

**Superintendent's Report**  
**September 28, 2015**

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

A roundtable discussion was held on September 16, 2015, at Minor Daniels Academy, moderated by Eddie Martin, Special Assistant, Center for Faith-Based and Neighborhood Partnerships, U. S. Department of Education – My Brother's Keeper.

First Lady Jane Beshear dedicated the "Commonwealth Garden" at the JCPS State Agency Children's Program on the Bellewood Campus in Anchorage on September 23, 2015. Commonwealth Garden designees receive seeds, transplants and one year of gardening consultation from the Governor's Office of Agricultural Policy on topics such as seasonal planting, cultivation and pest management. Bellewood is one of just 15 recipients in Kentucky to receive the Commonwealth Garden designation — part of an effort to educate Kentuckians about the health and economic benefits of community gardening and utilizing locally grown foods.

The outdoor classroom portion of the project was funded by UPS Foundation, AT&T, and JCPS State Agency Children's Program.

The following Fern Creek High School alumni, along with the 1965 State Runner-Up Baseball Team, were inducted in the Fern Creek Hall of Fame on September 27, 2015, to be added to the current 132 Hall of Fame members.

- Dale Hettinger                      Class of 1958
- Don Peterson                        Class of 1965
- Donny Hudson                        Class of 1985
- Mike Thomas                         Class of 1989
- Robyn Garrett Karrer                Class of 1979
- Paula Williams Schneider            Class of 1965
- Barbara Bryant Lechner                Class of 1960
- Troy Stout                             Class of 1988

Dr. Michael Gatton said, "An orange and black thread has woven us together."

The \$1.45 billion JCPS budget prevents any budget cuts to key support services, maintains all investments in direct student instruction, and avoids a tax rate increase for Jefferson County taxpayers.

Through smart budget reviews, JCPS has managed to keep all investments related to instruction at the same level as last year. Today, more than 3 out of every 4 dollars from the JCPS general fund are spent directly in classrooms and school buildings.

This year's budget places highest priority on programs that directly impact classrooms and student learning.

Some key recurring investments this year include:

- Goal Clarity Coaches to Support Teachers: \$12.3 million
- ESL Support for International Students: \$13.4 million
- Elementary Assistant Principals: \$8.5 million
- Mental Health Counselors: \$613,000 plus \$2.2 million Student Response Team/Mental Health Initiative

This budget supports multiple programs which have proven successes and are also meeting growing student demands. Each has experienced a decrease in other funding sources, such as from the state or from grants, which JCPS is augmenting. These rescued programs include:

- Preschool (At-risk 4-year-olds and 3-year-olds with Special Needs): \$6.1 million
- Family Resource and Youth Services Centers: \$1.1 million
- Vocational/Technical Education: \$4.6 million
- Safe School Assessment Center: \$1 million

JCPS administrators have aggressively sought cost savings through:

- Reduced staffing at the central office, creating more than \$7 million in recurring savings since 2012; and
- Eliminating unneeded or ineffective programs, saving nearly \$2 million.

While JCPS has a healthy budget for 2015-16, Chief Financial Officer Cordelia Hardin warned the school board of several potential budget challenges in the coming years.

The JCPS budget office is especially mindful of possible changes in state funding for elementary and secondary education as the state legislature convenes for its biannual budget session in January. Other persistent challenges to the JCPS budget include decreasing grants, unfunded district priorities, and new state or federal mandates. Within JCPS itself, changing student needs may also shift priorities and funding.

Our core priority of improving student learning will never waver. It's our responsibility to maximize every dollar to enhance the student experience, and we work toward that goal every single day.

ESL Video

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/0BzfJZKoiE8SHbnZGZnhicHINWFE/view?usp=sharing>

GOAL CLARITY AND PLC Video

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/0BzfJZKoiE8SHSEVWRGRjYWdzaUE/view?usp=sharing>

**THE CLASSROOM IS THE CENTER OF THE JCPS UNIVERSE** — What matters most is the interaction between each student and teacher, and that every student is given the same opportunity to learn. As Jefferson County Board of Education Vice Chair Diane Porter has said, behind every data point is the heartbeat of a precious child. Thus, the essential questions for JCPS are:

- Is my child learning what is expected?
- Are more children at a school learning what is expected?
- Are more students in the district learning and able to compete globally?

As we name and claim every child, let's not lose a heartbeat any more by trying to summarize. Our work every day is about that — celebrating each child when they reach the bar of proficiency, college and career readiness, and graduation rate. Let's not lose any heartbeat. As we review the KDE data this week and other data every day, let's keep that as our focus.

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