

Superintendent's Report

July 8, 2013

Chair Diane Porter, members of the Board; it is my pleasure to call your attention to a few items of special interest. Goal 4 in the district's *Strategic Plan—Vision 2015*—calls for schools that are staffed and resourced and equipped to student needs. This year, as part of the Ford Fund Initiative, 45 teachers are receiving additional training through participation in the Ford Fund Teacher externships. The externships were held throughout the month of June and were sponsored by local businesses throughout the community. This training provided our teachers with relevant real world experience that will be incorporated into the classroom when school resumes in the fall.

The team of teachers from Pleasure Ridge Park High School's (PRP) participation in a "mini-hackathon" was highlighted in recent media reports. The reports went on to tell how the program is extending the boundaries of the classroom and allows teachers to provide instruction that is relevant. The work of Ford Fund partnership is being led by the Jefferson County Public Education Foundation which plans to expand the teacher externships into the district's other 5-Star Schools.

Providing students with increased learning opportunities is Goal 1 within the district's strategic plan and is essential to ensuring all students graduate prepared. The department of Diversity, Equity and Poverty is helping to provide over 100 JCPS students with increased learning opportunities through the Summer Reading Institute. The Summer Reading Institute is taking place in a variety of homeless shelters across the city and is focused on preventing the loss of academic gains that typically occur during the summer months.

Using learning strategies from the Common Core Standards, teachers are providing instruction in concepts, such as figurative language, grammar, comprehension, and creative expression. Plans are underway to expand the summer literacy program into every shelter that has a JCPS program by next summer.

Finally, our Jefferson County Board of Education was recently recognized by the Council of Urban Boards of Education (CUBE) as being one of the most progressive districts in the country in addressing disproportionality, cultural competence, and inclusion for staff and students. Kudos to the Board on this well-deserved recognition.

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