

Jackson County School District

Press Release – April 21, 2023

Superintendent: Dr. John D. Strycker



District Finances Discussed – Student Achievement Headed in Right Direction

The Jackson County Board of Education held their monthly meeting Thursday evening at the district office boardroom in Vancleave. Highlighting the meeting was a finance discussion regarding future expense increases.

While the school district has established a healthy Fund Balance (rainy day money), district expenses are increasing. The School Board was presented property insurance renewal options and two strategic paths it can take going forward given the tough insurance market. One path would require the district to pay more in insurance premiums to reduce its deductibles and increase its loss limits to match what is currently in place. The second path would require the district to retain more risk with higher deductibles and lower loss limits in exchange for saving around \$750,000 annually in premium rate hikes. In order to retain the risk in the second path the district would need to set aside \$5,000,000 as an insurance reserve. The second path would save the district the equivalent of 10 teacher units annually.

Ryan Earley, Business Manager concluded "At a time when both the district and state have cash balances near all-time highs and insurance carriers are trying to recapitalize from recent weather events across the country by increasing insurance premiums, it would be a strategic move on the district's part to retain more risk in this hardening insurance market while we have the excess cash to do so."

Superintendent Dr. John Strycker reported he is pleased that school districts in Mississippi are now looking to Jackson County School District regarding ACT scores. The district has been experiencing all time high ACT scores after the implementation of a specific plan targeting improvement. "I'm pleased that Jackson County School District is leading the way with our ACT program and that we can help others in the state as well."

The Board also recognized 72 students and 30 staff during Board recognition before the meeting. "It's impressive that in one month we have so many of our school family to recognize," said Strycker.

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