

# Jackson County School District

Press Release – September 14, 2022

Superintendent: Dr. John D. Strycker



## JCSD Celebrated Successes While Looking to Improve

The Jackson County Board of Education held their monthly meeting Monday evening at the district office in Vanleave. Highlighting the meeting was a curriculum scoreboard update along with direction regarding the organization structure of the district.

The meeting began with an update on Board goals. Dr. Penny Westfaul presented an all-inclusive update titled “Data Scoreboard 2021-2022.” The report included Kindergarten Readiness Data, 3<sup>rd</sup> grade reading scores, 2022 graduation rate, MAAP state test data, and ACT data.

“We are pleased with our 2021-2022 school year results,” said Dr. Westfaul. “Our ACT scores and graduation rate are the highest ever achieved and our schools performed very well on state testing. We are also proud of our state preliminary accountability score which has not been release by the state,” said Westfaul.

“Our students, staff, and school community should be very proud that we are posting some of our best results in our district’s history. To celebrate these accomplishments, we are planning a school community celebration,” said Superintendent Dr. John Strycker.

The Board also reviewed the 2023-2024 budget as discussions continued regarding the projected deficit. The district leadership team is putting together a plan to address the projected deficit according to the district’s business manager, Ryan Earley.

“We are very fortunate that while we are estimating a deficit for 2023-2024, we have several options to address the shortfall,” said Earley. “Higher ADA could result in an additional \$1.2M MAEP funding and, in addition, we are projecting \$3.3M in excess fund balance at year end. We will continue to aggressively look for cost saving opportunities that have minimal impact on instruction and staffing including reducing long-term energy and transportation operating costs.”

While district officials are pleased with the school’s academic outcomes, Superintendent Strycker proposed adjustments to the current organization structure that he feels will make the district operate more efficiently while saving thousands of dollars that could be redirected from administrative costs into the classroom. During the meeting, the Board approved the policies that will allow the district to begin to transition to the new organizational structure. The new structure will have two main areas of focus – instructional and operational.

“While we are already an ‘A’ district, I’m certain we can be better as we streamline our operations and implement countywide best practices on the instructional side of our district,” he said. Strycker indicated that the district will methodically transition from the current organization structure to the new one.

During the meeting, the Board also received an update from the Jackson County Recreation Department, Director Darice Crew regarding the county’s plans for facility improvements.

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