

Superintendent's Report

May 28, 2013

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

I would like to take this opportunity to commend the members of the Superintendent's Student Advisory Council. Students are the center of our universe. Student voice matters. I appreciate their insights, their candor, and their sincere desire to participate in the improvement of the Jefferson County Public Schools. Congratulations to the members of the Class of 2013 — Brittany Dean, Brown School; Keith Baker, Butler Traditional High School; Micah Sweet, Fern Creek Traditional High School; Dantrell Bell, Southern High School; Destiny Purri, Waggener High School; and Jamesha Ricketts, Western High School. Student voice is a component of the Kentucky PGES (Professional Growth and Effectiveness System).

On March 11, 2013, the Board received a report on the Advance Program. I would like to introduce to you the Coordinator of the Advance Program, LaTonya Frazier. One of the five components of the Kentucky Accountability System is growth — that means that our focus is on the academic growth of every student. We are as focused on assisting students who already have learned what is expected and challenging them as we are on assisting students who have not yet learned what is expected.

On the agenda tonight is the approval of the Tentative Budget for 2013-2014. Focus Area 4 of the Strategic Plan is Safe, Resourced, Supported and Equipped Schools. Strategy 4.5 is focused on aligning dollars to curricular goals and strategic priorities and ensuring that those resources directly impact students. A teacher who recently wrote to me says it best, "Thanks for recognizing the value of extra hands, minds, and ideas in the schools that promote student achievement."

On September 10, 2012, the Board of Education developed three performance objectives for me to focus on during the 2012-13 school year. I look forward to presenting to you in the Discussion section of the agenda a portfolio of evidences for your review.

The first work session I was involved with the Board of Education centered around Nancy Walser's book, The Essential School Board Book - Better Governance in the Age of Accountability. The book centers around two essential questions: Can school boards operate in ways that can help raise student achievement in their district? What are the commonalities among high-functioning boards? I commend this Board for its persistent focus on continuous improvement as a Superintendent/Board Team and modeling benchmarking themselves against high-performing boards.

On Thursday night, we will be celebrating — recognizing teachers and principals and teacher teams who have embodied excellence this year.

We will also be celebrating and congratulating members of the Class of 2013 and congratulating our retirees and thanking them for their service.

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