

Board Report  
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**Legislator Breakfast at Doss HS 1/12/2017** Attended along with several JCPS administrators and other board members. The breakfast included a presentation on JCPS's plans and community partnerships to increase career readiness and align career/technical training with the city's workforce needs.

**Martin Luther King, Jr. Day Events, 1/14-16/2017** Men of Peace MLK Brunch at Newburg MS, Newburg Ministerial Association annual MLK worship service, LINK Youth Summit, Burnett Avenue Baptist Church. It was great to celebrate Dr. King's legacy with community members and students, and to focus on the civil rights work still ahead. Highlights of the weekend included conversations with students and many constituents, and performances by the River City Drum Corps and St. Stephen's TNG youth choir.

**Harvard By All Means Behavioral Health Working Group 1/23/2017**

The group's participation in the Harvard Graduate School of Education is contingent on choosing a specific cross-sector project to support student success. The group has narrowed its focus area to concerns around high rates of suspension and exclusionary discipline practices, with a particular focus on differential practices by race and poverty. The problem statement is still in development, but seems to be taking shape around the theme of increasing students' "Sense of Belonging" in school. Currently, there are large disparities in student sense of belonging associated with race, poverty, and the intersection of race and poverty. The group notes that "School Connectedness" has been identified by the Centers for Disease Control as a public health issue, and as a protective factor against risky behaviors:

*School connectedness—the belief held by students that adults and peers in the school care about their learning as well as about them as individuals—is an important protective factor. Research has shown that young people who feel connected to their school are less likely to engage in many risk behaviors, including early sexual initiation, alcohol, tobacco, and other drug use, and violence and gang involvement.*

*Students who feel connected to their school are also more likely to have better academic achievement, including higher grades and test scores, have better school attendance, and stay in school longer.*

*Efforts to improve child and adolescent health have typically addressed specific health risk behaviors, such as tobacco use or violence. However, results from a growing number of studies suggest that greater health impact might be achieved by also enhancing protective factors that help children and adolescents avoid multiple behaviors that place them at risk for adverse health and educational outcomes. ([https://www.cdc.gov/healthyouth/protective/school\\_connectedness.htm](https://www.cdc.gov/healthyouth/protective/school_connectedness.htm))*

**Cradle to Career Cabinet 1/23/2017**

Update on Say Yes: With fundraising for full tuition scholarships now determined to require 4 times the amount initially estimated, the group recently learned that Louisville is no longer under consideration to be a full-fledged "Say Yes" city. However, Say Yes is looking to expand its footprint by establishing a center to offer technical assistance and support to selected cities, and Louisville is a strong candidate to receive that support. The current school board will be asked to make a commitment to participation in the Say Yes model. The Cradle to Career Cabinet has agreed to adopt the cross-sector shared governance model proposed by Say Yes, even without Say Yes funds. Mayor Fischer is interested in establishing a

structure for the Cradle to Career work that is independent of any particular governmental or organizational leadership. The Cabinet has tasked the staff of 55K to take the lead on next steps. The Cabinet has scheduled a retreat on February 14th with three goals: 1) insure that all stakeholders are “up to speed,” 2) define the Cabinet’s purpose and goals, and 3) propose a structure for Shared Governance.

**Community Conversation at Louisville Urban League, Males of Color Academy, 1/23/2017**

Attended this presentation by Mrs. Rosz Akins and learned more about the history and activities of the Black Males Working Academy (BMW), the out-of-school program founded and directed by Mrs. Akins, that co-exists with and supports the Carter G. Woodson Academy. Mrs. Akins described BMW as “the Booster Club for Carter G.” Mrs. Akins discussed the project-based hands-on learning that occurs at the Woodson Academy, and the African American lens of the school’s curriculum, across content areas. (I am interested to know if the curriculum materials used at Woodson Academy are available for review and possible adoption by JCPS in multiple schools.)

**Upcoming: Cross-Sector Conversation on Whole School Restorative Practices and Detroit’s**

**Restorative Neighborhoods project.** Libby Mills, Executive Director of Restorative Justice Louisville, is convening a conversation at Spalding University in early February to discuss cross-sector community supports that will strengthen the Whole School RP work about to get underway at some JCPS schools, as well as to learn what Detroit has done to expand Restorative Practices beyond the school system. Keith Hickman from IIRP and Rev. Henry McClendon, project lead in Detroit, will join by videoconference.