

## **Superintendent's Report**

### **November 24, 2014**

Chairwoman 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 make a correction in the recommendation tonight for the Board of Education to accept funding totaling \$150,000 from **Norton Healthcare** through a grant from the James R. Petersdorf Fund to support a football concussion prevention, assessment, and treatment project. The grant funds will be used to purchase 235 (not 250) four-star football helmets.

At the November 20, 2014, Louisville Metro Council meeting at City Hall, Councilman David James presented a proclamation in honor of **Cochran Elementary School Principal Tim Foster** — a special thank you to Councilman James for recognizing Principal Foster and his staff. Chair Porter, Dean Larson, and I were honored to be there.

The **15th District PTA Clothing Assistance Program** held a winter clothing drive. There were 5,317 articles of clothing donated from JCPS employees. In order for children to learn, they must have their basic needs met. One of the most basic needs is clothing. I would like to thank the schools and employees for their generosity.

The 15th District PTA is in need of volunteers to help fill orders on site and hang clothes. We believe we will help about 5-6,000 families through the beginning of the year. Families may contact the school's family resource coordinator to make an appointment.

Data is important. **Reducing suspensions** is a leading indicator to increased achievement. The number of suspensions is down in elementary and high schools and suspensions are up in middle schools. To date, 57 schools have a fewer number of suspensions this year than through the same time last year. This data is available to principals and we are working to link it to the strategic plan dashboard. We have interventions in place — school response teams,

Positive Action Centers, and Positive Behavior Intervention Support. We will, of course, be monitoring this trend weekly.

The number of **third graders NOT reading** at the Proficient or better level on our 2014 K-PREP was **3,981**. That means that **53.3 percent** of our third graders were below the proficient level as readers. We have interventions in place — Professional Learning Communities (PLCs); improved teacher quality; “name and claim each student” — students are placed in an intervention that supports their reading; creating more effective learning environments.

As I promised, some state audit progress updates:

I appreciate the approval of a **salary review** at the last Board meeting.

As a reminder, we have requested an **RFP for internal audit** that maintains independence and reports regularly to the Board and that works from an audit plan. A contract will be brought for Board approval at the December 15 Board meeting.

On tonight’s agenda is a request for approval to name an athletic field at Noe Middle School after Mr. Sam Moore. Principal Jan McDowell is here tonight, as Mr. Moore is unable to attend due to poor health.

I would like to wish a safe and happy Thanksgiving holiday to all.

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