

Jackson County School District

Press Release – November 17, 2020

Superintendent: Dr. John D. Strycker



JCSD November Board Meeting: Onward and Upward – ACT and Facility Initiatives

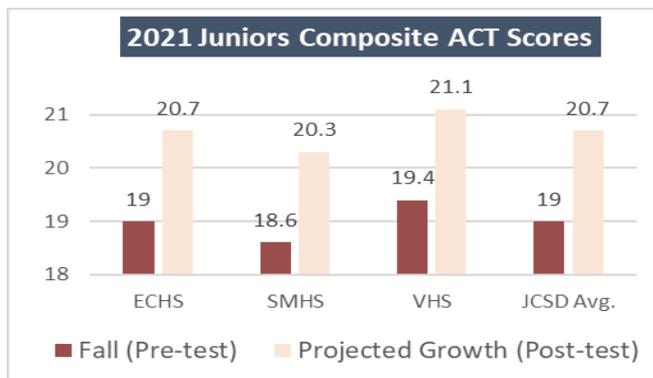
The Jackson County School District Board of Education November board meeting took place last evening at the district office. Highlighting the meeting was a review of the next steps regarding the ACT and facility/bond initiatives.

Dr. John Strycker, JCSD Superintendent, began the meeting by stating, “We are blessed to have nearly 99% of our students back to traditional learning! During the pandemic our goal was to get our kids safely back to school. Certainly, we will continue to closely monitor the health of our students daily and communicate this information to our parents and community. Regardless, we are simply blessed our kids are back in the classroom.”

Moving forward, Director of Curriculum and Administration, Dr. Penny Westfaul, gave the board of education an update regarding the district’s ACT initiative. Progress toward the goal of doubling the number of seniors scoring 27 or higher on the ACT by the year 2023 was highlighted. As of early November, 48 seniors have met this goal, putting JCSD at an astounding 65% of the way toward 2020-2021 goal success.

| High School | Seniors Scoring Over 27 | | | | |
|--------------------------|-------------------------|-----------|-----------------|-----------|-----------|
| | 2019 ACT Data | 2021 Goal | Actual Mid-Year | 2022 Goal | 2023 Goal |
| East Central High School | 12 | 16 | 13 | 20 | 24 |
| St. Martin High School | 27 | 36 | 27 | 45 | 54 |
| Vancleave High School | 16 | 22 | 9 | 28 | 32 |
| District Total | 55 | 74 | 48 | 93 | 110 |

Improving JCSD’s ranking on the coast of junior ACT scores was the second primary goal in the ACT initiative, and the district is well on its way to accomplishing this goal. Dr. Westfaul stated, “If our projections hold true, juniors in Jackson County School District will show a 1.7-point increase over the average ACT pre-test composite score, potentially bringing the average composite to 20.7.”



The board also discussed the next steps with the district's facility planning process. Last spring, the board voted to proceed with a plan to improve district facilities which most likely would include bond financing. One of the first-steps of this plan was to have both a facility and demographic study completed.

"It was first-things-first leadership regarding our focus of returning to school. Now that most of our students are back to school, it's time to proceed with our facility plan," said Strycker.

The board members were given facility study data and demographic reports to review in preparation for a December 3rd facility workshop. "The goal of the December 3rd workshop is to listen to board input after each board member has had a chance to review all the data. Then, we will form our community input team and begin to craft our specific plan," noted Strycker.

Additionally, the board reviewed and discussed a proposal to hire and retain more bus drivers due to a shortage. The board also discussed possible solutions to improve the district's HVAC maintenance (heating, cooling, & air conditioning) and the plan to staff the FABLAB in light of a recent retirement announcement.

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