



**Report from Chuck Haddaway**  
**Jefferson County Board of Education Member [District 4]**  
**- 26 April 2016 -**

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- Recently attended the National School Boards Association Conference held in Boston, MA
  - NSBA Takeaway) There are similar challenges to ours in educating students in many communities across the nation. Poverty, ESL, Facility restrictions, financial stewardship, gender issues, technological placement and parent engagement strategies are the arenas that many still find navigating to make educating our children successful.  
*Learned this with informal and casual conversations with school board members from East Portland OR; Toronto ONT; Charleston SC, Anne Arundel MD and Bucks County PA*
  - NSBA Education) Attended seminars/discussions on topics such as:
    - + community partnerships, crisis management, defining economic impact of education, facility master planning, fiscal fitness, innovative facility design to maximize new learning trends, public relations in controversial issues, support service management, and valuing public education for all
- Rediscovered (again) the value of literacy and reading in recent JCPS visits
  - School Visit Takeaway) Well-designed spaces can be productive to encourage reading. Investment in existing schools can help facilitate new approaches to learning and invigorate teachers, administrators and parents.  
*This was easily seen at the ribbon-cutting and dedication of the new Media Center and Art Room at Schaffner Traditional Elementary.*
  - School Visit Takeaway) Children rise to the level of expectation you place before them. Applying learned principles toward a collective project can instill pride and positive self-worth.  
*Conversation/presentation with the NFL Alumni Association and the Community Dental Group, who helped approximately 120+ Watson Lane Elementary students learn the structure of story and engaged them in a multi-month process to become published authors.*
- Participated in the annual School Board Retreat
  - Retreat Takeaway) An effective board of governance should always be open to best practices and self-evaluation. Meetings can be structured to stay focused on mission, highlight the Superintendent's leadership and shape confidence in the Board's authority.
  - Retreat Takeaway) Vision 2020 is a valid and reliable cornerstone for staying on mission. It is a document of purpose and is a valuable map toward staying on target.  
*Dr. Thomas Alsbury, upon many hours of review of JCPS meeting structure and action, coupled with observations of effective school boards across the globe, shared some insightful thoughts with the Board at our recent retreat. Plenty of valuable conversation added to the assist.*