

Superintendent's Report

March 11, 2013

Chair Diane Porter, members of the Board; it is my pleasure to call your attention to a few items of special interest.

On February 27, 2013, KDE Associate Commissioner Susan Allred and Education Recovery Director Dr. Deborah Powers delivered Leadership Assessment Reports for the seven of our priority schools that are in their second year of that status. The Leadership Assessment visits took place in January --- only a year and a half into being in that status.

Each principal was told that they are the "right person" for the job of leading the turnaround. Those "right" people are:

- Katy Zeitz, Waggener High School
- Michelle Dillard, Seneca High School
- Faith Stroud, Knight Middle School
- Bryce Hibbard, Southern High School
- Ken Moeller, Doss High School
- Bradley Weston, Fairdale High School
- Chris Perkins, Iroquois High School

I wrote to those principals afterwards:

Let me begin by saying how proud I was to sit beside you yesterday. KDE's public affirmation of your leadership capacity is to be celebrated. You are a reflection of your staff. I know that you as the leader were in the conference, but your entire staff and community was with you in spirit.

You have accomplished so much in such a short time. I felt your sense of urgency, your passion, and your commitment to our students. It has been said that "Feedback is the breakfast of champions." You clearly welcomed the feedback.

Each of you has taken on an important challenge -- important to the District, to the Commonwealth, and most importantly to our students! You could have chosen to pursue a principalship in a school with less challenges, but you "stepped up" when the District needed you to, and I know that you "step up" 24/7. Thank you to the Magnificent 7! Congratulations!

Please join me in congratulating those schools for receiving that affirmation.

An important part of the strategic plan is providing students with extended learning time and enrichment activities.

In keeping with that goal, the Board approved this year's calendar to include a week at the end of February for make-up days or for intervention. February 25 was used as a make-up day. Friday, March 1, was a Silver Extended Professional Development Day and was used for parent-teacher conferences. There were 7,486 conferences held on March 1.

Attendance for Monday February 25th was (Slide #8).

Thirty-four schools provided 2,965 students with 365 hours of targeted intervention. We asked the students about using that time.

"My goal is to pay attention and not goof off like I do normally. It's crunch time. It's time to focus on my future." - Brian Smith, Valley High School junior attending ACT Boot Camp.

"It's a lot better than regular days. I want to learn, and this is people that want to learn and do better." - Hope Bates, Frost Middle School eighth grader.

"I didn't want to come at first, but it's better than I thought because we get more attention, and the teacher can help us." - Kamryn Gray, Cane Run Elementary fourth grader.

Week of Intervention (2/26/13 thru 3/1/13):

Program	Hours	Sessions
SuccessMaker	249	1,134
Study Island	455	5,857
Total	704	6,991

On Saturday, two events evidenced the district's commitment to extended learning and enrichment activities:

First was the Robo Rumble held at Westport Middle. Robo Rumble is a regional robotics competition for students elementary through high school. This is the third year JCPS has sponsored the event. It has grown from 14 teams and one event the first year to 75 teams and three events this year. 17 JCPS schools participated.

Slide 14 – Academy @ Shawnee Students

Slide 15- Amazia Thompson, Academy @ Shawnee

Slide 17 – David Tran (on the left) and Tony Tran (on the right), Iroquois High School – they won First Place in the Robotics Challenge Xtreme.

Slide 18 – Thuan Nguyen (last name pronounced When), Iroquois High School – won the Robotics Use competition; he designed the robot that diffused the bomb remotely.

The second event was the 18th Annual Awards Banquet for the Wilson Wyatt Debate League. Former Louisville mayor and KY Lieutenant Governor Wilson W. Wyatt had been a debater and attributed much of his later success to his debate experience and wanted every student in JCPS to have a similar opportunity. The endowment he established funds the Wyatt Debate League to support the development of student debaters and debate coaches.

- Atherton
- Ballard
- Brown
- Butler
- Fern Creek
- Jeffersontown
- Manual
- and, of course, Waggener

8 out of 13 debate camp scholarships to attend debate camps at universities this summer went to JCPS students — 3 from Waggener, 3 from Manual, 2 from Jeffersonton.

Today, more than 650 students from across the district participated in the 17th Annual Men of Quality Lifestyle Choices Forum. The program focuses on boosting academic achievement and providing positive role models for middle and high school students.

At this time, I recommend the consent calendar for your consideration.