

## **Superintendent's Report**

**August 9, 2016**

**Vice Chairwoman Porter, Members of the Board, thank you for the opportunity to present the Superintendent's Report.**

Happy 2016-17 School Year. As I visited schools, it was clear how hard our employees have worked to prepare for the arrival of our students. I applaud the work!

I would like to read some advice for the new school year from a young writer at the Americana Community Center:

### **DEAR YOUNG PERSON**

*Start taking a good actions to make your life better, and have a good future.*

*Start learning about history, about life, and learn about other cultures.*

*Take future actions like start reading books, newspapers, or even watch the news, because all this stuff will help you in your life. Life is a chance and you should try to do your best to reach your goals. Growing up with an education is wonderful in life.*

*I wish you to understand  
What you should do  
When you are young*

*Narjis A.*

On tonight's agenda is a contract to provide training entitled Ukeru: The "Least Resistance" Approach to Crisis Intervention Training to 60 participants for initial user level training and 4 participants for train-the-trainer certification.

In June 2016, three JCPS employees attended an information session in Frankfort on UKERU – a restraint-free crisis management system. This system provides staff additional tools and strategies to use with students before resorting to restraint & seclusion techniques. The philosophy of UKERU is to use a comfort vs. control approach with students – emphasizing

the need to become behavior detectives to determine the cause of the behavior. This trauma-informed care approach takes de-escalation to the next level, and over time, can dramatically decrease the number of restraints utilized. From this information, JCPS staff developed a proposal to pilot this program in four schools this year — Waller, Binet, Western Day Treatment, and Kenwood). Data will be kept throughout the year and analyzed to see the impact of using this approach.

UKERU system believes:

- It is better to avoid a violent act than to block it.
- It is better to block a violent act than to move toward it and try to stop it.
- It is better to block with a soft protective object than with a body part.

Grafton reduced restraints and client-induced injuries from 2005-2014. Grafton saved a total of \$14 million in reduced staff turnover, workers' compensation savings, and lost time.

Another item on tonight's agenda is funding from the Kenan Charitable Trust for the Males of Color. JCPS received \$180,000 to bring to scale nationally-recognized initiatives for Males of Color. Programs and initiatives like Coding at the Beech, Males of Color celebration, University of Louisville CARDS program, Equity Institutes, Gifted Boys Advanced Program initiative and others were instrumental in JCPS' receiving this grant. Dr. John Marshall will speak at the national My Brother's Keeper summit about our work, parts of his dissertation titled Teacher Responsiveness: A Qualitative Examination of Engaging African American Males will be part of a book that focuses on Educational Equity.

JCPS has more African Americans in the Advanced Program than ever before and Black Male volunteerism has increased over the last few years. Decade-old programs like the Street Academy and ACES, are improved and larger. Under the leadership of Drs. Munoz and Marshall, more Male Students of Color have enrolled in Advance Program classes. Let's not forget the nationally-known elephants that national My Brother's Keeper officials handed out to other urban districts throughout the nation. The original elephant sits right here in JCPS.

We've earned this grant not to *start* the work; but to *continue the great* that is already under way.

Sexuality Education is part of a required high school health class. The Kentucky Core Standards are aligned with the National Health Education Standards, specifically:

**PL-H-PW-U-4:**

Students will understand that decisions regarding sexuality have short- and long-term consequences and responsibilities.

**PL-H-PW-S-PPH1.c:**

Students will understand the importance of assuming responsibility for personal health behaviors by explaining how decision-making relates to responsible sexual behavior (e.g., abstinence, preventing pregnancy, preventing HIV/STDs), impacts physical, mental and social well-being of an individual.

It is critical that we give equal access for mastery of these standards to all of our students. This topic is covered toward the end of the semester or trimester class.

I met with Health teachers last week with Dr. Suzanne Wright and Specialist Donna Benton to create a four-step plan:

1. Review the Standard.
2. Survey health educators for a list of resources that align with the Standards.
3. Create a curriculum map that includes the best-practice resources to use to design lessons.
4. Provide required training for all health teachers prior to the unit.

We will keep the Board updated.

**Vice Chairwoman Porter, I am recommending for approval the consent agenda later in the meeting.**