

## **Superintendent's Report**

**December 13, 2016**

**Chair Jones, Members of the Board, thank you for the opportunity to present the Superintendent's Report.**

An important part of this meeting is thanking Chair Jones and Board Member Haddaway for their commitment and service to the students of the Jefferson County Public School District.

You have worked collaboratively with this Board and community to envision a better future for our students, and more importantly, a way to get there — *Vision 2020 Excellence with Equity*. You both have, with this Board, created high expectations for JCPS transparency and accountability. You have our eternal gratitude.

Thanks to Mr. Gies and Dr. Kolb for their participation in Saturday's Board Orientation Session. Thanks to Vice Chair Porter and Board Members Brady, Horne, and Willner for your attendance. General Counsel Frank Mellen conducted the Governance session. CBO Tom Hudson, CFO Cordelia Hardin, and Bill Carroll, and Jim Tenzca provided the Finance/Budget Session. John Collopy, Eddie Muns, Dr. Dena Dossett, and Dr. Bo Yan were there to answer questions. Thanks also to Dr. Marco Munoz and Mr. Jonathan Lowe for attending, and to all who worked to prepare for the sessions. Next session is Saturday, December 17.

On Friday, I attended the Oakdale Neighborhood Association/LMPD - Officer Johnny Burgraff/Semple Elementary School celebration at 6 p.m. @ Semple Elementary School. The cafeteria was full of families who enjoyed a hot turkey dinner and students who received toys from Santa.

On Saturday, after the Orientation, when I arrived at the Take-What-You-Can-Tote at the 15<sup>th</sup> District PTA CAP (Clothing Assistance Center) on South 15<sup>th</sup> Street, there were still families receiving much-needed and much-appreciated clothes. The entire DEP team was there along with 15<sup>th</sup> District PTA President Heather Wampler and volunteers.

Thanks to this Board for reaffirming through a resolution the Values of Caring, Diversity, and Respect. The JCBOE joins with the National School Boards Association, National PTA, National Association of School Superintendents in a call to action to ensure safe, inclusive, and supportive learning environments.

Expanded Cabinet (a structure of Cabinet, Area Assistant Superintendents, and community partners met at Jacob Elementary School.

Dr. Zeitz's work session presentation showed the strategies included in a behavior support system that are being employed to ensure that there are climates in schools that support appropriate behavior. We have high behavioral and academic expectations — one doesn't happen without the other.

As always, I will highlight the Board's Data Dashboard which looks at the variables of time spent on learning through student attendance, employee attendance and vacancies, and discipline referrals and suspensions.

The percentage of Jefferson County Public Schools (JCPS) students who were ready to start kindergarten jumped nearly four points in the last year, according to data released today by the Kentucky Department of Education. The report indicates a marked increase in the number of young people who started school with the skills necessary to grasp foundational concepts.

According to results of the Brigance assessments, which test for kindergarten readiness, the percentage of students who were ready for kindergarten increased to 51.6 percent this year, up from 47.9 percent in fall 2015.

The data indicate that early childhood programs and kindergarten readiness camps are having an impact. For students who attended at least one day of kindergarten readiness camp this year, 73.8 percent were ready to start school, compared to a district average of 56.1 percent. Last year, 70.2 percent of students who attended at least one day of the camp were ready for kindergarten.

According to the data, JCPS students showed improvement across the county, with 25 of 35 zip codes showing higher rates of kindergarten readiness than the prior year. The highest gains were reported in zip code 40202.

In addition, 59 JCPS elementary schools improved their K-Readiness rates, with 22 schools showing double-digit increases.

Take-away:

- JCPS has a higher percentage of kindergarten-ready students than the state.
- Every JCPS student group increased its percent ready, although gaps remain.

I want to take this opportunity to clear up some confusion about an important issue regarding your high school student's education in the Jefferson County Public School (JCPS) district.

Late last month, the district held a training for our high school health teachers regarding the Kentucky Health standards that are required by the state to be taught in our classrooms. Sexual education and its context in a larger discussion about the health of our bodies and healthy relationships is part of those standards. A complete list of those standards is available.

There has been some confusion regarding this training and misinformation that JCPS has adopted a new policy, which includes information about abortion. That is simply not true. JCPS has not adopted a policy and only information covered by standards and through curriculum framework can be taught in the classroom. Abortion is not taught, nor will it be taught, during sexual education in our schools because it is not part of the Kentucky Health standards.

Each school's Site Based Decision Making Council (SBDM) decides what curricular resources to utilize in their respective schools. You will have the opportunity to opt your student out of this instruction, if desired, at the designated time. The health teacher will send home a form. Students who opt out will be provided an alternative assignment.

JCPS is ensuring that all work and resources relative to sexual education for high school students is based on standards required by the state. The work of our teachers has only been focused on aligning curricular resources to the standards and educating teachers about what resources align with Kentucky standards.

**Chair Jones, I am recommending for approval the consent agenda later in the meeting.**