



## **JPSB Special Session School Board Meeting - Budget Hearing (Wednesday, June 24, 2020)**

Generated by Gwen B Kerner on Tuesday, July 7, 2020

### **Meeting called to order at 5:00 PM**

#### **1. Meeting Opening**

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##### **Procedural: 1.01 Roll Call**

The meeting was called to order by President Tiffany Kuhn. Those answering the call were: Larry Dale, Ricky Johnson, Sandy Denapolis-Bosarge, Tiffany H Kuhn, Billy North, Chad Nugent, Simeon Dickerson. Absent was Mark C Morgan and Clay Moise.

##### **Procedural: 1.02 Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance**

Germaine Gilson, Chief of District Affairs led us with the Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance.

#### **2. New Business**

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##### **Discussion: 2.01 Public Hearing - Fiscal Year 2020-21 Budget**

Sarah Caruso, Chief Finance Officer presented to the Board the FY 2021 General Fund Budget. She thanked the board members for allowing us to have a special session to get this business accomplished before the July 1st new fiscal year starts. She wanted to start off with what our timeline was and what the story of how we got here, and how we made decisions. So, in August of 2019. We had a budget reduction committee that convened to begin to develop a \$16 million budget reduction plan. In January of 2020, the plan was finalized, which would have had a value of \$16 million. In February of 2020, the superintendent Dr. Cade Brumley presented to the Board, as part of the 2020 Infrastructure and efficiency plan. In March of 2020, the school board approved the budget reduction plan and at that point, we were extremely excited we felt that our budget issues were behind us. A week and a half later as we all know on March 13 the governor of Louisiana closed all K-12 schools which obviously created some financial hardships for us. At this point, we are projecting to have a 10% reduction in sales tax, which for us is about \$20 million.

In May of 2020, we had a budget reduction committee convened again to develop a \$20 million budget reduction plan, we presented a \$17.3 million budget reduction plan to the superintendent. On May 21st, and this plan was the plan today, plus the loss of 128 school-based positions in frozen steps. This plan would have been catastrophic to the district, particularly so late in the game, there was not a single soul in that room that liked the plan, or even felt that it was feasible. So obviously we went back to the drawing boards and here we are today in June, presenting a budget book to the board that has deficit spending of \$11 million with offsetting reductions of \$8.9 million. We are extremely excited, in not a good way but as excited as you can be about this budget book we feel about we have tried to keep the integrity of the district and the classrooms intact as much as possible. Going back to the \$16 million dollars, the \$16 million costs are implemented into the budget book and the board has already approved in March. It is literally a copy and pastes from the 2020 Infrastructure plan, and the bullet points are listed below.

- Reduce approximately 21 central office positions (third year of reductions)
- Reduce central office overall unit budgets
- Rework the Community Based Instruction program
- Streamline Child Nutrition and Print Shop operations
- Streamline ESL and Special Education staffing (per DMG study)
- Restructure the district's IB programs, eliminating elementary and middle school IB and improving high school IB effectiveness (per DMG study)
- Create and implement staffing formulas for librarians, custodians, hospital homebound teachers, school monitors, stadium staff, and "bonus" positions
- Reduce general fund allocations to schools by 6%
- Adjust Title fund allocations to schools
- Utilize Medicaid revenues to offset existing costs

This is kind new, additional budget cuts due to CoVid 19 Economic Impact listed below.

- Additional reduction of central office positions
- Additional reduction of central office overall budgets
- Temporarily freeze central office vacancies
- Temporarily suspend department head stipends and perfect attendance for school year 2021
- Temporarily suspend replacement textbook allocation and teacher allotment for school year 2021

- Reduce the General Fund band allocation to schools by 20%
- Repurpose certain in-person summer training
- Sale of surplus vehicles
- Reassess the use of facilities charges to ensure all costs are being covered
- Restructure the discipline administrative formulas for academies (Max 1 Dean)
- Reduction of the 19 extended days for pupil appraisal staff
- Reduction of the National Board-Certified Stipend from \$7,500 to \$5,000 for new certifications
- Streamline custodial staff overtime
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### **3. End Meeting**

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#### **Procedural: 3.01 Adjourn**