



# JICHHS Leadership Team

1000 Fort Johnson Road  
Charleston, SC 29412

10 August 2020

Greetings JICHHS Board of Directors,

As you begin to deliberate the very unorthodox start to our school year for 2020-21, the JICHHS Leadership Team would like to offer our support. As teachers, coaches, counselors, and administrators, we clearly have a vested interest in the very important work of providing our students and families with the absolute best in innovative, relevant, public education.

To this end, the JICHHS Leadership Team met on Thursday, July 23, 2020, to continue our planning for the safest and most reliable instruction for students when they return. As a team, we established and communicated recommendations (along with the included rationales and clarifications) to you, the JICHHS Board of Directors, to consider in your decision-making:

1. Motion (Thorn): Recommend to JICHHS Board of Directors for a Sept 8 start date for students. (Motion approved).
  - a. CCSD approved a Sept 8 student start date at a first reading at the July 20 Board meeting; the second and final reading is at the CCSD board meeting on Mon, July 27.
  - b. The specifics are still to be determined after the final approval: Aug 11 start date for teachers, what the calendar looks like in terms of scheduled breaks and end date in June
  - c. JICHHS needs to be in sync with CCSD for siblings, transportation, and PowerSchool.
  - d. Start date would apply to all students enrolled at JICHHS
  - e. Dual Enrollment courses through TTC will start the week of August 24th.
2. Motion (Thorn): Recommend to Board of Directors for a temporary remote start for the first month of school (Sept 8 - Oct 8). (Motion approved).
  - a. Terminology is important. The JICHHS **Virtual Academy** meets virtually and only virtually for at least a semester, up to a year. Remote start is a temporary arrangement and may transition to a hybrid or full model as conditions permit for those students not enrolled in the Virtual Academy.
  - b. State School Superintendent Spearman has stated that students must meet with their classes face to face at least once a week. This mandate may be met in a variety of ways and may change.
  - c. There are educational concerns about a remote start in terms of implementing high expectations for attendance, participation, and technology requirements (these were not necessarily met in some spring classes). Admin and the BoD will be looking at all face-to-face options in terms of CCSD, SCDE, and safety guidelines and mandates.

- d. District will be looking at DHEC and MUSC guidelines on a monthly basis; **the JICHHS leadership team recommends that DHEC and MUSC guidelines be used to guide the decision making process.**
- e. Survey results of JICHHS faculty and staff confirm a strong preference for a safe, tiered start based on DHEC metrics (for details, contact Barbee).

When the Board subsequently convened for an emergency meeting to approve a restart plan on Wednesday, July 29, 2020, we had hoped that our recommendations would be discussed in open session and voted on. Ultimately, after a variety of discussions in open and executive sessions, the Board moved and approved to adopt CCSD's restart plan. Then, wisely, as a body, you agreed to reconvene on Monday, August 17, 2020, to finalize a decision that would best reflect more accurate and current data.

The JICHHS Leadership Team recognizes the unique circumstances of that July 29 meeting as well as the technology glitches that plagued the process that day. And we appreciate this opportunity to revisit and finalize these decisions on August 17. To that end, as a body, we would like the Board to consider the following:

1. We ask that in making a final decision on a restart plan, the needs of the employees and students of JICHHS be considered as recommended by their representatives, the JICHHS Leadership Team. These recommendations are presented after thoughtful deliberation and in reflection of considerable feedback from our faculty and staff as well as other stakeholders. Our preference for a safe and remote start, if the health metrics so indicate, reflects our concern for the health of our students and their families as much as the health of the JICHHS staff.
2. We ask that -- especially in these times of virtual meetings and the always-present reality of technology glitches -- the Board remains focused on conducting this meeting (and all meetings) in accordance with the JICHHS Charter Document. These protocols include
  - a. Adhering to the stated agenda as approved by the Board at the start of each meeting;
  - b. Facilitating public comments in a manner consistent with legal and traditional precedent;
  - c. Conducting all discussion of this issue in open session as opposed to executive session as our charter document dictates (in accordance with Robert's Rules), *"Generally speaking, and subject to the provisions of the FOIA, the Board and Committees may conduct in executive session meetings or portions of meetings devoted **solely** to matters involving (a) discussions of employment, appointment, termination of employment, terms and conditions of employment, evaluation of performance, promotion or discipline of any specific prospective, current, or former employee; (b) discussions of employment labor relations or arbitration; (c) discussions of the purchase or lease of real property; (d) consultation with the Corporation's attorney or other professional advisors regarding litigation or potential litigation; (e) discussions of confidential information regarding current, prospective or former students; and (f) discussion of the Corporation's business which, if conducted, would violate a lawful privilege or lead to the disclosure of information or confidentiality*

*protected by law. The motion to go into executive session must state the topics to be discussed and no voting or collusion is to take place during executive session.”* (page 23 of the JICHHS Charter Document, linked [here](#)). Along this vein, we ask that this issue be voted on prior to moving into executive session to avoid any confusion on behalf of the community.

- d. Using a roll-call procedure when voting on all matters, especially pressing or potentially controversial matters, so the community may have a more transparent and accurate view of the decision-making of Board members.

The JICHHS Leadership Team recognizes and values the public service of each member of this Board. We, along with all JICHHS employees, are aware of the privilege of having our own governing body and have always appreciated the close working relationship and the true advantages of being governed by a group of individuals who have a stake in the outcomes and well-being of our students. We thank you for your service and for your time.

Respectfully,

The JICHHS Leadership Team,

Sheli Ballard, chair

Lindsay Howard, vice chair

Amy Ball, secretary

Lisa Ahrens

Sarah Bainbridge

Kimberly Cohn

Lori Cowart

Andrew Drake

Deborah Farrell

Brian Garvin

Elizabeth Gunther

Carrie Holland

Jeremy Holland

Tracy Lyles

Dana Miley

Andrea Quinn

Scott Remington

Donnia Richardson

Jennifer Smillie

Archie Temoney

Timothy Thorn

Erin Vaden

Jennifer Wakefield