

Superintendent's Report

March 8, 2016

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

I want to address an issue that's been raised about the reporting of seclusions and restraints. Seclusions and restraints are techniques that are used to protect students from harming themselves or others. We have 886 staff members who are trained and each time a technique is used – from an arm hold to a bear hug – this must be documented.

We have documented those in an internal system.

Two years ago, the state asked for that data to be put in Infinite Campus. This created a situation where you had an internal database that was not communicating with an external database. The solution at the time was to have the reports entered into the two separate systems.

I first became aware that there was a data entry discrepancy last Thursday, and immediately notified Commissioner Pruitt, outlining the steps we were taking to ensure the data we had collected through our internal system was moved into Infinite Campus. As of today, our internal reporting system has been shut down so that new cases cannot be inadvertently added to it, instead of the state system.

Let me be very clear — these cases have been documented, and the data is available. We have corrected the process that led to the discrepancy and are updating our numbers with the Kentucky Department of Education. I appreciate the support of the Kentucky Department of Education in recognizing the transparency and urgency with which we resolved the issue.

I know this Board has high expectations, as I do, and we understand the importance of being accurate and data-informed. This issue highlights the process of continuously improving and building a data system of integrity. Going forward, per a conference call on Friday with our Director of Internal Audit, Jim Tencza from Dean Dorton, we are asking our internal auditor to not only review our financial reporting, but to review our data reporting as well and to assess any risk in our processes.

I appreciate the Board's attention to this issue.

I would like to share a few thoughts about the passing of Bellarmine University President Dr. Jay McGowan. Jay was our educational neighbor, located just down Newburg Road. He was one of the first people to welcome me to the “neighborhood” when I became superintendent of JCPS.

He was a person of integrity and vision and he utilized those qualities to transform the campus and educational opportunities offered at Bellarmine University. He was a leader... and at heart... and what I appreciated most about him... he was always an educator.

I appreciated the opportunity to work with him as we launched the Bellarmine Literacy Project. I am incredibly proud of the work we are accomplishing that is fundamentally transforming the way we teach reading in JCPS. Dr. McGowan’s legacy will be a transformed campus landscape just down the road and a new generation of readers here at JCPS.

As I attended events in the past few days — Women Business Owner of the Year Awards — congratulations to Board Member Horne for being an award finalist, the Family Scholar House fundraising event, and the Louisville Urban League’s Celebrating Diversity event — I was reminded of the dedicated citizens who are working every day to make Louisville better.

Board Chair David Jones, Jr. kicked off the JCPS Idea Festival on Friday, March 4, at the Kentucky Center for the Performing Arts. The three main presentations were: *Making the Dream Possible*, *Accepting Diversity*, and *Hearing for All*.

I am always proud to see our dedicated JCPS folks actively involved — Dr. Marco Munoz, Dr. John Marshall, Dr. Gwen Snow, and Ms. Mercaderes at SOL (State of Latinos in Louisville) on a Saturday morning. Dr. Munoz did a presentation.

Principal Vicki Lete, Moore Senior Lexie Nall, teacher and coach Kyle McKune, with the help of parents and community members, hosting an archery tournament from after school Friday through Saturday night for 1,000 students from 50 schools.

Chief Financial Officer Cordelia Hardin presented at the 2016 Kentucky School Boards Association Annual Conference at the Galt House on Saturday, February 27. Her presentation was entitled, “School Finance: No Matter Your Size, Monitoring the Budget Means Asking the Right Questions.”

Quick update on the execution of *Vision 2020* — we have identified a project management tool to begin to track *Vision 2020*. This will allow us to quickly track our progress.

In the monthly update for *Louisville Linked*, a system to link supports with student needs — 54,674 links were made through the sixth pupil month serving 153 school sites and 24,290 students.

JCPS teachers Missy Callaway, Josh Rhodes, Sarah Yost, and Meme Ratliff joined teachers from across Kentucky at the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation's *Elevating and Celebrating Effective Teaching and Teachers* conference in San Diego recently. These teacher leaders are creating opportunities to elevate and celebrate teachers and support their colleagues in their work to ensure all students achieve at high levels.

In preparation to implement the new federal education law known as the *Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA)*, Kentucky Commissioner of Education Stephen Pruitt is hosting a series of Education Town Hall Meetings. A Town Hall Meeting is scheduled for Thursday, April 21, 6:30-8:00 p.m., at Seneca High School, Stickler Theatre, 3510 Goldsmith Lane.

I pulled *Item IX.M.2 — Approval of Memorandum of Agreements and Counseling Services Contract for Behavioral and Mental Health Services* and will bring back at the next Board meeting.

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