

Superintendent's Report

February 9, 2016

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

Let me add my condolences to the family, friends, and to all in the Commonwealth on the loss of Judge Shobe and Senator Powers. And also add my condolences to the Waggener High School family on the loss of student, Jackie Malagon.

I have had the opportunity to share in small groups the result of months of collaboration — *Vision 2020: Excellence with Equity*. I would be remiss if I didn't thank again all stakeholders for their participation in the process. The vision still is that ALL JCPS students graduate prepared. Add to that, empowered and inspired.

To get to the next level, this district is tackling substantive issues —

1. A definition for and assessment of deeper learning with an emphasis on growth,
2. Building capacity in teacher and administrative leaders and in developing high-performing teams, and
3. Creating infrastructures and systems throughout the district to support achievement — physical, instructional, human resources, and funding infrastructures — as well as, an internal and external communication system, a technology infrastructure for learning and operations and, of course, access to public school choice.

Every family has an opportunity to make a choice in JCPS and to find a "fit" for their student. JCPS offers 18 magnet schools and 52 magnet programs at all levels.

I want to applaud our Board for modeling for us the importance of developing a high-performing team. The policies that are on the agenda are a result of feedback from Dr. Thomas Alsbury, the national expert on board governance and the focus of other districts that are increasing student achievement. The foundation of the plan is *Core Values*:

- Caring
- Equity
- Excellence
- Respect
- Individuality
- Diversity
- Opportunity
- Creativity
- Collaboration
- Stewardship

A *Golden Oar Award* is a special recognition of staff members who demonstrate those values in their work. I was proud to award a Golden Oar to Rick Caple, director of Transportation. *(Show photo and award)* William Allen, Principal of Butler Traditional High School was nominated by a peer, both as a colleague and parent, for being a mentor and an asset to leadership under the Core Values of *Excellence* and *Collaboration*. I also want to recognize William Allen.

Fern Creek High School Career and Technical Education (CTE) Programs received a perfect score on all 12 standards in the state program assessment on January 28, 2016. Congratulations to Principal Nate Meyer, Career Pathway Specialist Nichelle Anthony, and the entire Fern Creek CTE Department.

Congratulations also to Fern Creek High School who was runner-up for the first DuFour Professional Learning Communities (PLC) Award at the PLC @ Work Summit in Phoenix, Arizona, last week.

We are a District of Innovation which aligns with *Vision 2020*. There are four pillars or Innovation Strategies in our application — Creating Access to Highly Effective Instruction through Professional Collaboration. Paul Barnwell, our teacherpreneur, is leading the way in developing virtual communities of teachers. MeMe Ratliff, along with over 300 educators, are discussing teaching in webchats. She is also leading a committee to organize the first *EdCampJCPS*. Nearly 200 JCPS teachers have already registered. *(Show logo)*

Thank you to the University of Louisville College of Business donated tablets to the fifth grade Class of 2023 at Portland Elementary School.

The second Innovation Strategy is to extend learning opportunities. The third innovation strategy is to create Schools of Innovation. After the design competition, we are implementing two designs — the Waldorf-inspired Catalpa Model at Maupin Elementary and the Louisville Reach Academy, wrap-around service design, at Atkinson Elementary. Here is a kindergarten class at Maupin. *(Show Photo of Maupin)*

And, of course, we are giving you monthly updates for *Louisville Linked*, a system to link supports with student needs — 46,604 links were made through the fifth pupil month serving 153 school sites and 21,675 students.

Part of the choices our high school students have are our 5-STAR schools. Remember, there are five themes:

1. Medicine, Health, and the Environment
2. Engineering
3. Communication, Media, and Arts
4. Human Services, Education, and International Studies
5. Business and Information Technology

— repeated three times each and divided into five areas. Thanks for your approval of a new role — the Ford NGL Implementation Coaches — Bryce Hibbard, Marty Pollio, and Katy Zeitz. *(Show photos)*

Mayor Greg Fischer gave a major shout to the KentuckianaWorks SummerWorks program in this video at his State of the City Address. Several students from JCPS career-themed high schools talk about the skills they can offer employers this summer. Mayor Fischer is calling on all local employers to step up and hire youth this summer.

(Show video — <https://youtu.be/jWZcOJCVIDs>)

The Superintendent’s Student Advisory Council was established to provide the Superintendent and the district with “student voices” on key initiatives. The group is comprised of a representative from each of the district’s high schools. The group meets with the Superintendent throughout the school year and each member can be invited to serve a two- or three-year term.

The Promise Zone initiative was announced in President Obama’s 2013 State of the Union Address. It aims to revitalize high-poverty communities across the country by creating jobs, increasing economic activity, improving educational opportunities, reducing crime, leveraging private capital and assisting local leaders in navigating federal programs. Five Promise Zones have been designated so far, including one in Eastern Kentucky, with a goal of 20. The nine neighborhoods of West Louisville have been identified as a Promise Zone. JCPS and Louisville Metro Government are joining forces to ensure students are ready for school, successful in school, and prepared for postsecondary opportunities.

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