

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

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Governor's Early Childhood Institute and Policy Discussion with Geoffrey Canada, June 28

I attended a keynote speech by Geoffrey Canada, founder of the Harlem Children's Zone, sponsored by the Governor's Office of Early Childhood. Following Mr. Canada's talk, and on behalf of Chair Brady who was unable to attend, I participated in a conversation convened by Kentucky Education Secretary Hal Heiner. The conversation was described in the invitation as "a conversation with Geoffrey Canada about charter school policy and the possibilities for charter schools in Kentucky.... Eight key leaders from across the state are being invited to participate...." The conversation was interesting, and while charter schools were mentioned, Mr. Canada's focus was centered more specifically on neighborhood violence, unsafe housing, and the challenges associated with high concentrations of poverty. Mr. Canada described his block-by-block strategy and the community engagement and involvement he enlisted, as well as the tremendous financial resources he has been able to deploy in the interest of creating better conditions for children. Also at the meeting: Education Secretary Hal Heiner, Mayor Fischer and staff, a representative of Lexington Mayor Jim Gray's office, chair of the Fayette County Board of Education, Dr. Wayne Lewis (Executive Director of Education Policy & Programs for the Kentucky Education & Workforce Development Cabinet), Kentucky Board of Education member and charter school operator Ben Cundiff, and Pastor Jerry Stephenson.

Mayor's "I Am Ali" Community Conversation , July 6

Attended the Mayor's conversation in a packed room at the Muhammad Ali Center, listened to city strategies for curbing violence in our community, and heard his message that every one of us has a role to play in this important work. This was a great opportunity to interact with community partners from across the city that have a shared interest in improving conditions for our community's children, youth, and families.

Peace Education Program Celebration, July 12

It was wonderful to join in the celebration of Louisville's Peace Education Program's 35th anniversary! The Peace Education Program does tremendous work in many of our JCPS schools, training youth and adults to build positive relationship and reduce violence by providing trainings in conflict resolution, peer mediation, and prejudice reduction. Happy Anniversary, Peace Ed!

Jefferson County Board of Education Retreat. July 14-15

Facilitated by the board development experts at the Kentucky School Board Association, our board engaged in two days of conversation related to the important work of school boards in advancing student achievement. We immersed ourselves in discussion about the practices of boards in high performing school districts, with a focus on best practices in school board governance and putting the processes in place to establish a strong Superintendent/Board leadership team. I'm grateful to my board colleagues and our Acting Superintendent for their investment of time, energy, and careful thought, and for our collective commitment to continuing to study and learn together as a team.

Cradle to Career Cabinet Meetings, June 28 and July 20

With the Weiss Institute work intensifying, the Cabinet is meeting on a more demanding schedule than originally anticipated with meetings scheduled every 2-3 weeks. The Cabinet has recently undergone a small expansion to include JCBOE Chair Chris Brady as well as representation from 15,000 Degrees. A core team has been meeting more regularly than the Cabinet to advance the work, the core team is

reporting regularly to the Cabinet, and soon there will be an opportunity for greatly expanded leadership by adding a broadly representative Leadership Council as well as task forces to take up specific aspects of the work. The next major steps for the Weiss Institute work will be a Memorandum of Understanding between the city, school system, along with several of the Cradle to Career pillar leads, as well as a data sharing agreement to allow for pathway and fiscal analytics that will improve our community's capacity to better connect students and their families with community resources to support successful outcomes for every student. We should anticipate receiving a draft of the agreements by August 8th.

What we have been talking about as "Say Yes" or "Weiss Insitute" work will roll out as *The Louisville Promise*. The Promise is the creation of a scholarship fund so that every JCPS graduate can afford at least two years of college or additional career training, as well as a broad community partnership to deliver the support every student needs to be successful and independent.

JCBOE Finance Committee Meeting, July 20

Thanks to board colleague Steph Horne for leading the work of the board's finance committee, and to the impressive range of committee members who are volunteering their time to learn more about the District's finance and to offer their input. I appreciated the opportunity to hear a broad range of community voices and perspectives at last Thursday's deep dive into JCPS revenue.

Kentucky Chamber Dinner, July 20

Attended the dinner and had the opportunity to speak informally with several community leaders and policy makers about several of the promising initiatives and areas of focus in our JCPS schools.

Rally for Public Education, July 22

I was honored to have the opportunity to speak at Louisville's local rally – along with board colleagues Chris Brady and Diane porter - as an advocate for public education and Jefferson County Public Schools. Special thanks to the legislators, teachers, community members, and multiple organizational representatives who stood on the blazing hot pavement on a sultry July Saturday to champion the universal right of every child to a free public education!