



Name: Jennifer Krouse, County Commissioner

Department or Organization: **Jefferson County Commission**

Estimation of amount of time needed for appointment:

Date Requested – 1st Choice: **January 19th**

If a specific date is needed, please provide reason for specific date:

Date Requested – 2nd Choice:

Subject (*Wording to be placed on agenda*): **Unfinished Business**

Review of draft letter of no confidence to the Board of Education

Please provide the County Commission with a description of your request or presentation, including any background information:

Is this a funding request? Y/N **NO**

If so, how much? \$

Provide exact financial impact/request:

Recommended motion (*Please type out the wording of the motion that you would like the Commission to approve*):

Attach supporting documents for request, or request may be denied.

If not attached, explain:

Is equipment needed? Projector **Y/N** Internet/Wi Fi **Y/N** Telephone for conference call **Y/N**

Contact information:

Email address:

Phone Number:

FOR COMMISSION STAFF USE ONLY – FINANCIAL IMPACT/RECOMMENDATION

not applicable



JEFFERSON COUNTY COMMISSION

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January 20, 2023

PRESIDENT
Steve Stolipher

VICE PRESIDENT
Clare Ath

COMMISSIONER
Tricia Jackson

COMMISSIONER
Jennifer Krouse

COMMISSIONER
Jane Tabb

Mr. L. Paul Hardesty
President - West Virginia State Board of Education
1900 Kanawha Boulevard East,
Building 6, Room 351
Charleston, West Virginia 25305-0330

RE: Concerning Actions of the Jefferson County Board of Education

Dear Mr. Hardesty,

The Jefferson County Commission (JCC/Commission) is writing to express our concerns regarding recent actions taken by The Jefferson County Board of Education (JCBOE).

At their November 28, 2002 meeting, the JCBOE proposed changing the Jefferson County Public Schools (JCPS) semester exam policy to reduce exam weight from 14% to 10%. At its next meeting, the JCBOE voted 3-2 to reduce exam weight to 3%. Not only was this a substantial departure from the originally-proposed reduction, but it also rendered semester exams practically meaningless. The JCBOE enacted this change despite faculty opposition to the originally-proposed more minor reduction in violation of BOE bylaw 1.12.

On December 14, the Jefferson High School Faculty Senate sent a letter to The JCC, expressing their concerns about this policy change and informing the Commission that they had approved a vote of no confidence in three BOE members (Skinner, Ogden, and Osbourn). On December 21, the Washington High School Faculty Senate sent a similar letter to the Commission.

We write you today to express our deep concern regarding the actions of the JCBOE. The JCBOE took these actions at the last minute, in violation of JCBOE bylaws, and against the advice of professional educators and the educational interests of JCPS students. More troubling, two JCBOE members voting for the policy change may stand to benefit financially from the decision by increasing their likelihood of qualifying for Promise Scholarship Funds. Finally, the Commission has learned that JCBOE members may have harassed, intimidated, and/or pressured Faculty Senate members opposing the JCBOE decision.

In light of this, The JCC feels the JCBOE has failed to act in the best interest of the students, parents, and teachers of Jefferson County. As such, we request that the State Board of Education investigate the JCBOE's decision to change the semester exam policy. Specifically, we ask that you determine if 1) the JCBOE made the policy change in violation of JCBOE bylaws; 2) the policy change was motivated in part by personal factors of JCBOE members; 3) the policy change was in the best educational interests of the

County Administrator
John Nissel

Deputy County Administrator
Cindy Rezmer

students and parents of Jefferson County; and 4) JCBOE members harassed, intimidated, and/or pressured any JCPS employees regarding their opposition to the policy change.

Thank you, in advance, for your attention to this matter.

Very truly yours,

Steve Stolipher
President, Jefferson County Commission

CC: Clare Ath – Vice President, Jefferson County Commission
Jane Tabb – Jefferson County Commissioner
Tricia Jackson – Jefferson County Commissioner
Jennifer Krouse – Jefferson County Commissioner
Kathy Skinner – President, Jefferson County Board of Education
Michael W. Janney – President, Jefferson High Faculty Senate
Susan Hoover – President, Washington High Faculty Senate
David L. Roach – WV State Superintendent of Schools
Senator Grady – Chair, WV Senate Education Committee
Delegate Ellington – Chair, WV House Education Committee