

Jackson County School District

Press Release – January 12, 2021

Superintendent: Dr. John D. Strycker



JCSD Board Seeks Input from Community for January Facility Workshop

The Jackson County Board of Education held their monthly board meeting Monday evening. Highlighting the meeting was an update regarding student achievement data and the school district’s facility planning process in preparation for a possible spring facility bond.

“Our student data indicates that we are fortunate to have 99% of our students back to traditional learning in the classroom. Additionally, our student achievement data shows that our students benchmarked below previous years data as a direct result of the mandated school closure last spring,” said Strycker.

Director of Curriculum and School Administration, Dr. Penny Westfaul, presented the update to the board members reviewing i-Ready Diagnostic Growth Data for kindergarten through eighth grade compared to the latest MAAP state test results. Dr. Westfaul also reviewed the high school benchmark assessment figures and district benchmark assessment projections in Algebra, English II, Biology, and US History.

Dr. Westfaul noted, “We must use the data we have day-to-day to inform instruction. Even with some areas of deficiency, we are still teaching, learning, and getting great results. Our goal is to continue to strive to help students overcome any learning loss they have had due to school closures and to surpass past academic performance.”

Following the student data update, Dr. Strycker briefed the board on the school district’s facility planning process. Dr. Strycker presented the entire plan to the board in preparation for the upcoming January 21st board facility workshop. “We are in the input stage of our plan, which will be data-driven and community-led. If we seek a bond, our taxpayers will be footing the bill, so our community needs will be involved in driving our decisions,” said Strycker.

Over the past several months, JCSD had a facility assessment completed of all school facilities detailing the mechanical, structural, and grounds needs for each facility in the district. Additionally, a demographic study was completed which detailed the population of the community including projected student enrollment, a social-economical profile of the community, and other factors related to making decisions regarding future school facility needs.

Jackson County School District is encouraging everyone in the community to take part in the online survey and to attend upcoming community meetings. Details for these meetings will be posted on the district website under “Facility Plan” at <https://www.jcsd.ms/domain/4218>.

Board of Education President, Troy Frisbie, stressed the importance of the community being aware and involved in the planning process. “We are committed to a transparent and fully open process. Having community input is not only a testament to that commitment, but it also allows parents to participate and shape the future of their children’s schools.”

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