

# Jackson County School District

Press Release – January 11, 2022

Superintendent: Dr. John D. Strycker



## JCSD Board Focuses on COVID Learning Loss

The Jackson County Board of Education held their monthly meeting Monday evening at the district office in Vancleave. Highlighting the meeting was a presentation and plan to help students recover from learning loss experienced primarily from COVID-related circumstances.

“I am simply amazed with our school staff. To come through a world-wide pandemic with our record-breaking ACT scores and graduation rate is quite an accomplishment,” said Superintendent, Dr. John Strycker. “However, as I reviewed our mid-year diagnostic student data, I still have some serious concerns about the learning loss experienced primarily from the COVID pandemic.”

Director of Curriculum and Administration, Dr. Penny Westfaul, stated that she is thankful that in-person learning has continued for Jackson County School District throughout most of the pandemic; however, student data shows there is still learning loss. “As we consider mid-year diagnostic data, the impact of COVID learning loss is clearly evident,” noted Dr. Westfaul.

Dr. Westfaul presented a plan that addressed the specific concerns down to individual schools, classrooms, and students. “We seek to put additional resources toward identified needs to address the academic deficiencies caused by COVID,” she said.

The board also heard an update regarding district finances and facilities. Dr. Strycker reviewed the six-year plan that addresses the projected loss of roughly \$6 million dollars annually beginning with the 2028-29 school year due to the proposed decommissioning of the MS Power Plant Daniel coal generation units. Board of Education President, Keith Lee, said of the proposal, “We can’t control population growth or unexpected building component failures leading to further facility deficiencies. However, developing a strategic capital plan that considers both facilities and finance issues is something we can control.”

Prior to the board meeting, several staff and students were recognized for a variety of programs. Included in the recognition were JCTC students and staff, East Central Upper Elementary teaching staff, East Central High School band, Vancleave Middle School robotics program, Vancleave High School swim team, and Professional Learning Academy participants. “The staff and students recognized this evening are the true assets behind our A-rated school district. I am so proud of each accomplishment,” said Strycker of the recognitions.

If there are any questions or concerns regarding this press release, please contact Superintendent John Strycker at 228-283-3000 or 989-233-2490.