfer from Paraprofessional-Shared/Crawford-Rodriguez to Paraprofessional-Classroom/Elms (11-000-217-106-09-210000), transfer position (and PC #63), effective January 21, 2025 through June 30, 2025, no change in salary.
  - c. Waad Farag, transfer from Paraprofessional/Elms to Paraprofessional-Personal/Elms (11-000-217-106-09-210000), transfer position (and PC #1463), effective January 2, 2025 through June 30, 2025, salary \$38,876.00 (\$37,551.00 plus \$500.00 educational stipend plus \$825.00 hygiene stipend) pro-rated, as per Step 1 of the 2024-2025 JEA contract.
  - d. Jane Goelz, transfer from Paraprofessional-Classroom/Johnson to Paraprofessional-Personal/Johnson (11-000-217-106-09-210000), transfer position (and PC # 1633), effective December 18, 2024 through June 30, 2025, no change in salary.
  - e. Melissa Lambert, transfer from Title I Basic Skills/Intervention Teacher/McAuliffe to Interim Assistant Principal/Switlik (11-000-240-103-06), replacing Michael Saulnier (transfer) (PC #721), effective January 29, 2025 through June 30, 2025, salary \$113,500.00, pro-rated, as per Assistant Principals Step 1 of the 2024-2025 JTAA contract.
9. The Board of Education approves the employment of the following personnel:
- a. Daniel Bates, Van Aide-Transportation/District (11-000-270-107-08-250311), 5 hours and 45 minutes per day, replacing Judy McGuckin (retired) (PC #302), effective January 23, 2025, pending fingerprints through June 30, 2025, \$18.50 per hour, pending negotiations, as per the 2023-2024 Teamsters contract.
  - b. Cyd Calo, Preschool Van Aide-Transportation/District (20-218-200-104-09), 5 hours and 45 minutes per day, replacing Shaketta Vincent (resigned) (PC #1883), effective January 23, 2025, pending fingerprints through June 30, 2025, \$18.50 per hour, pending negotiations, as per the 2023-2024 Teamsters contract.
  - c. Charlene Cox, Preschool Van Aide-Transportation/District (20-218-200-104-09), 5 hours and 45 minutes per day, replacing Christina Rodriguez (resigned) (PC #1880), effective January 23, 2025, pending fingerprints through June 30, 2025, \$18.50 per hour, pending negotiations, as per the 2023-2024 Teamsters contract.
  - d. Jucileia De Oliveira Souza, Van Aide-Transportation/District (11-000-270-107-08-250311), 5 hours and 45 minutes per day, replacing Jacob Figueroa (transfer) (PC #53), effective January 23, 2025, pending fingerprints through June 30, 2025, \$18.50 per hour, pending negotiations, as per the 2023-2024 Teamsters contract.
  - e. Gary Gluck, Preschool Van Aide-Transportation/District (20-218-200-104-09), 5 hours and 45 minutes per day, replacing Maria Santana (terminated) (PC #1879), effective January 23, 2025, pending fingerprints through June 30, 2025, \$18.50 per hour, pending negotiations, as per the 2023-2024 Teamsters contract.
  - f. Susan Michling, Preschool Van Aide-Transportation/District (20-218-200-104-09) 5 hours and 45 minutes per day, replacing Madison Seda (resign) (PC #1850), effective January 23, 2025, pending fingerprints through June 30, 2025, \$18.50 per hour, pending negotiations, as per the 2023-2024 Teamsters contract.
  - g. Elvia Robles, Lunchroom Aide/JMHS (11-000-262-107-01-250400), 3.5 hours per day, replacing Victoria Palmeri (resigned) (PC #1556), effective January 23, 2025 through June 30, 2025, salary \$9,828.00 pro-rated, as per Step 1 of the 2024-2025 Lunchroom Aide guide.
  - h. Linda Arcella, Lunchroom Aide/Holman (11-000-262-107-04-250400), 3 hours per day, replacing Rose Zingaro (resigned) (PC #250), effective January 23, 2025, pending fingerprints through June 30, 2025, salary \$8,424.00 pro-rated, as per Step 1 of the 2024-2025 Lunchroom Aide Guide.
  - i. Candice Wood, Paraprofessional-Classroom/Elms (11-212-100-106-09), replacing Danielle Matteo (transfer) (PC #149), effective January 23, 2025 through June 30, 2025, salary \$38,376.00 (\$37,551.00 plus \$825.00 hygiene stipend) pro-rated, as per Step 1 of the 2024-2025 JEA contract.
  - j. Brittany Curran, Speech Language Therapist/Elms (11-000-216-100-11-210000), replacing Jessica Fioretti (resigned) (PC #424), effective January 23, 2025, pending fingerprints through June 30, 2025, salary \$60,477.00 pro-rated, as per MA Step 1 of the JEA contract.
  - k. Daniel Sanchez, Utility Person/District (11-000-270-160-08-250301), replacing Eric Bergery (retired) (PC #1511), effective January 23, 2025, pending fingerprints through June 30, 2025, salary \$45,780.80 pro-rated, as per Step 3 of the 2024-2025 Teamsters contract.
  - l. Gloria Contrera Garcia, Preschool Van Aide/District (20-218-200-104-09), 5 hours and 45 minutes per day, replacing Heather Azemi (resigned) (PC #329), effective January 23, 2025, pending fingerprints through June 30, 2025, \$18.50 per hour, pending negotiations, as per the 2023-2024 Teamsters contract.
10. The Board of Education approves the following coaches for the 2024-2025 school year:
- a. Resignations:
- 1. Amy Shulte, Assistant Girls Lacrosse Coach/JLHS, effective December 11, 2024
  - 2. Erin Sandor, Assistant Softball Coach/JMHS, effective January 6, 2025.
  - 3. Kaitlyn Sorochnka, Head Softball Coach/Goetz effective January 6, 2025.
  - 4. Dylan Ranieri, Assistant Boys Track/Goetz, effective January 7, 2025.
11. The Board of Education approves the following personnel to be funded partially by Title I-IV ESEA Grant funds for the 2024-2025 school year:

	Staff member		Full district Salary/ FICA/TPAF	% paid by Title	Title Salary	Account Number For Salary Paid by Title
a.	Michelle Glucksnis/ Crawford Rodriguez	Salary	\$95,777.00	.72	\$68,526.17	Title I 20-231-100-101-10
		FICA/TPAF	\$61,297.28	.72	\$46,790.94	Title I 20-231-200-200-10
b.	Shannon McEaney/ Crawford-Rodriguez	Salary	\$76,802.00	.6	\$25,344.55	Title I 20-231-100-101-10
		FICA/TPAF	\$49,153.28	.6	\$16,220.51	Title I 20-231-200-200-10
		Salary	\$76,802.00	.4	\$18,432.40	Title II 20-270-200-102-09
		FICA/TPAF	\$49,153.28	.4	\$11,796.74	Title II 20-270-200-200-09

12. The Board of Education approves the following personnel for the Title I/Title IV Elementary SEL/Intramural Sports Spring Program for the 2024-2025 school year, to be paid by Title I and Title IV Grant funds, at a total cost of \$7,200.00, at no cost to the Board:
- a. Crawford-Rodriguez, ten (10) sessions, two (2) days per week, stipend \$600.00 (20-231-100-110-10 in the amount of \$2,400.00):
    - 1. Catherine Carley
    - 2. Gina Karatzia
    - 3. Nicole Koopman
    - 4. Brielle Leone
  - b. Elms, ten (10) sessions, two (2) days per week, stipend \$600.00 (20-280-100-110-09 in the amount of \$1,200.00):
    - 1. Melissa Haley
    - 2. Nicholas Paradise
  - c. Holman, ten (10) sessions, two (2) days per week, stipend \$600.00 (20-231-100-110-04 in the amount of \$1,200.00):
    - 1. Jason McEwan
    - 2. Alan Winters
  - d. Johnson, ten (10) sessions, two (2) days per week, stipend \$600.00 (20-231-100-110-03 in the amount of \$1,200.00):
    - 1. Brittany Angiolini
    - 2. Kaitlynn Cipully
  - e. Switlik, ten (10) sessions, two (2) days per week, stipend \$600.00 (20-231-100-110-06 in the amount of \$1,200.00):
    - 1. Rob Autenrieth
    - 2. Joe Barrett
13. The Board of Education approves the following personnel for the Title IV District Spelling Bee for the 2024-2025 school year, to be paid through Title IV grant funds (20-280-200-110-09), in the amount of \$1,000.00, at no cost to the Board:
- a. Lauren Scrofini, stipend \$1,000.00
14. The Board of Education approves the personnel for the Title I Family Literacy & Math Game Night at McAuliffe Middle School for the 2024-2025 school year, to be paid through Title I grant funds (20-231-200-110-07), in the amount of \$1,463.40, not to exceed \$1,463.40, at no cost to the Board:
- a. Teachers: stipend \$150.00 each:
    - 1. Jennifer Connor
    - 2. Kelly DeLucia
    - 3. Shannon Downey
    - 4. Karen Figueroa
    - 5. Robert Clarke
    - 6. Stacey-Ann Louis
    - 7. Jerriann Parlow
    - 8. Justina Rose
    - 9. Danielle Sampson
  - b. Paraprofessionals: stipend \$56.70 each
    - 1. Deborah Giordano-Abalos
    - 2. Lisa Menafra
    - 3. Heather Grosshandler, Substitute, as needed
15. The Board of Education approves the following personnel for the Title III Math Tutoring Program for the 2024-2025 school year, to be paid by Title III Grant funds (20- 241-100-110-09), stipend \$1,200.00 each, not to exceed \$4,800.00 in total, at no cost to the Board:
- a. Denise Katsoupas/Goetz
  - b. Stacey Terranova/Goetz
  - c. Jennifer Connor/McAuliffe
  - d. Karen Figueroa/McAuliffe
16. The Board of Education approves the following personnel for Title IV SEL/Intramural Middle School Sports Program for the 2024-2025 school year, to be paid by Title IV Grant funds (20-280-100-110-09), stipend \$900.00 each, in the amount of \$5,400.00, at no cost to the Board:
- a. McAuliffe, two (2) days per week, total ten (10) sessions:
    - 1. Odette Farrell
    - 2. Samantha Hanson
    - 3. Stacey- Ann Louis
  - b. Goetz, two (2) days per week, total ten (10) sessions:
    - 1. Christopher Douglas
    - 2. Sheri Ellenport
    - 3. Dominick Salerno
17. The Board of Education approves the following staff and salaries for the Jackson Child Care Academy 2024-2025 school year (62-990-320-100-09):

	First Name	Last Name	District Lead Teacher \$35.00/hour	Teacher/ Substitute Teacher \$32.50/hour	Paraprofessional/ Substitute Paraprofessional \$20.00/hour	Receptionist/ Substitute Receptionist \$15.49/hour	Child Care Assistant \$30.00 Flat Rate
a.	Jessica	Fitzpatrick		X	X	X	
b.	Lisa	Monday			X	X	

18. The Board of Education approves the following personnel to be funded by the School Based Mental Health Grant - Round 2 (20-456-200-101-09-570-000) for training and supervision of mental health practicum students and interns, twenty 20 hours per semester each (unless otherwise noted), \$50.00 per hour, not to exceed \$1,000.00 each:

**Spring, 2024**

- a. Samantha Coon/JLHS
- b. Catherine Ferrara/JLHS
- c. Kelly Hobbs/JLHS
- d. Cynthia Maher/JLHS, 10 hours, not to exceed \$500.00
- e. Greg Patterson/JLHS
- f. Lance Halpern/JMHS, 10 hours, not to exceed \$500.00
- g. Stacey Kajewski/Goetz
- h. Rebecca Mitchell/Goetz
- i. Jay Kipp/McAuliffe
- j. Maryann Garbooshian/Holman
- k. Alyson Defort/Johnson
- l. Patricia DeBenedetto/Switlik
- m. Donna Louk/Switlik

**Fall, 2024**

- a. Samantha Coon/JLHS
- b. Cynthia Maher/JLHS
- c. Signe Myres/JLHS
- d. Rebecca Mitchell/Goetz
- e. Kerry Competello/McAuliffe
- f. Jay Kipp/McAuliffe
- g. Dara Feibelman/ Elms
- h. Alyson Defort/Johnson
- i. Donna Louk/Switlik

19. The Board of Education approves the following Job Description for the 2024-2025 school year:
- a. Audio/Visual Technology - District Events

**Document K,**

20. The Board of Education approves the following personnel for SAT Prep:

- a. Teacher, thirty (30) hours (twenty (20) hours instructional & ten (10) hours prep), unless otherwise noted, \$50.00 per hour:
  1. Jill Stolzenberger, ELA/JMHS

21. The Board of Education approves the following personnel for the 2024-2025 school year for *Audio Visual Technicians* (11-401-100-100-09) for district programs, formerly Lighting and Sound, \$50.00 per two (2) hour block, effective October 17, 2024:

- a. Harry Ferone
- b. Joseph Ferone
- c. Keith Flores
- d. Dylan Garagiola
- e. Matthew Garr
- f. Patricia Gwozdz
- g. Kylah Hernandez
- h. Jacob Hickey
- i. Edward Hussy
- j. Steve Ifantis
- k. Cori Larsen
- l. Kylie Malarich
- m. Brian Morgan
- n. Avey Noble
- o. Ethan Noble
- p. Susan O'Connor
- q. Alexander Pejoski
- r. Victoria Quinn
- s. Taylor Rachunok
- t. Olivia Skvarenina
- u. Brian Morgan
- v. Avey Noble
- w. Coleen Walter

22. The Board of Education approves the following personnel for the 2024-2025 school year for *Audio Visual Technicians-Outside Events* (11-401-100-100-09-300001) \$25.00 per hour:

- a. Harry Ferone
- b. Joseph Ferone
- c. Keith Flores
- d. Dylan Garagiola
- e. Patricia Gwozdz
- f. Steve Ifantis
- g. Cori Larsen
- h. Kylie Malarich
- i. Brian Morgan

- j. Ethan Noble
- k. Alexander Pejoski
- l. Victoria Quinn
- m. Taylor Rachunok
- n. Olivia Skvarenina
- o. Brian Morgan

23. The Board of Education approves the suspension without pay of one (1) employee (I.D. #2425-15/109534), three (3) days, for violation of district policy, name on file with the Superintendent.
24. Resolved upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, Employee ID # 114611 is hereby removed from the District’s substitute list for the 2024-25 school year.


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

Absent: Mrs. Kas

Mrs. Gardella turned the meeting over to Mrs. Pormilli for her superintendent report on the Strategic redistricting and restructuring update and recommendations.

Mrs. Pormilli stated administration will share an update on the progress and the recommendations for the district's redistricting and restructuring strategic planning (SRRP) work that started the beginning of the school year. Mr. Baginski, business administrator, Mr. Rotante, assistant superintendent of the elementary level and Dr. Godlesky, assistant superintendent of the secondary level will assist with the presentation tonight. Mrs. Pormilli prefaced the presentation by commenting this is not something that any superintendent, Board of Education or Administration wants to do. It is a lot of work, emotion and change. She hopes tonight provides a better understand why we're moving in this direction. She respects the fact that these decisions impact our students, staff and community. The process the committee took considered many factors. They tried to consider every possible area so they could provide a recommendation that benefits all of our students in the district and provides a direction forward for the future sustainability of an excellent School District.

Mrs. Pormilli presented the following slides



Welcome to the  
Jackson Board of  
Education Meeting

Would You Like to Be Heard During the Public Forum?

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

Community Update on  
Jackson School District  
Strategic, Redistricting, &  
Restructuring Planning (SRRP)  
Committee Progress

Presented January 22, 2025

WHY  
IS THIS WORK NECESSARY?

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.

WHY MUST WE CHANGE?

ENROLLMENT DECREASES

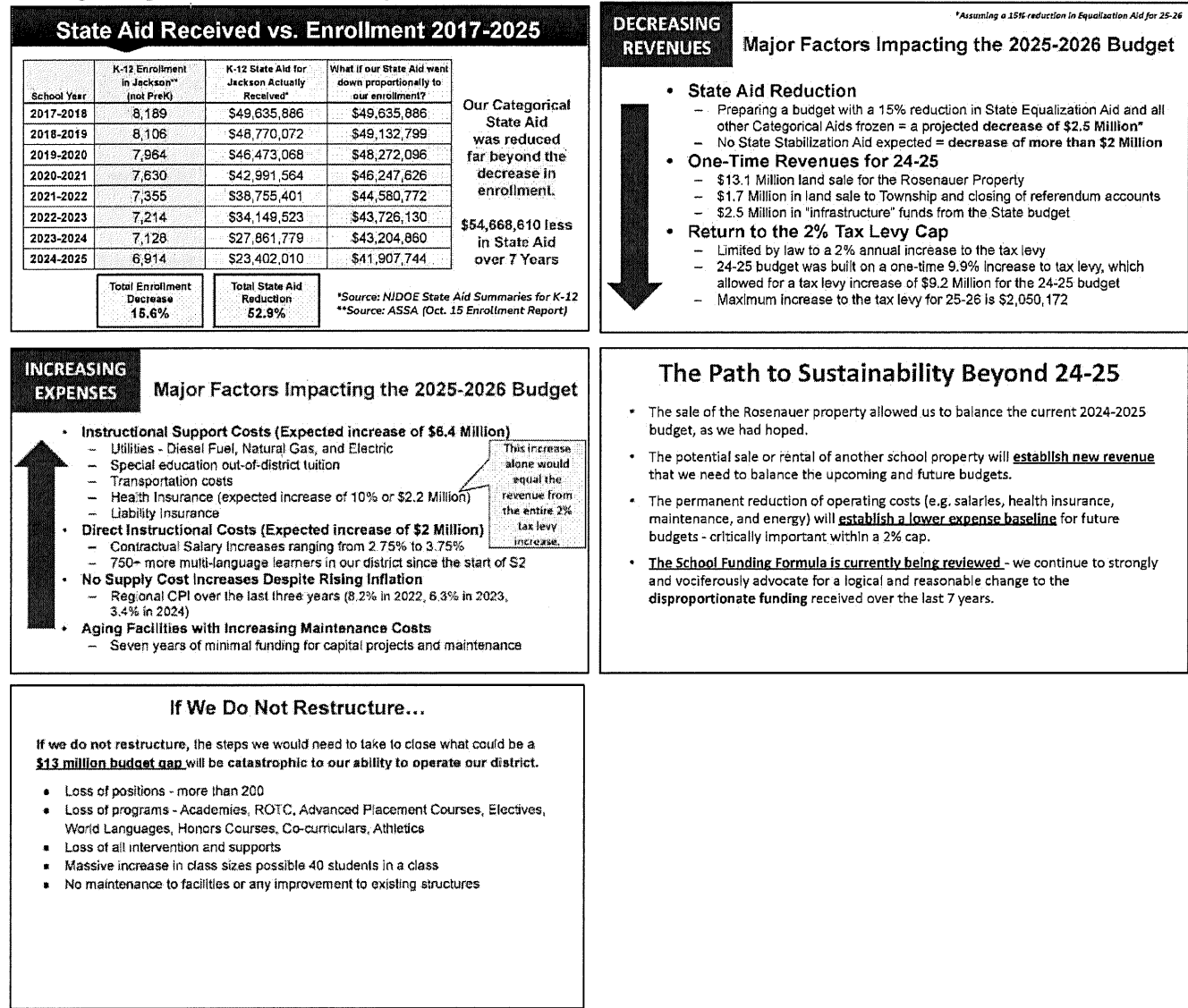
BUDGET DEFICIT CONTINUES

- Enrollments have decreased, providing an opportunity to be more efficient and save operating costs.
- As cohorts progress through grades, the number of younger students is less than the graduating classes.
- For example, difference between K and Grade 12 enrollments (Dec.).
  - For example, in 2024: ~ 346

- We are grateful for legislators' advocacy on our behalf - but so far we do not expect impactful changes to the state aid formula that would provide meaningful relief for the JSD.
- We will not have state aid figures until late February
- We are possibly facing a \$13 million deficit for the 2025-2026 school year.



Mr. Baginski presented the following slide:



Mrs. Pormilli presented the following slides:

Looking to the Future

- This plan is FLEXIBLE to enrollment shifts
- Even with flat kindergarten enrollment, as the cohorts move through grades we will experience enrollment decline
- However, we are also aware of developments that are underway, pending or possible that could impact our enrollment (e.g. Perrineville Road, Grawtown Road, West Veterans & Cassville, Adventure Crossing) and of the changing affordable housing obligations that must be satisfied in the township
- The needs of our K-12 students are the priority - we retain the the ability to move preschool classes (including in space available in Preschool Annex at Memorial if needed to ensure equitable enrollments, programs and opportunities

Facility Recommendation to the Board of Education

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.

Recommendation for Building Usage

Middle School and High School Location:

- All schools have room for students instructionally.
- Decision to utilize McAuliffe as Upper Elementary (and to close Goetz) is based on the ages of our middle schools and the architects' analysis.
- Liberty was designed and built as a state-of-the-art high school, meeting all of the needs for space inside and outside.
  - For example: parking for students, staff, and visitors, large hallways for transition time between classes.
- Memorial can better function as a middle school (Clayton wing was a middle school when it was built)

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

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.
Will there be Moving Up Ceremonies for the 4th grade this year?	Yes, this will be planned by the school administrators.
What about the opportunity for 5th grade safeties?	Yes, there will be a time this spring that the new safeties can participate. There may also be some type of student safety role developed at the 5/6 school for 2025- 2026
Have we considered converting one or two of our elementary schools into PreK schools as other school districts have?	Yes, this was discussed by the SRRP committee. This model was not selected as it requires the redrawing of the sending areas for all elementary schools. Therefore, separating current cohorts of elementary students.

Restructuring Concerns and Responses will be published on our website tomorrow.

Recognizing Concerns

Concern / Idea	Response
Impact to GPA	The way this is calculated will not change. The work done by students will reflect in their GPAs as it always did. Related, when colleges review transcripts & GPA, they also focus on the rigor of the course work and the size of the school.
Impact to Class Rank	Any time a larger cohort is used, it could impact where students are in comparison to their peers.
Impact to NJSTARS	Any time a larger cohort is used, it could impact who is selected, but the # of students who would enjoy NJSTARS status would not change (it is still 15% of the total number of our students).
Traffic congestion is a concern on the Liberty side of town; has it been considered by the committee?	Traffic has been considered. Having the high school on Transportation Tier 1 addresses some of the concern as it less congested at times our students are arriving and dismissing. There is also a traffic flow plan in place for students, parents and buses as they enter/exit the campus allowing no entrance or exit to be overly congested.

Restructuring Concerns and Responses will be published on our website tomorrow

Jun 22, 2025

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

Wednesday, Feb. 5, 2026

- Second Public Forum and Possible BOE Vote
- Sole Focus is Recommendations, Questions, Input
- 6 p.m. in Fine Arts Center, JMHS

This presentation will be posted on our website tomorrow. It will also include a link to a list of **Restructuring Concerns and Responses**

Following BOE vote, there will be much COLLABORATIVE work to be done

- Creating schedules for the 5-6 building and maintaining the goals of an Upper Elementary School
  - Team Teaching
  - Recess Time
- Creating a new middle school schedule for Grades 7-8
  - Providing more robust electives - made possible by having all 7th and 8th graders in one building

- Determining staff needs and wants
  - Surveying staff about requests for their placement to see if they can be accommodated
  - Determining coaching and co-curricular needs
  - Sharing with staff a timeline for selecting coaches, co-curriculars building and teaching assignments for the 25-26 school year.
  - Determining technology and curricular needs
  - Creating a timeline for movement and transition

Following BOE vote, there will be much COLLABORATIVE work to be done

- CULTURE AND CLIMATE
  - Creating Culture and Climate Committees in newly structured levels that include STUDENTS to plan activities, events and opportunities for students to join together to assist with unifying and transitions
  - Creating a committee to work with stakeholders (including students) to ensure we honor and represent a collaboration of the traditions at each individual middle school of Goetz and McAuliffe and high schools of Liberty and Memorial through rebranding and unifying as One Jackson
    - For example, discussions about name, mascot, etc.
    - Exciting opportunity to unite our students, staff and community.

Dr. Godlesky presented the following slides:

Committee Consensus Over the Course of Our Work  
During November Meeting #4

- Consensus was reached to narrow 8 options to those 4 options that allowed us to achieve goal of consolidating schools to lower operating costs. This means recommending closing one middle school and reconfiguring grades.

During December Meeting #5

- 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.

During January Meetings #6 & #7

- Consensus was reached on one model
- Completed High School tours, continued discussion of benefits/challenges of each
- Reviewed and made suggestions on Mission Statement and Core Beliefs

WHERE WE STARTED in October

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

Committee Discussions Introduced Three New Options

Current	#2	#3	#4B	#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 (1 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	Keeps all schools	Closes 1 Middle School	Closes 1 Middle School	Closes 1 Middle School	Closes 1 Middle School

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

Narrowed Options at Meeting #5  
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

Committee Consensus Meeting #6 and #7:  
SUGGESTED MODEL

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

ENROLLMENT AS COHORTS MOVE THROUGH GRADES

	Current Students	Next Year	3 Years	5 Years	5-Year Difference
C-R (PreK-4)	619	604 *	562	543	- 76
Elms (PreK-4)	604	587 *	535	508	- 96
Holman (PreK-4)	450	452 *	449	437	- 13
Johnson (PreK-4)	353	361 *	356	351	- 2
Switlik (PreK-4)	625	592	539	525	- 100
Preschool Annex	124	125 **	125	125	
Grades 5-6	1,024	1,011	923	804	- 220
Grades 7-8	1,121	1,044	1,014	931	- 190
Grades 9-12	2,488	2,341	2,186	2,050	- 438
5-YEAR DECREASE IN ENROLLMENT Even assuming flat enrollment, as cohorts age through our grades				1,135	

We have been enrolling significantly fewer kindergarten students than we are graduating seniors.  
For example:  
2024:- 345  
2023:- 255  
2022:- 288  
2021:- 336  
2020:- 307

\* Adds 1 PS class in 25-26 and 1 in 26-27  
\*\* No additional PS classes, provides flexibility to move other PS to this location if needed

Committee Consensus: Suggested Model

- This model was introduced during the process by committee members themselves
- Preserves sending boundaries for elementary schools (respecting community feedback)
- Keeps cohorts of students together at the middle and high school levels (respecting community feedback)
- Is mindful of developmental needs of students' ages
- Works with transportation tiers and respects concerns about time spent on buses
- Lowers operational cost by an estimated \$8 million, plus it creates the potential revenue of selling or renting a school building
- Allows for EQUITY of programs, instruction and co-curricular for all students
- UNIFIES the district = We are ONE Jackson

Mr. Rotante presented the following slides:

Benefits for Elementary & Upper Elementary Schools

- Moving 5th grade = **more room** and space in elementaries to **allow unified arts designated spaces** in all schools (equity) and room for small group instruction
- No changes in sending zones for all elementary schools
- Creates 5-6 "Upper Elementary" tier that allows 5th graders to retain elementary approach - Slower transition to middle school
  - Allows us to introduce additional opportunities for student engagement (clubs, intramural sports)
  - Provides opportunity for **instrumental music instruction to 5th grade** and allows for the **creation of a 5th and 6th grade bands and chorus** with the goal of building a stronger program for upper grades.
  - Restoring a robust Gifted and Talented program
  - Unifies all 5th and 6th graders together

Benefits for Middle School

- Provides more opportunities for **equitable courses and clubs**
- Allows a **developmentally similar age group** to grow together and prepare for high school
- Provides larger facilities for athletics (gyms, fields, etc.), extracurricular activities, and electives
- Additional elective opportunities** including world languages.
- Unifies all students together as they prepare for High School

Benefits for the High School

- Keeps robust high school Academies
- Provides equitable access to ROTC without having to travel to an alternate location
- Running additional sections of each class provides **more opportunities for students to create schedules without conflicts**
- Keeps and expands opportunities for AP and Honors Courses
- Expands opportunities** in many areas, including electives
- Continued athletic opportunities, with the expansion of JV and freshman teams
- Combining high schools **unifies this community** - allows ALL students the same access to programs/opportunities

Mrs. Pormilli presented the following slide:

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!**

Mrs. Pormilli concluded the presentation and opened the floor to the Board for questions.

Mrs. Gardella asked how many students at Switlik, Elms and Johnson will be in the 5-6<sup>th</sup> grade next year compared to Johnson, Crawford and Holman. Mrs. Pormilli will answer that publicly when she has the numbers in front of her.

Mrs. Gardella asked about the number of fields at the middle schools for recess. Mrs. Pormilli answered that Goetz has more fields and McAuliffe has a Project Fit obstacle course area in front and some areas in the back of the building.

Mrs. Gardella asked about the full tear down of Goetz to be updated to standards for a middle school and if that same recommendation applies for an upper elementary school hosting grades 5-6. Mrs. Pormilli said yes because Goetz wasn't built with single classrooms and over the years walls were put up but you can hear through them so McAuliffe has a better set up.

Mrs. Gardella asked about what flat enrollment numbers would look like at the 5 year mark. Mrs. Pormilli answered she can't predict future enrollment but if enrollment continues to drop she noted opportunity to move 5<sup>th</sup> grade back to elementary and 6<sup>th</sup> back to middle school.

Dr. Osmond asked if the state can require us to sell by overriding our vote or is it our choice to sell vs rent. Mrs. Pormilli answered it would depend on our budget situation which is better to sell or rent. She asked Mrs. Morris to comment. Ms. Morris commented we would have to have a balanced budget presented to the state in order to have it approved.

Dr. Osmond asked Ms. Morris if she will advocate for us because selling is short term revenue while renting is continued revenue. She also noted the proposal tonight is only a recommendation – the BOE members ultimately vote. She thinks we should rent not sell. She questioned which would be better to rent - McAuliffe or Goetz. Mrs. Morris said you can ask a realtor to advise on that. Dr. Osmond ask if the state would support renting or ultimately override our vote.

Mrs. Morris said she'd have to look at the entire proposal – revenue that can sustain programs presented. You cannot propose a budget that spends more than revenue coming in. She is not sure if a realtor can even provide that. She thinks the committee looked at every possible option but it is the Board's decision to support the superintendent and committee's recommendation or not. The State's interest is seeing that you have taken the necessary steps to generate revenue for your District that can sustain the programs and recommendations made tonight. It is an emotional question but you cannot spend and propose a budget for the district that spends more than you have the revenue to support it. Ms. Morris doesn't know if the committee got a rental estimate or if that is available.

Mrs. Pormilli commented it will be explored and it is something the administrative team talked about once we were closer to a recommendation.

Dr. Osmond addressed those planning to speak tonight at public forum. She reminded them the BOE doesn't vote until February. She noted we are not debating quality of schools or teachers. She asked the audience to point out things the committee may be missing in the thought process and not just emotional items.

Mrs. Barocas asked if there is concern about transporting 600 kids across town to a middle school with only 1 entrance in and out. Mrs. Pormilli noted we currently use that school and it has busses in and out. She hopes parents will put their kids on the bus and alleviate some parent drop offs and pickups. The district strives to create the smoothest transportation plan possible but we can't control increases in traffic. A lot of factors were considered and different weights provided for different reasons in hopes we can create the best plan.

Mr. McCarron is concerned moving new student drivers to Hope Chapel Road where it is riddled with traffic and accidents.

Mr. Walsh asked what the staff cuts will be. Mrs. Pormilli stated we are not ready to make that announcement until the recommendation is approved. She believes this model will save about \$8 million in operational costs.

Mr. Walsh asked how cuts would be decided. Mrs. Pormilli stated it is too early to make that decision but the process in the past is by looking at certifications and tenure.

Mrs. Gardella stated staff reductions were shocking. She asked if we will we be able to do the great things even with the reductions. Mrs. Pormilli stated once there is a vote from the Board and state aid numbers are available they will know better. She noted by consolidating, we will have more students available in once place to run more electives and classes.

Mrs. Gardella asked for an example of a robust elective that can be offered in 2025-26. Mr. Rotante noted AP classes or Honors classes sometimes don't get enough students in one or both high schools so they can't run. Combining schools will bring a larger group of students for a class. Mrs. Gardella asked if robust means a full class has better discussions. Mr. Rotante stated there is a cost savings when running a class with a larger number of kids and sometimes if there isn't enough the class is not able to run.

Mrs. Gardella asked what the issues are with receiving a one-time revenue. Mr. Baginski noted that money from selling a building only gives you revenue for that year. When rolling into next year, expenses matched the revenue with one-time revenue so then you need to find revenue to make up for that one-time revenue.

Mrs. Gardella asked what can be done with one-time revenue. Mr. Baginski responded that you'd want to roll it into next year's budget on a limited basis. You could also put it into capital reserve to pay for construction projects or put it in a maintenance reserve for required maintenance to make a sustainable source of funding for those necessary expenses.

Mrs. Gardella said the maintenance fund has been defunded. Mr. Baginski said this district hasn't made any recent contributions to the maintenance reserve fund. In a district this large, we should have a much larger reserve in case a major repair arises.

Mrs. Rivera asked what has been looked at specifically in Tier 3 to address traffic safety concerns near McAuliffe. Mrs. Pormilli asked police to look at traffic patterns, look at on property traffic patterns, limit times of parent pick up. She will attend a county road meeting tomorrow to express concerns and request help. She will keep the Board and community posted on the outcome.

Mr. Walsh asked how the district will keep up with transportation maintenance with extra mileage and older fleet. Mr. Baginski responded that the district keeps up on the bus lease rotation and we are able to purchase 9 new busses each year. The committee ran route mileage numbers and, in some cases, mileage was lower. Our garage mechanics do a great job doing preventative maintenance ensuring our fleet lasts as long as possible. We generally use our busses for 20 years so we are spending less than districts that use them for 14 years. Mr. Walsh asked what the state maximum is. Mr. Baginski replied busses need to be retired at 20 years.

Dr. Osmond asked if police don't have resources to monitor bus times, did we look to see if county will help with traffic light timing, etc. Mrs. Pormilli stated she will ask those questions tomorrow at the county roads meeting.

**PUBLIC FORUM**

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

Mrs. Gardella 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."

Jeff Henba – Resident and Jackson police officer in traffic safety unit – He does not agree with the 3 minute time limit. He stated none of these problems happened until the state monitor got here and the Murphy regime took over the state. He asked why are we running millions of dollars in the negative when multiple positions and programs have been cut the last 7 years. He asked why haven't we figured out how to operate a sustainable budget these last 7 years with the decrease in students. He asked how the committee was formed. The committee and Board met with the public safety director and traffic safety officers on January 8th to discuss the traffic by both schools. Liberty data was completed today and Memorial hasn't been started yet. He asked why a decision was made without this data. He does not agree with putting a 5th and 6th graders in a middle school. He thinks the decision was rushed with not enough research. He thinks senior parking can be a lottery which would decrease the number of vehicles driven to the high school. He is concerned about athletics. Mr. Zitomer reminded Mr. Henba he needs to adhere to the 3-minute rule. Traffic Safety ran preliminary inquiries through the NJ Division of highway traffic safeties to obtain comparison data for crashes around Memorial and Liberty High School occurring in 2021-23. Officer Henba was informed his three minutes is up and was invited to speak again after all others have been heard.

Andrea Frangella – Parent – She asked how 6<sup>th</sup> grade sports will be handled if they are upper elementary. She has no problem with morning traffic on Hope Chapel Road. She hopes the Board votes objectively on what the committee recommends.

Mrs. Gardella announced that the Board will respond to questions at the end.

Jennifer Kuhn – Resident and Town Council President - She stated she met with the Board and talked about traffic safety and the township bought property from the district and there's still no money. She noted selling is not working so she thinks the Board should rent Goetz and keep real estate and look at redistricting when in the 5-year plan. She noted town council is a separate entity from the BOE. Throughout this process, she said she tried to reach out to the BOE and the BOE didn't reach out the town. But, when the BOE wanted to sell property, the BOE and town council sat down to go over traffic and busing. She noted she reached out with traffic safety to set up tomorrow's county meeting administration is attending. She thinks it is important Officer Henba reads the traffic accident reports. She doesn't want to get into the decision of school selection but she wants the Board to reach out and work with the township and council. The redistricting changes are a lot for these kids. On behalf of administration, counsel and legislation, she noted they would like to work together and be involved in district decisions.

Christopher Velotti – resident and parent – He hopes we all come to together as one regardless of the school chosen.

Ashlyn Klinsky – Memorial Junior – She wants to graduate from Memorial like her older brother. Being part of drama club means a lot to her. The teachers and guidance staff at Memorial have been her guiding light because they are some of the best teachers and staff in NJ. She thinks Memorial should be chosen not Liberty because it is newer. She noted Memorial hosts Board meetings, classrooms are larger and the student drivers are safer.

Dave Mazeika – resident and parent - He questioned if the \$8 million operating savings cited is per year and where that savings comes from. He said it sounds like faculty and staff will be cut if we do nothing and with the new model. He said Mrs. Pormilli indicated cut numbers are unknown until a decision is made but he thinks those numbers are needed for a clear comparison of the cuts doing nothing versus the change. He is concerned about the deficit in 2025-26 stating selling or renting Goetz buys a year or two but we only have so many schools to sell. He also would like a comparative value of Goetz versus McAuliffe as he thinks McAuliffe might be more desirable and that money could be used to refurbish Goetz.

Nicole Raslin – Memorial junior – She has grown academically at Memorial and started a new club. She proposed a shift schedule solution that would divide students into different shifts and minimize crowding in Memorial's hallways and manages

Public  
Forum



class sizes and resources more efficiently without sacrificing what makes a school special. She thinks Memorial's location is convenient, bigger with more opportunities, has less traffic and student parking. It is more than a building it's a community.

Sophia Panabianco – Memorial sophomore – She has had many opportunities at Memorial including the Drama Club. She is happy the drama clubs are combining next year because it means a bigger cast and more friends. She thinks Memorial is the only option because it's stage and auditorium can accommodate a bigger audience and cast. She asked if Liberty is the high school, does that mean cuts for the club because using the Memorial stage is not an option as kids would have to be bussed to rehearsal. She would like to keeping both advisers to help with the merge. She wants what's best for both theater communities.

Deb Jones – resident and teacher –She thanked the committee for their time to do what's best for our school district. She noted this school board is not facing this situation because of anything they did. She wished people would also attend council meetings and zoning board meetings because changes in town are what's causing our school districts changes so the community needs to start showing up.

Gregory Sinkleris – Memorial junior – He commented that combining the drama clubs will mean double the sets and stage crew and Liberty can't accommodate that. If Liberty is chosen, he noted too many resources would be needed to rehearse at Memorial.

Marion - resident – did not sign in or state full name – She is concerned for student safety when traveling and questioned if they will add more street lights, traffic lights or police directing traffic to make it safer. She notes studies show later high school start times help students academically and now our kids are traveling further. She noted big class sizes affects our children academically. High school performance affects college acceptances. She wants them safe and have a good education.

Nicole Duarte - resident and parent – She asked how many on the Board are Memorial vs Liberty parents because she thinks the decision may be biased. She would like to know who conducted the traffic report that will be shared later. She thinks the traffic by McAuliffe is normal every day traffic. She noted carpooling is not an option for high schoolers because of driving restrictions.

Derek Layton – Liberty junior – He noted structural defects he heard about at Memorial and does not want to go Memorial. He knows many are concerned with the safety of the students. He noted Liberty has more parking entrances. As a member of Liberty stage crew, he doesn't think the smaller stage at Liberty will be an issue for especially with the decreased enrollment.

Jerriann Parlow - longest tenured teacher in Jackson / McAuliffe - She noted that there's traffic but she is always able to get in and out of the school parking lot. She noted how hard this committee worked and how tough this decision was and she wanted them to know there are people support and thank them.

Veronica Burnett – resident and teacher – She appreciates the restructuring decisions are being made based on the facts and not emotions. She noted the teachers are committed to making the merge easier for the kids. The kids are still going to be involved in programs and sports. She noted children are listening and seeing how parents react so parents and teachers have to set the precedent for how we're going to handle this so the kids can succeed. The change is going to happen but children still need to be successful, find their place, be accepted and need to enjoy high school. She implores parents to trust the teachers will do everything they can to give kids the best experiences, treat them with tenderness and generosity. She knows next year is going to be difficult for them and wants to be part of the solution. She noted kids might not end up at the school you want but they're going to have the same opportunities.

Bonnie Holton - resident – She noted traffic is an atrocity in this town and it needs to be fixed across the town because there are a lot of accidents and drivers disregard busses. Kids drive all over and through town for things besides school so traffic studies need to be done and addressed but it should not be involved in a BOE's decision. This is about funding, saving the town, saving our schools and doing what's best for the kids. She appreciates the committee and all the methodical steps taken. She wants the committee to use data not biases, history or emotion. She noted we need to come together for the students and involve them in the journey because that's the only way to make it equal because there is a divide that our children feel.

Karla Cardace -resident -She is impressed with the kids who spoke tonight. She knows the traffic throughout the town is out of the BOE's control however she thinks it is dangerous so she requests the BOE comes up with options to monitor it. She loves the new programs offered but requests a plan to bring funding back to gymnastics who has been self-funded the past few years.

Dyanne Lepold - teacher – She thinks we need to focus on rebranding now. We need a committee that includes students who are currently here. The kids have to have a voice - it cannot just be adults making decisions on what's happening to them.

Ramualdo Fiorili - Memorial student – He attended a Military Academy but is now at Memorial doing ROTC and it has been the best year of his public high school career. Memorial offers so many programs changing from 2 schools to 1 can't be done overnight. He thinks Memorial is a more centrally located and asked if the Board considered that the long bus rides for student on the far west side of Jackson. He recommended parking passes for seniors be given out on merit, academics or involvement.

Michael Smith – resident, teacher, coach - He is not going to tell you one school is better than the other but he noted the east side of town is growing and both schools have history and traditions. In 2006 we had 3,000 kids successfully in Memorial so it can work. If you choose Liberty and the east side grows too big you won't be able to go back and change it again.

Jackie Mlodgenski – Liberty parent – She noted the traffic is equally bad on both sides of town. She would like to make sure all schools are capable of addressing issues for kids with disabilities. She noted the tiers for transportation is going to be an issue for some parents with pickups and drop offs because with this model, her fifth grader comes home after her third grader.

Pete Boyko - resident and parent – He wants long-term sustainability of our school district. He wants to stop sales of our assets. He questioned what happens when we run out of assets to sell and how do we stop this. He asked if the new developments bring more kids, will we build more schools or we buy back ones we sold.

Donovan Mlodgenski - Liberty student – He stated ROTC at Memorial will be bigger if the two schools combined and there will be more opportunities for people to grow. He will come back up later.

Vin Mistretta – resident, Memorial graduate, teacher and coach – He noted this is an opportunity for Jackson to come together and excel in the arts, academics and athletics. He noted we need to focus on the positives, come together and stop the animosity of us versus them. He encouraged everyone to embrace new competition because it will breed success. The committee gave top emphasis to school location, busing time and minimizing the number of students impacted. He noted Memorial is more centrally located. He is not okay with long bus rides. He wants the committee to look at numbers, changing demographics and where larger group of students live. Big hallways at Liberty shouldn't be the main reason for being the high school.

Steve Wisniewski – resident and Memorial parent – He wants to know if violence and vandalism reports were researched. He encouraged the committee to look at high school rankings for Memorial and Liberty. His daughter takes a full range of AP classes at Memorial and those classes may not be available at Liberty. He questioned why you wouldn't choose a school that is thriving versus a school with a fancier hallway. He noted these are data points to look at when making the decision.

Sophia King – Memorial junior – She asked how teachers are going to be assigned to AP classes – by seniority or by their score AP score results. She noted she is worried about her academics and college.

Dara – resident - did not sign in or state full name – She doesn't think the decision is about the hallways because she believe it's 1,400 students at Memorial and 1,900 at Liberty. She also noted that if you rent a building, the district will still be responsible for maintenance on it. She understands this is a big decision and blesses all the students no matter where they go.

Erica Riso - Memorial student – She is concerned about school security for her and her friends for next year because she doesn't think Liberty and Memorial students mix well. She noted there have been incidents regarding fights at mixed school events. She asked if security will increase by bathrooms and during common lunch. She asked if common lunch will go away.

Stacey Ricciardi – Liberty parent – She doesn't understand the disparage between the two schools because she has a junior who takes four AP classes at Liberty, too. She is confused about traffic issue because Liberty isn't closing; it's either 7-8<sup>th</sup> graders or 9-12<sup>th</sup> graders so it is important to be safe for everyone. She drives her children to McAuliffe and Liberty every day and does not have traffic issues and everyone is safe.

Isabella Finer – Memorial junior – She thinks traffic in Jackson is a major concern that should not be taken lightly. She said Liberty has nicer hallways but this is more about safety concerns. She noted middle schoolers are being bussed where many high schoolers are driving to Liberty and it is a concern with the traffic to school, to after school sports and after school.

Rich Haber - resident and parent – He asked for clarification on what the committee was responsible for recommending versus what administration recommended because this was presented tonight as entirely a committee recommendation but as he understands it, the committee recommended a structure and administration is recommending the buildings.

Jeff Henba – Resident and Jackson police officer in traffic safety unit – 2<sup>nd</sup> comment – He presented traffic safety statistics including the number of crashes involving a drivers ages 16-20 within 1-mile radius of Liberty and Memorial, total number of crashes in 2024 within 1-mile radius of Liberty High School Memorial, the total volume of vehicles per day on roadways on roads within 1-mile radius of Memorial and Liberty. He noted he also has morning and afternoon data available. He cited data on future plans and approved plans that help determine future traffic infrastructures and congestion issues near Liberty and McAuliffe. He said the Jackson Police Department traffic safety unit examined and researched proposed sites that were submitted to this unit from 2019 to 2024 including 35 proposed sites identified as being near the two schools and having a potential impact for the future of these sites. While researching these plans, focus was placed on a variety of roads, area usage including residential, commercial, educational or retail and the number of parking spaces proposed. He noted the plans submitted are in various stages of completion. There are some proposed sites including single family homes, low-income homes, a house of worship and a private school.

Mrs. Gardella asked Mr. Henba for data on the number of fatalities within a 1-mile radius of Memorial and Liberty. Mr. Henba responded he doesn't have the fatality information with him but he can provide it.

Derek Layton – Liberty junior - He asked when merging the schools do not consider one student body over the other because we will be unified. He asked, when choosing a location, for students thoughts on where they want to go to be considered. He would like it to be considered that one school is older than the other and that may affect maintenance fees and repairs.

Nicole Duarte - resident and parent – 2<sup>nd</sup> comment – She asked what will happen with common lunch at the high school. She asked if fifth and sixth graders will have before care and after care after the merge.

Julie Nyman – resident and parent – She noted there is not a lot of discussion about the middle school and she noted if the middle school children aren't taking care of there are not going to be kids attending these high schools. An important thing brought up is a sense of community and pride students feel in their schools and she thinks putting 5-6 in a school and 7-8 grade in a school will not foster a sense of community among students. She asked if a 5 -8 model on both sides of town was considered. She thinks if a majority of students live on the Memorial side there has to be a better option than moving them to the other side of town.

Catherine Saker Inzitari – Memorial parent and resident - She appreciates the time and effort put into this difficult situation. She noted the 50-minute bus ride will be real for people like her that live near Six Flags and she thinks it will be worse when factoring in more student drivers. She noted the long line of high school drivers by Memorial each morning and noted that line will now be at Liberty along with twice as many buses. She thinks rebranding has to happen and wants the Board to appreciate how hard it will be for the students.

Donovan Mlodgenski - Liberty student – 2<sup>nd</sup> comment – He pointed out Liberty's track and fields are bigger than Memorials. He pointed out the traffic would be bad at Memorial because of all the parents, students and buses. He asked how the Liberty academics would be at Memorial.



Erica Riso – Memorial student – 2<sup>nd</sup> comment – She noted there is a lot of talk of traffic and parking which is important but she thinks we should refocus on education and class sizes.

Christopher Vilotti – Parent and resident - 2<sup>nd</sup> comment – He hopes whether it's Memorial or Liberty that juniors and seniors are provided the resources needed to get ahead and prepare for college whether it's vocational school or academic school.

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

Mrs. Gardella respectfully addressed President Councilwoman Kuhn who asked the Board to work together with her. Mrs. Gardella pointed out that the enrollment committee had former BOE President Mr. Palmeri reach out to the council in November to start talking about some of the foreseeable concerns happening. She respectfully requested that all people working to the benefit of town not play into the discourse. She noted the BOE members are volunteers and are doing what they feel is best for students.

Mrs. Pormilli reiterated this isn't anything anybody wanted to do and they worked hard to make the best recommendations based on what's best for our students academically and long term with the best intentions. She respects the decisions for many are emotional. She noted the administrative team cares about the district and they wouldn't be here if they didn't.

Mrs. Pormilli responded to the questions she can at the moment and some answers are in the Q&A document and new questions and answers will be added to that document. She encouraged people to reach out with the link in tomorrow's email. She assured everyone the Board has been listening to all of the input from the onset and will continue to listen.

Regarding the high school decision, Mrs. Pormilli noted both high schools are great schools, have incredible teachers, teachers will help students with the transition and both have wonderful programs. The decision is being made in the best interest of what can be provided to students instructionally through programs. She noted none of our programs will change when united. There will still be AP classes and ROTC but they are at risk if we don't unite. Our students have come together as one across school and community activities and we will ensure our students of all grades will be included in the next steps of uniting.

Regarding the traffic concerns, the Board is also concerned about it but it is not something the school district has control over. There is more congestion now in the Liberty area based on the number of stores and homes but the Board is looking at and considering approved construction for the Memorial side. The BOE wants to continue conversations about alleviating traffic by working with our Police Department and our Township. Everyone cares about the safety of our kids. The Board is hoping to advocate tomorrow for the county sheriff's department to do some things with these County Roads.

Regarding the students that spoke tonight, Mrs. Pormilli is glad they shared their opinions and insights. She is happy they are having positive experiences and credits that to the teachers, staff and administrators who help build those cultures. She assured the students that will continue, they will be okay and they will continue to have wonderful experiences with their friends.

Regarding questions about renting or selling schools, Mrs. Pormilli asked the assistant Commissioners last week what will Jackson do when it runs out of schools and if they are fixing the formula. She noted a revenue stream is preferable but the Board is considering the costs associated building upkeep as a landlord and how big will our budget deficit be will be.

Regarding the committee recommendations, Mrs. Pormilli thanked the people acknowledge the hard work of this committee. The committee recommendations shared tonight were the model and the facility selection for the middle school. The committee toured both high schools and every committee member commented on which school they felt was more appropriate; the majority felt Liberty was the better facility. She noted there was a lot of emotions expressed and ultimately the recommendation did not come and Mrs. Pormilli did not force them to come to a consensus. Every person who wanted to speak was heard and that will continue.

Regarding the rebranding, the district will work to honor traditions of all of our schools, encourage our students to wear their varsity jackets, embrace the changes and build unity together by moving forward in this next phase for our district.

Regarding the recommendation on choosing Liberty as the high school, the recommendation was multifactored. It is about all of our students are coming together and providing equitable opportunities for all of our students.

Regarding school security, Mrs. Pormilli stated this is a priority but until there is a final decision the number of security guards and SROs in each building can't be determined. The district will provide opportunities to build culture and climate. The district hopes to continue common lunch because it allows students who can't stay after school access to extra support, extracurriculars but it may need more structure.

Regarding bus times, Mrs. Pormilli stated Jackson is 100 square miles. The district continues to work on shortening route times. She noted the tiers presented give more availability and asked Mr. Baginski to comment on how routes are configured. Mr. Baginski stated when routes are designed, all tiers are looked at. He noted the last tier overlaps with athletics and co-curriculars so that has been impacted because of the tightness of the schedule and the lack of bus drivers. Alleviating the third tier allows the district to get students to games on time and allows games to be scheduled when we want and not just after the last tier.

Regarding special education students, Mrs. Pormilli noted all of our students including special education students are being considered in making these decisions.

Regarding 5-6<sup>th</sup> grade, Mrs. Pormilli noted the district will still provide child care and is also looking to create intermural programs so students have an opportunity to experience different sports – this unity allows the expansion of opportunities.

Regarding operational costs questions, Mrs. Pormilli noted all numbers are estimates until a final model is selected. She noted when consolidating, less resources are needed because two of everything is not needed but with the same number of students,

staff is still needed. She doesn't want to worry staff with numbers that are not final. Facility operational expenses are easier to look at but other pieces need a final model chosen before decisions are made. The number of students electing each course and how many teachers are needed also needs to be considered. All teachers, coaches and advisors will be taken into consideration.

Mrs. Pormilli noted any questions missed will be put into the Q&A or can be discussed or clarified at February's meeting. Mrs. Pormilli concluded her comments.

Mrs. Barocas commented that the committee talked about but rejected the 5-8 model. She noted the district had a 5-8 school at one point but then 5<sup>th</sup> was moved back to the elementary schools. If this district had a 5-8 school, it would be the largest 5-8 school in the state with 1,991 kids in one school. She noted that age range with that many kids wouldn't work in our district. She pointed out Jackson is the 32<sup>nd</sup> largest district in the state so we are dealing with a lot of students. If we put grades 7-12 together, the school population would be very large. McAuliffe and Liberty together would have 1,350 students and Goetz and Memorial would have 1,960 students. She noted she is a parent of a current junior at Memorial but she was voted to office by not just Memorial parents but the entire community. She noted she does a lot of research on her own by driving to Liberty at all hours of the day from various Jackson starting points. She does not make decisions just based on what it's good for her own child and noted there are Board positions open every year for the community to run for.

Mrs. Gardella opened the floor to Board comments.

### **Board Comments**

Mr. Walsh noted scholarship applications are open for seniors to apply through February 13<sup>th</sup>. He acknowledged this is a very difficult and emotional decision going on. He is currently collecting information and looking at facts.

Mr. McCarron is still reviewing all the facts. He will look over the traffic data from tonight and will attend the county traffic meeting tomorrow to see how they can help our district. He appreciates tonight's speakers for their involvement.

Dr. Osmond responded to someone asking what side of town the Board is from. She noted they were voted in given the responsibility to serve. This Board is an ethical group. She has a senior at Memorial but also knows students at Liberty and would like all students to have a nice education. The Board is trying to be as bias free as possible. She asked earlier for the community to give information and things they think have been missed, that are not emotional because the Board is trying to make an informed data based decisions. The Board appreciates this is a really hard decision but they are all volunteers trying to read the data and make everyone happy. Change is always hard but it doesn't mean that it's bad. As an educator, she likes the upper elementary school because you will start to notice in fifth grade where students have strengths and weaknesses and this design could just focus on those 5-6<sup>th</sup> graders. It's a great opportunity to be innovative with that group and maybe stop some learning gaps quicker because you can focus solely on them. We need to recognize the good opportunities in whatever school is used and create a culture with great experiences. The tone starts at home so be careful what you say, be positive around your kids and let them know they're going to be successful wherever they are.

Ms. Rivera thanked everyone for coming out this evening and viewing on live stream. She values the input, comments, and everyone's hard work and dedication. She noted the Board has a lot to consider. She noted we all need to come together and united as one Jackson. She thanked everyone for coming out.

Mrs. Barocas hopes our coaches and extracurricular advisors from both schools start talking to each other for the sake of the students and come together and figure out how to work together to create the most amazing teams and theater productions. She noted there are districts that have horrible buildings but they are ranked in the top 10% so it's not the building that makes the kids; it's the teachers and their families that make the kids who they are.

Mrs. Gardella noted there is a lot of emotion in this decision. She has spent countless hours discussing the same concerns brought up tonight. She asked herself why now. When elected 2 years ago, she talked a lot about if S2 cuts weren't resolved there would be a lot of tough financial decisions to be made for Jackson to be sustainable. So, this situation is not a new idea. She noted we all know change is hard and emotional. As parents, we know what it's like to give our children something new and your child gets negatively upset over that new thing or new situation. We sometimes need our kids to deal with change and we can't let their negative emotions trickle down to our family because it can impact all the other things we have going on after a full day of work. We can completely lose it as parents in that moment or we can guide our children through the change. As a community right now, we have to pick the latter. We have to point out the positive impacts of certain decisions and know that eventually our kids' ability to cope positively will benefit everybody around them. We need to teach them resilience - the capacity to withstand or recover quickly from difficulties. We heard each other tonight and I hope we can focus on building resilience, focus on the positive outcomes, work together to support our children through these shifts and show them how those shifts can benefit us in the future. She knows there will be tears and feelings of disappointment but every day we have a choice to pick our outlook. For every decision or recommendation the Board is voting on, she is going to try to have a positive outlook and be a positive role model for the people around her. She hopes we can listen to each other constructively and when we return in 2 weeks and moving forward, she would appreciate constructive comments rather than discorded ones. She appreciates everybody coming tonight and all the hard work of the Board, committee members, Admin team and community.

There being no further discussion, on a motion by Mrs. Rivera, seconded by Mr. Walsh, the meeting was adjourned by acclamation at 9:43 p.m.

Adjourn

Respectfully Submitted,



Daniel Baginski  
Business Administrator/Board Secretary