

Superintendent's Report

March 10, 2014

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

The theme for tonight is definitely how we use data and feedback to inform and to fuel continuous improvement.

I want to thank the SBDM Councils who described how data informs their decision making at the school level to focus on student achievement.

The GE Foundation Review provided us with feedback that affirmed our commitment to the progress made in implementing the Common Core Standards and made recommendations about how to build capacity as we “stay the course”.

The Equity Scorecard update demonstrated that lots can be done in 100 days.

We are being very intentional.

David Johns presented at the Louisville Urban League's 2014 Education Summit. He said three quotes:

“...we need to help students imagine a space that they do not occupy now...”

“...you are obligated to live your life in service to other people...”

“...teaching isn't rocket science...it is harder than rocket science...”

He gets Louisville. Let me give examples of strategy in action:

- Mentors with the “100 Black Men’ attended a recent University of Louisville basketball game.
- The Annual Men of Quality (from Omega Psi Phi) Lifestyle Choices Forum was held today at the University of Louisville. Students from 26 schools attended the forum, which targets African-American males in sixth through twelfth grades. Presenters will use this year's theme of Now is the Time to teach young men that the choices they make each day will greatly affect their lives and the person they will become.

Before the video

Now, the moment many of you have been waiting for — the announcement of our School of Innovation Design Competition Finalists.

First, I want to thank and congratulate the 12 semifinalist teams for your truly innovative concepts, excellent presentations Friday, and dedication to our students and our community. Your ideas stood out in a very competitive field of 48 applications from teachers, education administrators, business leaders, community organizations, and more. Please stand and let us recognize you.

Though we will narrow the field to finalists tonight, know that teams have brought forth ideas that could impact JCPS schools and students for years to come.

I also want to thank the team of district employees who have been the driving force behind this competition, in particular Student Assignment Director Jonathan Lowe. Their “whatever-it-takes” attitudes have gotten us to this point. And, of course, the members of the Design Review Panel and Finalists Selection Committee , thank you all for your hard work and commitment.

Without further ado, I will direct your attention to a video to describe how we got to this point in our competition and to announce the finalists.

After the video

Congratulations to The Catalpa School, The Louisville Reach Academy, the Metro Museum Magnet School, and the Next-Generation Community School. These finalists will now have several months to work with JCPS specialists and external experts to translate their concept into action plans. The district will provide the resources to ensure that the final proposals come complete with a baseline budget, operational structure, curriculum alignment, and other components, before the board sees them again in June.

I also want to remind everyone that you can read descriptions of and full proposals from all 12 semifinalists on our School of Innovation web page. You can also provide feedback with the survey found there. Answers to this survey may guide final revisions of the finalists’ proposals and help identify good ideas from the remaining proposals. That survey will be open until March 28. Please stay involved.

Chairwoman Porter, at this time, I recommend the consent calendar for the Board’s consideration.