

Board Report  
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### **KSBA School Board Training**

On May 3<sup>rd</sup>, I participated in three hours of KSBA training in Shelbyville, KY. These sessions had only a handful of attendees, allowing for some very good discussion with the presenters. Sessions were:

- *Making Sense of Dollars: Presenting Financial Information to Non-Financial Audiences*, presented by Brad Hughes. The focus was on making the case to the public of the importance of financial supporting our public schools.
- *Evaluating the Superintendent – Looking Back and Moving Forward* presented by Dr. Blake Hazelton. The focus was on the Superintendent Professional Growth and Effectiveness System, which all KY school districts are required to implement this school year. A challenge of the new instrument is that in some districts it has led to a decrease in board meeting discussion about instruction. Best practices include a 3-year focus on the past year's results, the current year's implementation, and the following year's planning. The board has a responsibility to set goals that are achievable and realistic, and to provide the necessary resources. Recommendation: identify 10 or so specific goals to be monitored.
- *Ethics and the School Board Meeting*, presented by Brad Hughes, was a review of best practices for Board members, before, during, and after the school board meeting. A few highlights: every school board member should have equal opportunity to ask for items to be added to the board meeting agenda; meeting materials must be supplied to board members sufficiently in advance to exercise duty of care; importance of access to board attorney by all board members; ability for board members to seek information prior to board meetings from Superintendent and other staff (many variations between districts); importance of respectful interaction; importance of ability to assess media coverage for accuracy and fairness. I was struck that there is not a standardized code of ethics for school board members as there is for psychologists and other professionals. "Ethics," as defined in the KSBA presentation, is open to a good deal of subjectivity and individual standards. A strong recommendation is for board member decisions to be made with the input of others.

### **C.H.O.I.C.E. Program Graduation Event**

I was honored to bring greetings to graduates of the C.H.O.I.C.E. program on Wednesday, May 4<sup>th</sup>. The community-based program helps youth and adolescents navigate through issues at home, at school, and within their community by equipping them with coping and problem-solving skills to make positive choices. Program participants are JCPS students who face societal challenges such as poverty, substance abuse, violence, mental health, and lack of parental supervision. C.H.O.I.C.E works in partnership with JCPS to support academic excellence, despite social challenges. C.H.O.I.C.E. graduates have completed a 28-week curriculum while paired with community and older student mentors.

### **Roots and Wings**

JCPS students at Moore High School had the opportunity to partner with the community arts group Roots and Wings. Through the partnership, the students individually and collectively wrote and performed a poetry drama. I attended both community performances, and had an opportunity to speak with students before and after the performance about this experience which several of them described as "life changing."

### **School Visits**

Thanks to the principals, staff and students at Thomas Jefferson Middle School, Slaughter Elementary School, Moore Traditional, and Byck Elementary School for the warm welcome to their schools during my recent visits.

### **Constituent Response**

Since the last board meeting, I have spent many hours listening and responding to constituent concerns. Although I have tried to keep up, I regret that I've been unable to respond to every email. I always value constituent input: please continue to contact me by email – [lgwillner@gmail.com](mailto:lgwillner@gmail.com) – or phone: 502-599-7289.