Gallatin County Schools

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Report of May 21, 2019, Gallatin County Board of Education Meeting

1. Please continue to view our district comprehensive improvement efforts live online. Our 30-60-90 plan continues to grow as we implement our plan and analyze the effectiveness of our efforts. Evidence is provided with each activity.

2. The revised Kentucky Academic Standards have been released. A team from GCS attended a KDE sponsored workshop on Friday, March 15. We are in the process of developing a plan to introduce the revised standards to teaching staff. Each building will determine a process and timeline for introducing the revised KAS. Our goal is to fully release the information and begin curriculum alignment with the revised standards by June of this year. You can view the <u>KAS Roll Out</u>. We are accomplishing our plan. Teachers are giving positive reviews of the new standards format. Our teacher leaders and instructional coaches are continuing the work of facilitating new KAS adoption.

3. See School Report Card announcement at the end of this report.

4. A new three week unit design has been developed and will be introduced to the high school and middle school faculties as we begin our curriculum alignment work. We learned of the three week unit approach on our trip to Pulaski County High School. Principals listed components included in the plans that will serve as a structure for teachers as they plan instruction. The district expectations in the area of curriculum alignment and unit planning continue to rise. We will roll out the new unit plan template on June 4th. Teachers will be provided opportunities to begin planning for FY20 instruction. Principals will evaluate and give feedback on plans submitted before the first day of school next year. The elementary principals have also revisited curriculum mapping for their buildings. Each principal has the autonomy to decide what is best for their buildings. The HS/MS and the UE/LE teaching staffs plan to work do collaborative alignment work.

5. We plan to have a instructional focus meeting on June 13. We will review what worked and what didn't work in FY19. As we establish our laser focus on instruction we will look for ways we can improve of practice in FY20.

6. The High School completed KPREP Science assessment online. This went very smooth thanks to HS staff and district technology staff. There was reciprocal communication throughout the process which allowed for a flawless implementation. This is important because in two years all KPREP assessment will be online. We need to start planning now!

7. After 10+ years of utilizing MAP as an interim assessment we have decided to change our path for FY20. Achievement data has not supported the continued use of MAP over the 10+ years. We have to do a better job evaluating the effectiveness of what we are doing and have a sense of urgency about making some hard decisions. We are excited about replacing MAP with iReady and CERT. Both interim assessment programs offer many desirable features. We have planned training for staff in August.

8. We are pleased to report that professional development has been planned for FY20! All professional development will address areas of great need in the district. We think it will be a very productive learning year for our staff and we expect to see changes in the way we do some of our business. Evidence based instruction and the implementation of social/emotional strategies will be a tremendous step forward.

9. We adopted a new Certified Evaluation Plan and welcomed three new principals this year. In addition, we experienced a huge teacher turnover. This has been a very interesting year. Our principals have worked diligently in shaping the cultures of our schools. A major part of building a culture is our evaluation system. We often think of evaluation as a way of deciding who gets to stay and who needs to go. The true purpose of an evaluation system is to hold us all to high standards. We must constantly compare what we are doing to the highest standards of teaching. If we do that well, we will continually find ways to improve our craft of teaching and leading. It doesn't matter how good we think we are, we can always get even better. We should not feel pressured to get better, this ideally should be an intrinsic motivation that drives us. Therefore, we must continue to analyze our evaluation system. Our principals have expressed desires to improve in this area. We plan to support this desire by planning a district evaluation professional learning on June 13th. In addition, the multiple requirements of the plan have been included in an all inclusive digital evaluation workbook. This will allow principals and teachers to have immediate access to all actionable parts of our plan.

10. The FY20 GMAP Consolidated Title application has been completed and submitted two weeks before the deadline. Principals did a great job with needs assessment and budgeting Title funding. It is our hope that we receive approval sooner because of the early submission.

11. One of my objectives is to find more efficient ways of doing things so our teaching professionals can spend less time on menial tasks and more time and energy on instruction. I can remember completing PO requisitions by hand 15 years ago and thinking there has to be a better way to do this. Upon my return to the district I found we are still completing PO requisitions by hand. Therefore, I thought it would be beneficial to create a digital requisition form that eliminates many of the inconvenient hassles of the hand written forms. Now we can create a digital request, save, print, sign and submit. So when next year begins we can simply update the FY on the forms and roll on. This is a little out of my curriculum, instruction and assessment bubble, however, saving time and energy for curriculum, instruction and assessment is totally in my bubble.

Financial data, comparisons now available on School Report Card

(FRANKFORT, KY) – Kentucky residents can now see how much schools spend per student and other financial expenditures with a new update of the Kentucky Department of Education's School Report Card, which was released today. The new update also offers the ability to compare the data of up to four different organizations at the school, district and state levels and includes Google Translate, so visitors can have the pages translated into Spanish.

The information contained in the financial transparency section of the School Report Card is from the 2017-2018 school year. It includes data on funding, grants, spending and taxes for each school district, as well as school-level spending per student. The financial data is released later than the rest of the School Report Card domains to allow districts to use audited financial information in their calculations, which promotes greater accuracy of the district financial data.

"The expenditure data shared on the School Report Card will undoubtedly create new conversations at the local level about resource allocation. Context is incredibly important, so we encourage healthy conversations between citizens and district officials," Education Commissioner Wayne Lewis said.

The new compare feature allows visitors to the Kentucky School Report Card to view a side-by-side comparison of the landing page data for up to four organizations – including views of any combination of state, district and/or schools. The compare tool can help add context and foster productive conversations about how particular schools or districts are performing compared to the state as a whole, as well as with neighboring districts or schools. Keep in mind that not all data applies to every type of school – such as elementary schools don't have graduation rates – and this data is only part of the full story of any school or district.

"We are doing everything we can to increase transparency for parents and taxpayers," Lewis said.

There are four components to Kentucky School Report Card, all of which can be found KDE's school data website at raisethebar.education.ky.gov. Components include:

- Accountability information via the school report card
- Proficiency dashboard
- Student/Parent Portal
- Research data

Under the federal Every Student Succeeds Act, each state in the U.S. was required to create an online school report card as part of its statewide accountability system. No new assessment data is part of this release.

For comprehensive instructions for how to access and navigate the School Report card, refer to the SRC Public Website User's Guide