

Audit and Risk Management Advisory Committee
Jefferson County Public Schools
June 23, 2021
Stewart Auditorium

ARMAC Members Present: Chairperson James Rose, Co-Chairperson Rhonda Mitchell, Dr. Sarah Moyer, Pedro Bryant, and Dr. Vicki Phillips

Public Present: None

JCPS Staff Present: Amy Dennes, Kevin Brown, Chris Perkins, Susan Biasioli, Tommy Knoy, Jodell Renn and Shari Mattingly

Board Members Present: none

Public Present: none

Mr. Rose called the meeting of the Audit and Risk Management Advisory Committee (ARMAC) to order at 2:00 pm. A quorum was present.

Approval of Minutes

Ms. Rhonda Mitchell made a motion to accept the minutes of the April 28, 2021 meeting, which was seconded by James Rose. The minutes were approved by a unanimous voice vote.

Introductory Comments

Ms. Dennes provided a brief update on summer school. Over seven thousand children registered for summer school at either a JCPS or community partner location or for a specialty camp. The District provides food, transportation, and teachers. Interest in these programs has been helped by working with our community partners, who get the information to kids in their areas.

A variety of specialized camps, such as CTE, ESL, ECE, Gifted and Talented, and Early Childhood are offered, along with one week "Lit &" camps, i. e. "Lit and Swimming." Each of the twenty-three sites has a JCPS provided staff that includes two onsite administrators (a Lead (retired, aspiring principal or school administrator) and a School Counselor/Mental Health Practitioner)). An Assistant Superintendent or Executive Administrator, or other district official are also providing oversight. The community partner locations are supported by an Administrator that is assigned multiple locations.

Michelle Dillard, Assistant Superintendent, Teaching and Learning, oversees the summer programs. Various computer programs, including "Think Law," have been purchased for students to use on their Chrome Books.

Ms. Mitchell inquired about the status of the student service centers. Ms. Dennes shared that JCPS is in the process of soliciting community input (link to video from Renee Murphy, Chief of Communications and Dr. Pollio, <https://www.jefferson.kyschools.us/node/190175>). Funding for the three proposed JCPS Student Service Centers is being paid for with ESSR funds. The plan is to stagger the opening of each location beginning in the Fall. The West End site is slated to be first with the remaining sites open shortly thereafter.

Construction Management Process – Chris Perkins, Chief Operations Officer, Susan Biasioli, Director, Facility Planning, and Tommy Knoy, Specialist, Fiscal Operations – Accounting Services

Mr. Perkins introduced his team who provided an overview of the District's construction management process. Ms. Biasioli leads a department of ten people. Per Kentucky Statute, the District prepares a four-year facility plan that includes proposed capital construction projects. The facility plan is revised regularly based on the needs of the District. Model Procurement requires that projects that cost greater than \$20,000, must go through a bid process. Annually, the District has projects totaling between \$60 - \$100 million, in the past these consisted of major renovation projects. Currently the facility plan includes four proposed new schools.

To ensure equity in facilities across the Commonwealth, the Kentucky Department of Education (KDE) is closely involved during all phases of the construction project process. One of the challenges that JCPS must work through is the fact that the regulations used were developed in 1995. While some items are still applicable today, things such as an open design concept do not exist and if desired, must be requested through the waiver process. For the most part, JCPS has been successful in obtaining waivers. However, an example of a type of request that has not been successful relates to the size of an elementary gymnasiums. Since 1995, interest in sports at the elementary school level has increased substantially. The regulations have established a uniform square foot with the contingency that bleachers must be able to accommodate the entire school body. As a result, when the bleachers are fully extended, it takes up a substantial amount of the floor space preventing use of the facility for basketball games or other programs held with an audience.

Stakeholder input is solicited prior to a construction project. For example, as part of the large Shawnee High School renovation, Ms. Biasioli met with students and parents to ask what they would like to see. School administration also provides input. However, there are constraints to implementing all of the ideas based on the regulatory requirements.

The Future State work is challenging a lot of the norms. JCPS wants to ensure equity across the District and evaluating how updating facilities impacts what is happening in the classroom. As a result, there is a need to redefine the purpose of a school building for teaching and learning. For example, flexible use of space which is in contrast to traditional classroom setting that includes desks in rows; more natural light, space to accommodate increased number of staff (i.e. needed for the wrap around services offered) and to allow for school personnel collaboration; and the ability to adjust the size of classrooms when need, these are some of the things being considered.

In addition to the outdated regulations, other challenges the District faces includes adequate funding to address decades of deferred maintenance for the end-of-life facilities, shifting population dynamics of the community and the size of the district.

When asked if there were insights gained as a result of COVID, specifically smaller class sizes. Ms. Dennes responded that while it is desirable to have smaller class sizes, it would require many more facilities and teachers, currently there is a teacher shortage in Kentucky and nationwide. One change that will be implemented in the Fall 2021 is the expansion of the eSchool currently offered, the District will be making online school available next year for grades 6 through 12 and this could have the potential to impact classroom size in the future. The significant influx of Federal funding is allowing for expanded technology in schools.

Mr. Rose suggested that the District identify the current barriers that don't meet educational needs, with respect to what educators in a facility need to give students a quality education. If it can be measured and

then presented to the community to show what is required of a building to get the best educational results for students it may help with increasing community buy-in. It was further suggested that it may be time for KDE to review its regulations to modernize them. This effort would benefit not only JCPS but other districts in the Commonwealth. This could include engaging other stakeholders such as Greater Louisville Incorporation, American Institute of Architect's and others could advocate for changes.

Internal Audit Update – Jodell Renn, Director, Internal Audit

Ms. Renn shared that in preparation for the FY 2022 continues her one-on-one meetings with Board members and Cabinets leaders and other District personnel. She will be finalizing the risk assessment of the audit universe and presenting at the next ARMAC meeting on August 25th. She will present to FY 2022 Audit Plan to the Board on September 14th.

Ms. Mitchell inquired about sharing results of audit work the work of the consultants, Ms. Renn responded that all the results are included in a high-level summary, if there are any reports a member is interested in receiving, they may request a copy. Ms. Mitchell also inquired about follow-up of corrective action plans. Ms. Renn shared that she has a findings database that tracks due dates and she solicits status updates and shares the results of those with Ms. Dennes and Dr. Pollio. Ms. Renn stated that she will be certain to include the status update in future presentations to ARMAC.

Adjournment

Ms. Mitchell made a motion to adjourn the meeting; Dr. Moyer seconded the motion. The meeting adjourned at 4:03 pm.