

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 requested to give a brief update of summer school to follow-up on a previous conversation from the April 28th meeting. Over seven thousand children registered for summer school at either a JCPS or community partner location, with the District providing 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 Chief are also providing oversight.

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

Community feedback is currently being gathered regarding the three JCPS Student Service Centers discussed in the previous meeting, with funding provided by ESSR funds. The locations would be opened in a graduated manner, with the West End site being the first to open. The District will submit plans for the service centers at the end of July, once community feedback is compiled. Dr. Pollio and Renee Murphy, Chief Communications Officer, have developed a video requesting feedback on the districts plans for the ESSR funding, and Amy will provide a link to the video to

committee members.

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 heads a department of ten people. The District has projects totaling between \$60 - \$100 million every year, and any project costing over \$20,000.00 is bid out. All projects considered capital construction must be on the District Facility Plan per Kentucky Statutes. Maintenance work is also bid out and must be funded solely by District general funds. These projects are typically considered one offs.

KDE looks at projects three times and uses regulations that were developed in 1995, many of which are still applicable today. Things such as an open design are not found in these regulations. One regulation example applies to elementary gymnasiums requiring that bleachers cannot be fully extended without using the entire floor space. Once fully extended, there is no floor space left to allow for basketball games or any other program to be held for an audience. The background and goal of KDE rules is to have equity across the state. It is possible to request waivers for elementary schools, but they do require a lot of additional work.

Before starting a new building construction project, Susan meets with students and parents to ask what they would like to see. New building construction projects were added to the long-range plan in 2019, but the process began much earlier. The District began with looking at building condition and if they were at end of life or combining buildings in areas with changing demographics. KDE also uses these guidelines when considering new building construction.

JCPS wants to ensure equity across the district, and updating facilities is not changing what is happening in the classroom. We need to redefine the purpose of a school building for teaching and learning. Future State is challenging a lot of the norms. Flexible use of space is needed as opposed to the typical classroom setting of desks in rows. More natural light, more space to accommodate staff and allow for collaboration, the ability to adjust the size of classrooms are considerations. Along with regulations from 1995, other challenges are adequate funding to address decades of deferred maintenance, shifting population dynamics of the community and the large size of the district.

Many insights were gained due to COVID. The district will be making online school available next year (for grades 6 through 12) and this could impact classroom size. ESSR funds are allowing for expanded technology in schools. Mr. Rose enquired as to the number of schools in the district that don't meet educational needs, with respect to what educators in a facility need to give students a quality education. This could be a part of Future State; it should be measured and then presented to the community to show what is required of a building to get the best educational results for our students. It was also suggested that it may be time for a study of the KDE regulations and the reasons for them. This could benefit not only JCPS but other districts in the state. Another option could be JCPS architects and other construction staff meeting with their peers at KDE to discuss their thoughts on the regulations. Could having an outside stake holder such as GLI request a review of the regulations be of help? Or an outside review by an independent auditor of areas not currently being looked at, especially of the regulations?

Internal Audit Update – Jodell Renn, Director, Internal Audit

Ms. Renn continues her one-on-one meetings with Board members and Cabinets leaders. 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 the Board on September 14th. The high-level summary shows the results from outside auditor findings and is available for the Committee members to review.

Adjournment

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