

Board Report  
Lisa Willner, Ph.D.  
Member, Jefferson County Board of Education, District 6

Submitted June 28, 2016

### **Grafton Integrated Health Network and Ukeru Systems, 6/15/2016**

Grafton is a Virginia-based private behavioral healthcare facility that supports individuals with intellectual, developmental and psychiatric disabilities in a variety of settings, including schools. The Grafton story is a compelling one. Top administrators discuss openly their past struggles with organizational culture, high employee turnover, employee and client injuries, and heavy use of restraints and seclusion. Grafton has since developed a system that enables providers to eliminate seclusion and ultimately restraints while reducing the physical and legal risk to staff. According to Grafton (with back-up in a peer-reviewed study and in a SAMHSA briefing), theirs is the only crisis management system that does not involve restraints, that teaches a physical alternative to restraint, and is based on trauma informed care. Grafton has trained numerous providers, including teachers and school staff, in these methods, resulting in a reduction of injuries and cost savings. Earlier this month, representatives from Grafton were in Frankfort, KY for an informational talk, demonstration, and Q&A session. Attendees included staff from the Office of the Inspector General, the Dept. for Community Based Services, and private residential providers. I was glad I was able to attend the session, which was very informative and persuasive. Three JCPS staff members attended as well.

### **Film Screening and Community Discussion, 6/16/2016**

"Resilience: The Biology of Stress & the Science of Hope," was screened in Louisville, along with a Q&A with director James Redford afterward, followed by a smaller community conversation hosted by Mayor Greg Fisher, and attended by representatives of a number of JCPS community partner organizations. I was honored to attend this series of events, along with our JCPS BOE chair, David Jones, Jr. The film depicts the direct impact of early childhood trauma and toxic stress on brain development, health, behavior, and cognitive/emotional/social development. From my perspective, it's impossible to think about academic challenges and behavior problems without some fundamental understanding of their root causes, the developmental issues raised in the film, and an appreciation of how altogether common adverse childhood experiences are for both children and adults.

### **Louisville Pride Parade, 6/17/2016**

Last Friday I walked in the Louisville Pride Parade as I have done in past years. During the parade line-up, I connected with old and new friends from the Fairness Campaign and the Louisville Youth Group. This year, I walked with Jefferson County Public Schools - the first time that JCPS has had an official presence in the parade. As we were lining up, I was offered an armband with one of the victims' names: Xavier Emmanuel Serrano Rosado. When a friend tied the band around my arm, I felt a strong wave of emotion, and an unexpected sense of connection to this individual whose life ended in violence and too soon. Since last Friday, I've thought every day about Xavier, said his name out loud, and wondered about the people whose lives he touched, and those who are grieving for him. I've learned since that Xavier was an accomplished dancer, and that his bereaved family includes his 5-year-old son. Thanks to the city of Louisville for the great show of support throughout the Pride Festival for the victims of the Orlando shooting, and for our own city's LGBTQ community, many of whom are JCPS students, staff, and families. Be you! Be proud!

