Jefferson School District

Official Minutes of the Regular Meeting
Of the Board of Trustees
November 10, 2020

(Due to COVID-19, this meeting was held virtually through a Zoom webinar)

Present virtually: Debbie Wingo, President; Phil Raya, Vice President; Dan Wells, Clerk; Brian Jackman, Member; Pete Carlson, Member; Jim Bridges, Superintendent

In attendance virtually: Dena Whittington, Chief Business Officer; Nancie Castro, Director of Human Resources and Curriculum; Angelica Thomas, Director of Special Education; Sarah Steen, Curriculum Coordinator; Christina Orsi, Ken Silman, Emily Stroup, Alyssa Wooten, Principals; Celli Coeville, Administrative Assistant

I. OPEN SESSION

a. Call to Order at 5:35 PM
b. Roll Call to Establish Quorum – Mr. Carlson joined the meeting at 6:43 pm
c. Approval of Agenda-
d. Public Hearing

MSA (Jackman/Wells) – Approve the agenda as presented-

Ayes – 4	Nays – 0	Absent – 1	Abstain – 0
Jackman, Raya		Carlson	
Wingo, Wells			

e. Closed Session Adjourn to Closed Session for the purpose of discussing matters expressly authorized by Government Codes 3549.1, 54956.7, 54956.8, 54956.9, 54956.95,54957, 54957.8, Education Codes 49079(c), 48912, 48918

f. ADJOURN TO CLOSED SESSION

II. RETURN TO OPEN SESSION – 6:30 PM

Welcome from Board President Mrs. Wingo
Pledge of Allegiance

Superintendent's Report – During Distance Learning attendance is something that the State is looking closely at. Dr. Bridges thanked Emily Stroup, the Principals, Vice Principals, Michele Vinyard, Celli Coeville and the Attendance Clerks at each of the sites for their work this year ensuring that students are attending and participating in Distance Learning.

On November 6th, Dr. Bridges participated in San Joaquin County Office of Education's annual CodeStack Conference. Dr. Bridges attended with other educators across the state and learned about various technological innovations that are upcoming.

On November 9th, PJHM Architects and Dr. Bridges met with the Surland Group to discuss the design for Franklyn Cole Elementary. The team liked the design and a follow up meeting will be scheduled in the next few weeks.

Dr. Bridges also provided an update on the return of small groups receiving specialized services to all four campuses. On October 12th, the District brought back 33 students. An additional 133 students will be brought back on November 16th, and on November 30th another 108 additional students will be brought back. The District will have roughly 250 students returned to campuses at that point.

In Closed Session-

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A fact finding hearing was conducted by the Governing Board for Student 2018-11-01. On a motion by Board Member Mr. Wells and seconded by Board Member Mr. Jackman, it is moved that the Board of Trustees reinstate Student No. 2018-11-01 to the Jefferson School District as of August 8, 2020.

It is further moved that the Board conclude that:

1. That during the period of the expulsion Student 2018-11-01 completed the alternative education program at Tom Hawkins Elementary School

2. That Pupil met the minimum requirements of the rehabilitation plan recommended by the District.

Roll Call Vote:

Ayes – 4	Nays – 0	Absent – 1	Abstain – 0
Jackman, Raya		Carlson	
Wells, Wingo			

MSA (Raya/Wells) - Approved the hire of certificated employee 12083 The Board also approved the hire of positions 12084, 12085, 12086, 12087, 12088, and 12089; and approved the discipline of employee 12090.
Roll call vote was as follows:

Ayes – 4	Nays – 0	Absent – 1	Abstain – 0
Jackman, Raya		Carlson	
Wells, Wingo			

III. PUBLIC HEARING – Google Forms were used for public comment for this virtual meeting. There were three public comments that were general comments not tied to a specific agenda item that Dr. Bridges read for the Board and public:

Name: Anonymous
Organization if applicable: Hawkins teacher

I breathed a sigh of relief at the last board meeting when we were told students would not come back until after the holidays. I felt relieved for both my students and myself that we would get past being around family for the holidays and not risking exposing loved ones to what we have been around at school. Now, this change does the exact opposite of what was said last month. This is a very, very rushed decision that the board is making and proves to be true as teachers did not get a two week in advance notice to set up classrooms and have the knowledge we need to not only make ourselves feel safe but also the kids in the room. The students would be moving from zoom in their house to zoom in a classroom. It is truly pointless and puts many at risk. The board meeting itself is being held over zoom. If six adults don't feel comfortable in a room how can teachers with how ever many students coming back feel safe?

Name: Anonymous
Organization if applicable: Middle school teacher

We are not getting the two-week notice we need to prepare ourselves, students and classrooms. I am no scientist, but it feels as if we are rushing things so badly that we are not thinking about all the harm this could bring to having students come into each teacher's classroom before the holidays. As we are all going to see close family members and risk their exposure as well. What is really happening is that the parent's problems at home are now becoming the teacher's problems as we now have to deal with bodies in our room still only doing zoom when they could be safely at home completing the same exact task. I'm not sure what has happened to teacher equity as well. I'm sure there are a couple of teachers who would like students to come back but I can also guarantee those teachers do not have double digits returning in their classrooms. Before rushing into this I urge the

DRAFT

board to ask what they would do if it was their children who were teaching and risking exposure. I do not want to see our district on the nightly news as a statistic.

Name: Anonymous

The teachers would like the board and the District to consider returning the Tier 1, Tier 2 and Tier 3 students back to distance learning in November and December if San Joaquin County enters the purple level. This would be for everyone's safety. If the board continues to meet virtually then all students should learn virtually as well.

IV. APPROVAL OF THE CONSENT AGENDA

4.1 Minutes – Regular Board Meeting October 13, 2020
4.2 Warrants – October 2020
4.3 Financials – October 2020
4.4 Surplus

Roll call vote was as follows:
MSA (Jackman/Raya) approve the consent agenda as presented
Roll call vote was as follows:

Ayes – 4	Nays – 0	Absent – 0	Abstain – 0
Carlson, Jackman, Raya, Wells, Wingo			

V. EDUCATIONAL SERVICES

5.1 JSD Return to In-Person Instruction, January 4, 2021

Dr. Bridges read the following Public Comments which were received regarding item 5.1 via Google Forms prior to the meeting for the Board and public:

Name: Ashlee Gordon
Comment: I am seeing the negative impacts of my children not going to school. School is essential and they want to be back in a classroom with their teachers and classmates.

Name: Matt Gordon:
Comment: I want my kids to go back to school full time. If for some reason this January 4th date changes. Will you allow our kids to go back full time with teachers who are not afraid of COVID? I know there are teachers out there willing to go back full time and I support them 100%. I would like to know tonight because I will be looking at another school district where my kids can go to school full time if they are not allowed to go back in January.

Name: Jennifer Underwood, Parent
Comment: What is the plan for January? Will the date be pushed out for Covid cases rising? What happened to the plans that were in place back in August when we chose how to choose the type of learning we wanted for our kids? Surveys to parents need to be sent as fervently as every other email/voicemail/text. So many parents I know want their kids in the optimal learning environment. Our teachers are doing a great job but so limited with this way of teaching. We need to be back in classrooms.

Name: Anonymous
Comment: We need to be back, in class, daily. This situation has gone on far too long and, as you know, we no longer need a waiver to be back. Listening to the last board meeting was the most heartbreaking and frustrating I have heard lately, which should say a lot considering all of the things we are all hearing during these times. How can you argue that if we are here doing this meeting via Zoom? There is no question that we aren't ready to be back in class. You cannot compare meetings and whatnot to children in school. Parts of Europe are shutting back down due to the increasing cases yet schools remain open because school is essential. We will never know the true Covid numbers but we have to move on with life! I understand a lot of people are not comfortable going back, so leave

DRAFT

them the option to continue distance learning until they are ready. For those of us that want to go back you need to let us! The state says we can go back so let us get the ball rolling and do what is best for our children. Most of the comments from (assumingly) teachers/staff during the last meeting were interesting. Almost all of them said they were not comfortable being back in the classroom. Are these people's families isolating themselves or quarantining them? If not, they are running errands and in Costco they have no stance to say they don't feel comfortable being in class. There is little to no gray area here. Please put our children, their education first and futures first, it is time. We as parents and families have made this work since March and adapted so very quickly and now it's time for the educators to do their job on campus with kids in class. Step up and make education essential again.

Name: Morgan Gama, Student Parent & Monticello Vice President MJPFA

Please consider the mental health of majority of the kids when discussing returning to school. I beg you. Also look at the success Tracy private schools have been having with returning to school full day five days a week with no Covid cases. Thank you.

Name: Jolene Gularte
I'm a mother of two children within your school district. I must express my sincere frustration with the board. There has been so many schools back in session for well over a month and many recently going back including Manteca Unified as well as Mountain House. All local charter schools and private schools in Tracy are back as well. The decision made clearly does not have science or health of the children at the forefront. Simply more about inconvenience before the holidays. If it was science based, the county wouldn't have approved us to go back. Even Governor Newsom's kids are back in school. The parent survey some of us received and took was asking about applying for the waiver for the school to go back. San Joaquin County has been approved to go back to school for almost a month now as of 10/12. That parent survey is not even valid in regard to our current situation. I must also add that day cares have been open this whole time and there has been no local spike or any issues to speak of within schools. The mental health of children and the severe setback this is going to have on their development should matter to the Board and staff. This is so much bigger than a little graph that was shown at the last meeting showing that the curve has clearly flattened. Students should be allowed to resume regular schedule and those parents who don't wish to send their children back can choose an independent study option. This is very simple. The teachers should be allowed to instruct their students as they were credentialed to in person. Public education was not created to operate this way and we simply did what we were forced to do by the government temporarily. With guidance as other schools have done, the kids can get back to routine. Temperature checks, proper cleaning, washing hands, and mask wearing should be plenty to keep everyone safe. We deserve the same rights as thousands in our city. Kids are in sports, restaurants open, people working, move forward.

Name: Kristin Gama

The Jefferson School District (specifically the Special Education Department) has done a great job supporting my student who has Autism Spectrum Disorder. Our family, along with the district, and many staff members at Tom Hawkins have worked tirelessly to help him achieve his goal to move from the Special Day Class into a class where he can learn alongside typically developing peers. He began as a third grader in fulltime Special Education and is now in sixth grade and attending general education classes fulltime. This is a great accomplishment that would not have been made without the educators are our home school. I'm increasingly fearful that the longer we are denied access to our educations in a school setting, the greater the chance that progress will be lost. I know that there are other students that are facing the same difficulty. A student with special needs but no special day and therefore unable to access the necessary supports. Covid-19 is serious and we should do everything we can to protect our precious educators and staff. But staying at home is not an appropriate solution. Please consider students like mine, and the mental health of all students. Thank you.

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END OF PUBLIC COMMENTS

Dr. Bridges presented two potential scenarios for students to return to full in-person instruction on January 4, 2021 for the Board's consideration.

The first scenario has all students returning to in person instruction five days per week, utilizing a regular bell schedule. The steps required for students to return to school in an A/B Hybrid model were presented for the second scenario. In this model, students will attend two days in person and three days synchronously via live Zoom sessions, and would utilize the current Distance Learning bell schedule. On January 12th, the Board would review county level data to see if it would be possible for all students to return to in-person instruction five days per week. Both scenarios included student intent to return communications to be sent to parents.

Dr. Bridges shared weekly data regarding COVID rates in San Joaquin County from 10/12/2020-11/9/2020. The county released the data for 11/9/2020 today. The timing was such that this current data could not be included in the board packet. Testing positivity rate has increased and the county is now purple in the case rate category. San Joaquin County is currently still in the red tier but the county's trend is heading toward purple.

Dr. Bridges opened up the discussion to questions from the board:

Mr. Carlson asked for clarification of what the A/B hybrid model will look like. Dr. Bridges stated that half of the class would come to school Monday and Thursday and the other half would attend on Tuesday and Friday. Students would still be on a distance learning schedule which has a shortened day. In this model, students in the room would be watching live instruction occurring. They could be using Chromebooks, textbooks, and may access documents digitally through their Google classroom. The other half of the students would be at home watching the teacher through Zoom and participating remotely. The benefit of the A/B hybrid model is that it would provide for social distancing up to 6 feet. The California Department of Public Health asks that we maintain as much social distancing as possible in classrooms, up to six feet.

Mr. Carlson asked how this model would impact teachers. Would teachers do distance learning and live instruction at the same time? Dr. Bridges noted that students who are at home would be watching live instruction. The teacher would be presenting the same information at home as in the classroom. The difference is that one group of students would physically be in the classroom and then students at home would be interacting with fellow peers on Zoom in breakout rooms.

Mr. Wells indicated that he has read recent studies that there is concern with stopping and starting and that this is could be a problem too. If we start with one plan and have to change, that disruption can become problematic for students, parents and everybody having to accommodate the change. Mr. Wells asked that we all consider this.

Mr. Raya asked what would happen if the county goes to 100% purple, how does that impact us, and when will we know if the county is in purple? Dr. Bridges hopes that he will have more information Thursday after the meeting with California Department of Public Health at his County Superintendents meeting. He noted we have received conflicting information on what to do if the county is in purple. The state's guidance was that if schools had opened and if the county slipped into purple we could continue to open our schools. Since the last board meeting on October 12th, we now have received new guidance from the State. The newest guidance states that being open for small cohorts does not constitute being open. If the county goes to purple, under this guidance, a district would not be able to open. Dr. Bridges is seeking clarification on Thursday to see if what our District has done thus far constitutes as being open.

Mr. Carlson asked if the county goes to purple is the decision taken out of their hands? Dr. Bridges, clarified that if the county goes to purple, the District could still apply for a TK-6 grade waiver which would be subject to the County Public Health Office's approval. Mr. Jackman, suggested providing guidance based upon the county color status so that we don't have to keep revisiting this.

Dr. Bridges suggested possibly tying opening models to tier colors. For example, if we were in orange January 4th we could open. If we were to remain in red, we could potentially open in scenario two in an A/B Hybrid and if we return to purple. We would need to have a special board meeting early December to make a decision. At that time, Dr. Bridges would have more information for the Board to determine whether we can we open. He urged the Board not to wait until December 15th to make this decision in order to provide time for our teachers, families and staff to prepare.

Mr. Wells asked how the Board would feel if making a decision was tabled until a special board meeting? He referenced the fact that we've received two different interpretations from state attorneys defining as to whether we are open. Mr. Carlson stated that he feels that the Board should act on the information that they have now. If the information changes, it can be addressed at a later board meeting. Mr. Wells indicated he will withhold his motion.

Mrs. Wingo suggested that the Board could move to open schools with no restrictions if the color is orange, we would open in a hybrid A/B model if we remain in red, we would not move to open if we are in the purple tier with the option of choosing TK-6 waiver if we are in purple. Mr. Carlson indicated he is not in favor of the hybrid model. He feels that is students come back, they should all come back.

Dr. Bridges indicated that the top two items necessary to bringing students back safely are handwashing and wearing a mask. He shared that the District has acquired industrial grade air purifiers for all classrooms. Also, the more that we can isolate and keep people in segmented groups, the better.

MSA (Jackman/Carlson) motion if the District is in either orange or red as it relates to the COVID scale we return with all students with all safety precautions on January 4, 2021. If we are in purple, we will convene and look at the TK-6 waiver as an option to open up part of the District at that time. Roll Call vote was as follows:

Ayes – 4	Nays – 1	Absent – 0	Abstain – 0
Carlson, Jackman, Raya, Wingo	Wells		

5.2 Special Education Department Update – Director Angelica Thomas started her presentation by thanking everyone who has a hand in educating our students. Ms. Thomas recognized the Resource Specialists, Special Day Class teachers, Speech and Language Pathologists, School Psychologists, Department Secretary, as well as the general education teachers and students. She thanked the Principals and Vice Principals for their part in ensuring that all students receive a high quality of education. Ms. Thomas also thanked Dr. Bridges for his knowledge and involvement with the Special Education team.

Ms. Thomas outlined the thirteen categories that comprise Special Education services, and shared how the District's students fall into each category. A large majority of JSD students qualify under speech language impairment. Ms. Thomas shared a breakdown of the students in the County program whom we partner with by primary disability category as well.

The focus in Special Education continues to be high expectations for all students regardless of disability. We want all of our students to succeed to their maximum potential. One of the keys to success is to focus on core curriculum. An additional focus is the preschool growth which continues to increase. Ms. Thomas noted that she also wants to increase student independence. We are supporting students to their ultimate independence and replacing contract support with internal staff

when appropriate. The success model is a combination of general education and specialized education working together to support student needs.

Ms. Thomas shared the District breakdown of students to see how they have changed across grade level. The District still has a healthy number of preschoolers. Currently the District has forty-five students into special day programs, last year we dropped a 6-8 grade SDC and added a preschool SDC class. No assessments occurred between March- August of last year. Some students who were ready to be exited did not exit and some students who needed to qualify were not able to be assessed to qualify. For 2020, our District will be more stable for Spring once these assessments have been caught up. Next steps include a continuing focus on communication and collaboration with families and staff, continuing to be fiscally responsible, and attracting and maintaining a qualified staff. Ms. Thomas noted that in her twenty-one years of working in Special Education, her staff is the strongest she has had. Dr. Bridges thanked Ms. Thomas for all that she is doing for our students and staff, and commended her leadership and dedication.

5.3 Student Enrollment – District enrollment is staying steady. Mr. Raya asked if there is a significant uptick in numbers from Ellis and Tracy Hills. Dr. Bridges said he will bring enrollment numbers next month for the two developments.

VI. PERSONNEL SERVICES

6.1 MOU, Alliant International University, California School of Education

MSA (Carlson/Raya) approve the Alliant International University, California School of Education MOU as presented

Roll call vote was as follows:

Ayes – 5	Nays – 0	Absent – 0	Abstain – 0
Carlson, Jackman, Raya, Wells, Wingo			

VII. BUSINESS AND FACILTIES

7.1 October 2020 Budget Adjustments -

MSA (Jackman/Carlson) approve the October 2020 Budget Adjustments as presented

Roll call vote was as follows:

Ayes – 5	Nays – 0	Absent – 0	Abstain – 0
Carlson, Jackman, Raya, Wells, Wingo			

7.2 2020-2021 First Interim Assumptions- CBO, Dena Whittington presented the 2020-21 first interim assumptions. Next month she will be bringing the first interim report for approval which will be the first check in to see where the District is for this fiscal year. Ms. Whittington shared projections for enrollment and ADA, at this time no growth is projected for the new developments.

The Local Control Funding Formula (LCFF) is where the District gets the majority of its funding. The news from the State is that districts are being advised to budget a zero COLA for next year. In the current year the District has received over $1M in COVID grants, in both addressing PPE, health concerns and learning loss grants.

Ms. Whittington shared expenditure projections. Step and column for certificated and classified staff were included in the expenditures projected. Ms. Whittington noted that it is time for the District to start including expenses for the new school. Projections for support staff for Corral Hollow Elementary School will be included as well. Some additional funds for the new school are not covered under developer fees. These expenditures include instructional materials, furniture and equipment, which have been budgeted for in years 2021-22 and 2022-23. First interim will be presented at the December board meeting, and this be a check in for how we are doing.

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Mr. Wells commented that it seems interesting that we are budgeting for a new school and not for growth. Dr. Bridges noted that we are seeing declining enrollment and declining new inter district agreements. Mr. Wells noted that it would be helpful to see how we are declining in existing neighborhoods.

MSA (Carlson/Wells) approve the 2020-2021 First Interim Assumptions as presented
Roll call vote was as follows:

Ayes – 5	Nays – 0	Absent – 0	Abstain – 0
Carlson, Jackman,			
Raya, Wells, Wingo			

7.3 Category One E-Rate RFP # 2020-11-1 –
MSA (Carlson/Jackman) approve Category One E-Rate RFP # 2020-11-1 - as presented
Roll call vote was as follows:

Ayes – 5	Nays – 0	Absent – 0	Abstain – 0
Carlson, Jackman,			
Raya, Wells, Wingo			

7.4 Jefferson School District Request for Quotation RFQ # JSD-1020-02, 2020/21 Chromebooks/Chromebook Carts RFP award –The District had to do a second RFQ because the vendors were unable to meet the specs in the initial RFQ. Mr. Raya asked if all prices are based on the same exact specs. Dr. Bridges clarified that the vendor is provided with the minimum specs, one of which is that the device has to be a Chromebook. Mr. Jackman asked about the Chromebooks that we currently have. Dr. Bridges noted that Chromebooks have a 5-year shelf life and at that point they are not updated. Also, after five years our county won't allow the Chromebooks on the network. We have been donating the outdated Chromebooks to an organization in Modesto. That organization gives them back to us and and we have been able to donate them back to households.
MSA (Raya/Wells) approve awarding RFQ # JSD-1020-02, 2020/21 Chromebooks/Chromebook Carts to SHI as presented
Roll call vote was as follows:

Ayes – 5	Nays – 0	Absent – 0	Abstain – 0
Carlson, Jackman,			
Raya, Wells, Wingo			

7.5 First Amendment to Tracy Hills First K-8 School Site Purchase and Sale Agreement – Dr. Bridges stated that we are waiting on a few items as there are some title report issues that we are working on. Due to the number of title exclusions on this property the District needs an AILT survey and we need an appraisal done as well. This amendment extends the time period out until March. We are seeking a joint agreement of extending the purchase sale agreement out. Mr. Wells asked what the position of Tracy Hills was regarding this amendment, and Dr. Bridges clarified that the extension was requested by Tracy Hills.
MSA (Carlson/Jackman) approve the First Amendment to Tracy Hills First K-8 School Site Purchase and Sale Agreement as presented
Roll call vote was as follows:

Ayes – 5	Nays – 0	Absent – 0	Abstain – 0
Carlson, Jackman,			
Raya, Wells, Wingo			

7.6 Resolution 2020-11-01, Delegation of Authority to Superintendent, concerning acquisition of Tracy Hills First K-8 School Site Purchase. Our Attorney, Lisa Allred, who is handling the purchase sale amendment, recommended that the Board would allow Dr. Bridges to have the authority for minor changes only for Tracy Hills school site one with consultation of legal counsel to make these decisions.

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MSA (Jackman/Raya) approve Resolution 2020-11-01, Delegation of Authority to the Superintendent Concerning the Acquisition of Tracy Hills First K-8 School Site Purchase as presented
Roll call vote was as follows:

Ayes – 5	Nays – 0	Absent – 0	Abstain – 0
Carlson, Jackman, Raya, Wells, Wingo			

7.7 Williams Act Quarterly Reporting – there were no complaints during this reporting period.

VIII. BOARD DISCUSSION AND REPORTS

8.1 Policy Revision, BP 3555, Nutrition Program Compliance, Second Reading Consider for Adoption- Dr. Bridges recommended Option 1. Mr. Wells didn't have the time to address the board policies and will be abstaining from voting on the next items.
MSA (Carlson/Jackman) approve Option 1 of Revised BP 3555, Nutrition Program Compliance as presented
Roll call vote was as follows:

Ayes – 4	Nays – 0	Absent – 0	Abstain – 1
Carlson, Jackman, Raya, Wingo			Wells

8.2 Policy Revision, BP/AR 6142.7, Physical Education and Activity, Consider for Adoption
MSA (Carlson/Raya) approve revised BP/AR 6142.7, Physical Education and Activity, as presented
Roll call vote was as follows:

Ayes – 4	Nays – 0	Absent – 0	Abstain – 1
Carlson, Jackman, Raya, Wingo			Wells

8.3 Policy Revisions, BP/AR 6159, Individualized Education Program, Consider for Adoption- Dr. Bridges noted that the next 3 items are similar if the Board would like to make one motion for items 8.3, 8.4 and 8.5
MSA (Carlson/Jackman) approve the Revised BP/AR 6159, BP/AR 6159.1 and BP/AR 6159.2 as presented
Roll call vote was as follows:

Ayes – 4	Nays – 0	Absent – 0	Abstain – 1
Carlson, Jackman, Raya, Wingo			Wells

8.4 Policy Revisions, BP/AR 6159.1, Procedural Safeguards and Complaints for Special Education, Consider for Adoption – Approved with item 8.3

8.5 Policy Revisions, BP/AR 6159.2, Nonpublic, Nonsectarian School and Agency Services for Special Education, Consider for Adoption – Approved with item 8.3

8.6 CSBA Delegate Assembly Nomination – No Board action was taken as the Board of Trustees did not have any CSBA Delegate Assembly nominations

8.7 Items for Next Board Meeting – Reopening plan, first interim report, Special Board meeting scheduled for December 1, 2020 at 6:60 pm, Ellis and Tracy Hills student numbers, declining enrollment in existing campuses

ADJOURNMENT – MSA (Jackman/Carlson) 8:05 PM

Respectfully submitted,

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James W. Bridges
Secretary to the Board

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