

Board Report
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15th District PTA Awards Dinner

I enjoyed attending this annual event along with several other board members on May 11th, and the opportunity to celebrate the accomplishments of our local PTAs from a broad swath of JCPS schools. We are very fortunate to have so many committed and engaged parent volunteers throughout the District. I was also glad to have the opportunity to connect with my predecessor in the District 6 school board seat, Carol Haddad, and to thank her again for her years of public service.

Louisville Metro Public Safety Committee

I attended on May 18th to listen to Dr. Alicia Averette, Dr. Joe Bargione, and Dr. John Marshall as they presented to this Louisville Metro committee. They described the numerous out-of-school challenges facing many of our students, including domestic violence, poverty, homelessness, behavior and medical disorders, and the various interventions and community partnerships that JCPS has in place to meet the needs of students and families. The presenters were invited to return for further discussion. I believe this may represent an opportunity for greater collaboration between JCPS and Metro Louisville in the future to work together on these challenges, their root causes, and public policies to address them.

There was also a report about the UofL partnership with The Academy at Shawnee to provide individual, family, and group psychological services on-site at the school. The presenter described the “seamless integration” of psychological service providers with JCPS staff at the school, and the many needs the center has been able to address. This is a program to be celebrated and emulated, as I believe many JCPS schools, students, and families would benefit from this model of service delivery.

Code of Conduct Committee Meeting

I attended and observed the May 20th re-convening of the committee as they reviewed data and best practices in behavior policy. Committee members represented many different perspectives regarding behaviors and consequences, and there was a lack of consensus among members about the degree to which data, research, and best practices guided earlier discussions, as well as the extent to which data, etc. should have been a driver of the conversations. The committee’s work appears to have been focused narrowly on the behavior/consequence matrix rather than the policy as a whole. There seemed to be great unanimity and enthusiasm about the need for more proactive supports in schools throughout the District.

Music!

What a treat to attend the Westport MS Orchestra concert on May 20th, and the Louisville Winds Spring Concert on May 22nd. Louisville Winds is a community band led by longtime Male H.S. Band Director Nan Moore, and comprised of many music educators, most of whom work for JCPS. Seneca HS Choir Director Mendy Cumberledge was featured in an outstanding vocal solo. Our District is fortunate to have so many talented and committed professional musicians among its teaching ranks!

JCPS Community Meetings

On May 23rd I participated in the morning Superintendent’s Summit on behavior which revealed the need for much more community conversation around the complexities of behavior policy, practices, and supports. The need for more behavior supports was a consistent theme.

Later in the day I sat in and listened to two public Q&A sessions on the compensation study, each beginning with a presentation by MAG, the outside firm that conducted the study. There appears to be a lot of confusion, misunderstanding, and strong feelings about the purpose of the study and its findings.

Schools

Thank you to the staff and students of the Binet School, Hartstern ES, and Male HS for the warm welcome and opportunities for good conversation.