

## Superintendent's Report

May 27, 2014

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

I want to commend the Seneca High School students for their reenactment of *Brown v. Board of Education* and commend our Board.

As Thomas Gentzel, the executive director of the National School Board Association stated in this month's edition of the American School Board Journal, "The promise of *Brown* — the promise of an equal, accessible, world-class education for all Americans — is what you are working to fulfill — as school board members, active members of your state school boards association, and supporters of NSBA and its national campaign. Together, we are not simply honoring *Brown*: We are carrying its promise into the 21<sup>st</sup> century."

As our own John Marshall was quoted, "A lot has changed since *Brown*," Marshall says. "But we've not gotten all the way there, and things aren't as good as they should be. But what we have in Jefferson County is a clear movement forward."

The Code of Conduct sets the behavioral expectations for our students, and the expectations for our staff regarding appropriate consequences. An important proposed change this year is creating structures in Restorative Practices so our students can learn and not repeat the same behavior.

That is an important part of 4.4 — Providing a comprehensive system of student supports — and will lead to more time in school and increased student achievement.

An important strategy in Focus Area 3 — Stakeholder Involvement and Engagement is Strategy 3.8 Celebrate Learning — the successes of our students as well as the contributions of administrators, parents, and community stakeholders.

Thursday night at the KFC Yum! Center, Hilliard Lyons sponsored the Teacher Excellence Awards. 28 awards were given out with a total of 48 individuals receiving recognition for their outstanding contributions to students in 2013-14.

Mr. Jim Allen, the CEO of Hilliard Lyons, and the leader of the Jefferson County Education Foundation, is to be commended for his vision for this event. One teacher said to Mr. Allen as she was having her picture taken — 'I will remember this night forever. Thank you.'

The keynote speaker was Valley High alum Marshall Goldsmith, recognized nationally as an executive coach.

On Friday morning, Marshall Goldsmith and his colleagues provided a training for community leaders with the proceeds going to the Jefferson County Education Foundation to keep the Ford Next Generation Learning Community work advancing.

The Superintendent/Cabinet team attended and learned from national experts.

Our 4th Focus Area — Safe, Resourced, Supported and Equipped Schools and, in particular, Strategy 4.5 speaks to aligning district and building level resources to curricular goals, strategic priorities, and to the financial responsibility for the return on investment. The budget has no value without its connection to those strategic priorities and impact on student achievement. A budget is an investment in student achievement.

I would like to remind you of some key things that preceded this 2014-15 budget.

*SEE VISUAL*

CFO Cordelia Hardin and Dr. Dewey Hensley will walk you through the budget items in the 2014-15 budget. The Cabinet and I are confident as a team that these are the next steps that will move our District and our students forward.

We have already begun working through the recommendations in the State Auditor's review to bring to the Board a draft action plan for moving forward. We consider the set of recommendations to be an important tool for identifying funds that can be repurposed and redirected toward impacting students. Increasing spending directed toward students can only be accomplished in one of three ways: by increasing revenue, decreasing spending, and/or reallocating or repurposing funds. We are committed to accounting for every dollar and its impact.

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