

Superintendent's Report

May 11, 2015

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

As we finish the 2014-15 school year, our focus turns to 2015-16 and Beyond 2015. We are starting the process of setting direction for our next chapter of improvement. There are community conversations being facilitated by an expert from the Center for Nonprofit Excellence.

The Board will be meeting this weekend for a planning session and Mr. Cortas will be getting the Board's preliminary thinking and direction.

This is an inclusive process — intended to engage the Board along with the staff and community. Every voice matters! The goal is a Board approval of a plan on the end of September.

Our work began with a Curriculum Management Audit (CMA) aligning our work around a strategy bookended by an audit by the State Auditor's office — aligning resources around that strategy.

CFO Cordelia Hardin will outline how much work has been done in response to the auditor's recommendations. We will mark the one-year anniversary on May 21 with a panel discussion with the auditor.

In March 2014, Magnet Schools of America, stating that JCPS has some fantastic magnet programs, made 28 recommendations hoping that "JCPS will take this opportunity to reinvest in some of its most promising schools and provide critical support for those that are developing. They called it "pruning the roses and polishing the jewels."

At a work session, Board Members received a timeline and a process and updates on reviewing the recommendations. A conversation — no recommendation — no request for action.

As you see, the Alternative Schools Redesign implementation continues. The principal position was posted today.

Coding @The Beech is a collaboration between Jefferson County Public Schools (JCPS)' Diversity, Equity, and Poverty Department, KentuckianaWorks, and Louisville Metro Government to provide the opportunity for high school students, particularly young men of color, attending Ballard High School or residing in the Russell, Parkland, or Shawnee Zones of Hope Neighborhoods to learn *html*. coding for website and app development. This initiative is part of the JCPS commitment to the Males of Color Resolution that the district signed earlier this year.

The 15-week coding program was taught by local computer technology professionals who volunteered their time to teach the cohort at the Beech Learning Place, located in the Beecher Terrace Housing Development. Graduates of the first cohort will spend their time this summer working on developing websites and apps for local companies through a KentuckianaWorks summer jobs program.

Because of Justin Jones' participation in Coding at The Beech, he had the honor of meeting President Obama when he came to Louisville to recognize the technological innovations happening in this city.

Chair Jones, this concludes my report and my recommendation for approval of the consent agenda later in the meeting.