

MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL BOARD MEETING
BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF JT. SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 151
THURSDAY JANUARY 28, 2021 AT 4:00 P.M.
VIA LIVE ZOOM ONLINE MEETING ONLY (NOT RECORDED)

BOARD MEMBERS: Heber Loughmiller Zone 5, Chairman
Jeff Rasmussen Zone 2, Vice-Chairman
Ryan Cranney Zone 1,
Darin Moon Zone 3
Bruce Thompson Zone 4

ADMINISTRATORS: James Shank Superintendent
Sandra Miller Assistant Superintendent

LEGAL ADVISOR: Lance Loveland (or representative from the law firm of Parsons, Smith
Stone, Loveland, & Shirley LLC.) (Excused)

TREASURER: Chris James (Excused)

CLERK: Pam Teeter

PUBLIC RELATIONS: Debbie Critchfield (Excused)

NEWS/MEDIA:

Chairman Loughmiller called this meeting to order.

SPECIAL BOARD MEETING: (4:00 p.m.) Motion by Ryan Cranney and seconded by Bruce Thompson to go into Open Session Board meeting. Voting Aye: Jeff Rasmussen, Ryan Cranney, Bruce Thompson, Darin Moon, Heber Loughmiller; motion carried.

PRESENT: Chairman Heber Loughmiller, Vice Chairman Jeff Rasmussen, Trustees Ryan Cranney, Bruce Thompson, Darin Moon, Superintendent James Shank, Assistant Superintendent Sandra Miller, Fiscal Manager/Treasurer Chris James, Clerk Pamela Teeter

ACTION ITEM:

UNIFIED MASTER SCHEDULE RATIFICATION: Chairman Loughmiller requested Superintendent Shank take some time to explain the Unified Master Schedule Ratification. Superintendent Shank stated this meeting was requested by the Board of Trustees after the last meeting. He explained the work done since last meeting:

What has been unified is a seven (7) period day with a zero (0) period request if needed. Which means the principals would have the opportunity to allow a class in the morning or after school if their schedules demand that.

Part of what will be needed tonight is the criteria that the Board set at last meeting was that it had to be an A/B schedule, classes couldn't be more than 7 periods and freshmen had to take a math and English double-blocked class. So what we are going to ask of that the Board of Trustees consider to rescind those criteria and change them to be:

- There must be a unified master schedule
- No Class will be longer than 70 minutes
- Ratify a 7 period day with an option for a zero hour class

With that said, most class periods will be 55 minutes in length or a few more minutes in addition to that. Principals in the secondary schools have all agreed that they are united around this and this is their preference. Superintendent Shank stated that he appreciates the hard work our principals did as they are accepting and willing to work hard to make sure that this works.

Chairman Loughmiller asked each board member to say their name so those who are listening will know who is talking.

Trustee Cranney asked Superintendent Shank to explain what their solution was to the CRTC and how they plan on making that work to which Superintendent Shank stated that is some of the hard work that is left to be done because they are not on an A/B schedule, part of the Transportation will need to be figured out and that is part of the zero hour class type of request. When they look at those number of minutes needed to provide those medical classes or the diesel tech, that sort of thing there is going to be some blocks of time that will need to be carved out. The principals have all agreed that they will work together and make sure the Tech Center offerings can still be what it is that we are wanting to provide over there.

Trustee Cranney asked if Superintendent Shank is talking about traveling before school in to the Tech Center and Superintendent Shank stated that we think so. We think that is probably an answer to the outlying schools is that travel becomes earlier. They stay for a period of time and he added, another request you may see is that students have the ability to take a core class while they are there, so they don't miss something while at the Tech Center, perhaps waiting for the lunch hour to begin. That is an option we have discussed, is can we teach say, a science class or class like that somewhere in the location right there in the Tech Center. Perhaps, pipe it in via technology to one of those courses so the students won't miss those classes. We want to look to be more innovative in how it is that we schedule those courses.

Vice-Chairman Rasmussen stated he need clarification for the reason that they have chosen to have a 7-period instructional day is because if they had done the A/B schedule instructional day they would have to go back and do a 5 day instructional week to which Superintendent Shank stated he believes there is a lot of specifics around that. Five-day was discussed, the five-day versus the four-day. We tried to stay within the context of the four-day because that is what was determined by the Board last week. The more and more we talked about an A/B block schedule on the four-day schedule the more and more it became clear that was going to be the best fit on a four-day school week.

Trustee Cranney stated his concern for the Tech Center. He stated he was talking to some of the administrative people in Malta last night and they told him they would make this work but they would lose a bunch of students that will not go to the Tech Center and they foresaw this happening. That is a concern of his that students will lose out on what is important to them in their life. They are not going to go on to college and that is the head start that these students need. Superintendent Shank stated he can appreciate that concern. Part of what we must figure out is the transportation dilemma. They believe that is the crux of the issue and how it is that you carve out those blocks so those students do not lose instructional time during the day. If you know you are going to lose math or science or something because you go to the Tech Center, he thinks the answer is, "Why can't we teach that while you are waiting to travel, so you don't lose that?" They discussed perhaps running a class from CSI or looking at bringing in

technology in order to teach a class that is being taught in that classroom so those students do not lose those opportunities because they are a Tech student. He confirmed that they are studying it and working hard at it. The intent is no loss, but he believes in any schedule there is going to be some trade-offs because nothing is perfect in that world trying to figure that out.

Superintendent Shank stated to Chairman Loughmiller that what is needed is two motions around the unified master schedule. One having to do with the criteria that was set last Thursday at the Annual Board meeting and one for the 7-period ratification of that particular schedule. At that point, our high school principals will have that clarity of direction.

Vice-Chairman Rasmussen stated, regarding the principals who came together and made the decision that would be best in the educational process that they do this 7-period instructional day versus an A/B Block schedule and his understanding, they are bringing this back to us and as a Board, we will decide now, whether we will accept their proposal. He stated he wants to make sure is if there are parents or there's educators/teachers out there who are not in agreement to this or they are having some problems, that they need to address their building administrators and not the Board. Mr. Rasmussen stated, "Do not send letters to the Board saying that we don't know what we are doing because we are doing this as a fact that the principals brought it to us and asked us to accept this, as this is what they want." He then asked if this makes sense.

Chairman Loughmiller restated what he believes Vice-Chairman Rasmussen was trying to say, "It would be fair to assume that we do not know what we are doing, do not go ahead and send letters to tell us something we already know. Would that be correct?" Vice-Chairman Rasmussen stated that the principals are the ones who decided this is what they wanted, it wasn't the Board. We are here to support them, but if anyone is having "acid indigestion" about this don't send letters to the Board. If they do, he will send them to the building administrator and they will answer the questions for the parents and the teachers. He again clarified, that the administrators are the ones who decided to do the 7-period instructional day.

Trustee Moon stated he does not mind people writing. He does agree with Mr. Rasmussen, we are doing this at the request of building administrators. I am a Board member and I don't mind people writing me letters. I listen, I like to hear what people say but again, to what Mr. Rasmussen said, we are going to go back through the administrators to answer the questions. He reiterated, he doesn't mind people writing letters. He stated he is speaking for himself, not the Board. He doesn't mind the letters; however, the answer is going back through the channels because that is the way it should be.

Vice-Chairman Rasmussen stated to Trustee Moon that was a better way stated. He feels the exact same way.

Chairman Loughmiller summarized: The administrators came together, they had some impossible limitations and what is coming out from that meeting, is to the best of their ability. This will be the schedule, though not perfect, best answers the questions they have. He stated he is learning as a chairman that he doesn't always get exactly what he wants and this is a new experience. He respects the work of the administrators. He also knows that they have done the block schedule for 30 years and test scores if anything, have dropped. We are not willing to do the same thing over and over, again and expect a different result.

MOTION(S): Motion by Darin Moon and seconded by Bruce Thompson to rescind the motion of last Thursday, of the A/B block schedule. Voting Aye: Jeff Rasmussen, Bruce Thompson, Darin Moon, Heber Loughmiller. Voting Nay: Ryan Cranney; motion carried.

Motion by Darin Moon and seconded by Jeff Rasmussen to ratify the Unified Master Schedule as presented by building principals, which is the 7-period day with a zero (0) hour. Voting Aye: Rasmussen, Thompson, Moon, Loughmiller. Voting Nay: Cranney; motion carried.

Trustee Cranney expressed his appreciation to the building administrators for getting together and working to come to some kind of resolution. Superintendent Shank thanked Mr. Cranney saying, they spent three (3) hours on Tuesday trying to come up with the best option and we walked out of the room in united in we thought this was best at this point, with the idea that nothing ever rolls out perfect. We will be looking for other solutions to problems that we know that will come, and that are unforeseen at this point.

Chairman Loughmiller stated the one thing, as he talked to community members and the vast majority of staff members is that they are unified on the four-day week. They universally disliked the Monday early release for doing professional development and other meetings. The Friday mornings have worked well for this, without students in the building.

Mr. Loughmiller stated this isn't exactly what he wanted but the building administrators, the professionals got together and whether or not they were all in complete agreement, they did coalesce around an idea and this is their recommendation.

Mr. Loughmiller advised Superintendent Shank that as a Board they do want to be involved and apprised of the work they are doing to minimize the effect to the Tech Center. He stated that we want to grow those programs, not reduce them. Superintendent Shank stated the administrators are meeting again, tomorrow (Friday, the 29th of January) and this will be a topic of discussion amongst the secondary principals. There are barriers but we will get through them.

ADJOURN: (4:24 p.m.) Motion by Bruce Thompson and seconded by Ryan Cranney to adjourn the meeting. Voting Aye: Rasmussen, Cranney, Thompson, Moon, Loughmiller; motion carried.

Heber Loughmiller, Board Chairman

Pamela Teeter, Board Clerk

