

## **November 27, 2017**

The Jasper City Board of Education met on November 27, 2017 at 5:00 p.m. in the lower level of the Maddox Intermediate School Library. Members present were Chairperson Willie Moore, Walker Wilson, Scott Thornley, Mary Beth Barber, and Teresa Sherer.

Chairperson Willie Moore called the meeting to order with the first item to be approved being the agenda. Superintendent Dr. Ann Jackson made two amendments to the agenda. Item # 7 on the personnel report was added and Transfer of West Jasper property to Jasper Family Resource Center was added to the agenda. A motion to approve the amended agenda was made by Scott Thornley, with a second by Mary Beth Barber. The agenda was unanimously approved.

A motion to approve the minutes of the October 23, 2017 board meeting was given by Mary Beth Barber and a second by Scott Thornley. The motion was unanimously approved.

The November 27, 2017 personnel report was unanimously approved on a motion by Scott Thornley and a second by Mary Beth Barber.

Superintendent Jackson recognized the Jasper City Schools Teachers of the Year. These teachers were recommended by a committee formed at each school level and they are as follows:

- Kayla Goetz - Jasper High School
- Stewart Ochs - Jasper Jr. High School
- Cammie Channell - Memorial Park Elementary School
- Kaatje Harrison - Maddox Intermediate School
- Amy O'Rear - T.R. Simmons Elementary School

The secondary teacher of the year was awarded to Kayla Goetz - Jasper High School, and the elementary teacher of the year was awarded to Amy O'Rear - T.R. Simmons Elementary School.

The Jasper City district level teachers will advance to the District 7 level, where the winner at that level will compete with other districts in the state to be recognized as Alabama Teacher of the Year.

Dr. Jackson recognized the 2017 JHS Volleyball Team on their outstanding season with a 57-5 record as 6A Area 11 Champions, 6A North Super regional Champions, 6A State Runners Up. Each player was awarded a certificate. Three players were awarded an additional certificate for 6A Area 11 All-Area Team Selection. Two players were awarded an additional certificate for 6A Area 11 All-Area Team Selection + 6A AHSAA All-State Tournament Team Selection. All coaches received a framed certificate and Head Coach Bobby Daniels received a team plaque.

Superintendent Dr. Jackson welcomed Mr. Dustin Beaty, a cross country parent and member of Jasper's running community, to share with the Board information gathered during a study of areas of land belonging to the school system in efforts to provide an estimate of costs with a plan to develop a trail that could be used for JHS cross country training and events. Mr. Beaty shared

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proposed drawings with the Board of two potential tracks that could be developed on the Jasper High School campus.

The first proposed track is a 1.53 mile loop (approximately half of a typical 3.1 mile cross country course) with an estimated cost of \$30,000 to be finished nicely including benches along the course, mileage signs, possible lighting, and optional ground coverage. The second proposed track is a full 3.1 mile course. Ideally, he would like the 1.53 mile loop completed before the practice season begins at the end of this 2017-18 school year which would be adequate and also provide an opportunity to extend the course behind the school to create a full 3.1 mile course in the future.

Mr. Beaty expressed the reasons for such a need being: safety concerns of students running on the pavement for the majority of their practices, always traveling to other schools for competitions, cross country being the second largest revenue producing sport in the state of Alabama - outside of football, and therefore the benefits to our school system as well as the Jasper community that would accompany hosting meets at our own Jasper High School.

Superintendent Dr. Ann Jackson called upon Chief School Financial Officer, Monique Rector, to report on the finances for the months of September 2017 and October 2017.

- In September 2017: The General Fund had an ending balance of \$7,688,300.60, a balance in the Capital Projects Fund of \$4,341,796.62, and the Special Revenue Fund had a balance of \$1,371,550.38. All school bank accounts balanced without issues. A check register report was also given outlining checks paid from September 1, 2017 to September 30, 2017.
- In October 2017: The General Fund had an ending balance of \$7,589,736.61, a balance in the Capital Projects Fund of \$3,781,234.14, and the Special Revenue Fund had a balance of \$1,540,945.24. All school bank accounts balanced without issues. A check register report was also given outlining checks paid from October 1, 2017 to October 31, 2017.

A motion to approve the financial reports and bank reconciliations for the months of September 2017 and October 2017 was given by Scott Thornley with a second given by Mary Beth Barber. The motion was unanimously approved.

Dr. Jackson recommended adoption of a motion to approve requests for disposal of surplus items. A motion made by Teresa Sherer, a second by Scott Thornley, carried by all to approve.

The last item on the agenda, Transfer of West Jasper Property to Jasper Family Resource Center, was introduced by Superintendent Dr. Ann Jackson. Board member, Scott Thornley, advised he has to recuse himself from deliberation and voting due to Jasper Family Resource Center using his firm for advice. Board discussions were conducted at length including input and advice from board representing attorney, Eddie Jackson, as follows:

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- It is clear that Jasper City Schools does not own the property
- The City of Jasper has the deed and wants to join in our efforts
- A Quitclaim Deed would be given- meaning you give what you got with no warranty

Reference was made to October 16, 2017 work session regarding a request by the Jasper Family Resource Center to acquire the West Jasper School property from the Jasper City School Board. The Jasper City School Board carefully considered several Attorneys General's opinions regarding its ability to give away school property and what must be received in return before doing so. School property cannot be transferred away for no value. However, a determination of what value the school is to receive for the property it transfers away is within the sound discretion of the Board which will not be upset absent abuse of that discretion. The West Jasper School is in a state of deterioration and is no longer being used and is a very expensive piece of property to maintain by the Board if it is empty. There are approximately 5 to 6 acres of real estate at the school and the school building. The building is being carried on the school's books at between \$5 and \$6 million for insurance replacement purposes. The actual value of the property, including the building, is believed to be significantly less because of its single purpose use and the fact that it would have zoning and building problems where it is located if it were to be anything but a school. The Board believes that the school is a liability and its real value or fair market value does not remotely approximate the value as it is shown on the books of the school and further knows that to try to keep that school will create a dangerous situation for the community in that it will be a potential haven for abuse by the citizens, gangs and drug activity. The Family Resource Center, who proposes to take the building over and use it, will bring a completely different attitude to the area. It will provide numerous services that benefit, not only adults, but children by way of educational opportunities, feeding and generally supporting a healthy educational and environmental lifestyle. We asked the Family Resource Center to quantify that work in terms of dollars. They presented a report that indicated that if you valued the benefit of their service on a per person served per day analysis, it would be well over \$2 to \$3 million a year. Keeping in mind that a lot of that goes directly to the benefit of the community; educational, environmental and emotional. Many of the services would be beneficial to the youth through educational outreach and through feeding. The Board felt that it was easy to see that the benefit to allow the Jasper Family Resource Center to obtain this property in return for operating what they claim they will operate there would be of a far greater benefit, not only to the Board of Education, but to the community generally, than to leave it like it is or try to just hold on to it. The Board did not believe that there was a realistic opportunity to sell that property to anybody who would provide the type of services that the Jasper Family Resource Center could. The Board believed it to be a win-win situation and that the value of the services provided over the long term would far exceed the value of the building even if you valued it at the book value for insurance purposes. For example, if you sold it to a developer, a developer would probably have to tear it down. There are only about 5 acres there and if you got the outside premium price of \$50,000.00 an acre for the property, you would only get \$250,000.00, far below what the Jasper Family Resource Center believes it will contribute to our community by keeping that building.

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After a full and thorough discussion, it was determined that the Board had the discretion to make a determination that the benefit to the community and the Board to transfer the West Jasper property to the Jasper Family Resource Center met all of the criteria of the Attorneys General opinions regarding transfer of property without cash exchange or for nominal or no value because the real value is in making the property into a more useful piece of property that had a much better impact on the community than anything the Board could think of for that place.

After full and thorough discussion it was unanimously agreed to transfer the property to the Jasper Family Resource Center after doing the appropriate title search. The Board believes that part of the title may lie with the City of Jasper and have suggested that they give us a Quitclaim Deed to their property and then we would give a Quitclaim Deed to the Jasper Family Resource Center. There would be a caveat in the deed that required the Jasper Family Resource Center to operate it as a not for profit service that benefitted the community as they have intended to do and their failing to do this would cause a reversion back to the school board of the property.

The following two-part motion was made by Mary Beth Barber and a second by Teresa Sherer:

- (1) Transfer West Jasper Property to Jasper Family Resource Center upon their demand after clear and full consideration of all benefits achieved by transferring property to JFRC.
- (2) Authorize Superintendent Dr. Ann Jackson to sign documents to transfer property when Jasper Family Resource Center is ready to receive and upon the fulfilling of proposed duties by the City of Jasper.

Board member Scott Thornley abstained. Motion carried by all remaining.

With no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned.