



Press Release

Contact: Diana Wilson
Chief Communications Officer
diana.wilson@jeffco.k12.co.us
303-982-6808

Board of Education Ends School Year with 2018-19 Budget Approval and November Bond/Mill Discussion

GOLDEN, Colo. (June 13, 2018) – The Jeffco Public Schools Board of Education held their last regular meeting of the school year on June 7 and final study session on June 11. The Board meetings reconvene August 23.

The Board of Education approved the 2018-19 budget at the regular meeting on June 7. The fiscal year begins July 1. The budget process starts in December, with public input, staff proposals, and committee recommendations are taken into account by the Board while waiting for final funding levels to be determined by the state legislature in May.

The 2018-19 budget includes a 3% cost of living adjustment (COLA) for all employees. Jeffco Public Schools has only been able to provide employees a COLA twice since 2009; this 3% adjustment is the highest COLA in the last ten years.

The Board also approved compensation agreements with both employee associations, the Jefferson County Educators Association (JCEA) and the Jefferson Education Support Professionals Association (JESPA). The agreements include pay increases in-line with established compensation schedules. Jeffco Public Schools has provided various increases (annual step increases, performance increases) in the past years, but continues to make slow progress in increasing compensation deficits from frozen-salary or salary-reduction periods in the past eight years.

"We were thankful our state legislature chose to reduce the Negative Factor [Budget Stabilization] that affects Colorado K-12 public education funding," said Board President Ron Mitchell. "Instead of \$75 million of state underfunding, we were only shorted \$61 million. This enabled us to provide fair compensation to our employees as well as fund a few new endeavors that benefit our students. I am pleased we can make this happen, even though we have \$2,500 less per student than the national average."

Other additions in the 2018-19 budget include more funding to schools, a portion of which addresses equity issues; more support for schools, like mental health and security; and a capital transfer increase to support infrastructure upgrades. The full budget can be viewed online at www.jeffcopublicschools.org/finance/.

The last item on the June 11 study session agenda was *Community Climate Survey and Future Funding Planning*. Superintendent Dr. Jason Glass reported two recent surveys



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show the majority of the community believes Jeffco Public Schools is headed in the right direction and more funding is needed. Possible revenue sources such as bonds, a mill levy override, and the pending state ballot issue (Initiative 93) were discussed. The Board of Education directed staff to prepare funding options for the Board to review in August. The Board will decide in August whether to ask Jefferson County voters for school funding in November.

“Though we received more state funding this year, it’s sobering to think this is the best it will ever be financially for our schools unless something changes,” said Dr. Glass. “The economy is good, yet the state is unable to fund schools at the prescribed level. If the economy continues to improve, we will face TABOR refunds instead of recovering school funding. If we don’t seek new funding options now, our students will not have the resources they deserve.”

For more information on Jeffco Public Schools future funding, go to www.jeffcopublicschools.org/futurefunding.

About Jeffco Public Schools

Jeffco Public Schools has been providing educational excellence for more than 65 years. Approximately nine percent of all the K-12 students in Colorado attend a Jeffco school. Our mission is to provide a quality education that prepares all children for a successful future. The district serves over 86,000 students at 157 schools on 168 campuses. Find [Jeffco Public Schools](#) on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), and [YouTube](#).

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