

Jackson County School District

Press Release – March 14, 2023

Superintendent: Dr. John D. Strycker



JCSD Students Attendance is Back – Credit to all school staff.

The Jackson County Board of Education held their monthly meeting Monday evening at the district office boardroom in Vancleave. Prior to the regular Board meeting was the Parent, Teacher, and Administrator of the Year Program.

During his monthly update, Superintendent Dr. John Strycker informed the Board that the two-week student attendance figures were very close to pre-pandemic numbers at 94%. “We are very blessed to have our student attendance numbers returning to what they once were before the COVID pandemic. There is no question that our recent high marks on state and ACT testing are tied to attendance,” said Strycker. “Our students want to come to school.” Strycker also noted that the positive JCSD attendance trend is not the case around the state and country as the majority of schools are under pre-pandemic attendance numbers.

During his update, Strycker mentioned the Parent, Teacher, and Administrator recognition program held before the regular meeting. “Our people make the difference both in and outside the classroom. It was nice to recognize our outstanding employees and parents. This group is why we are an ‘A’ school district,” he said. For the 2022-2023 school year, East Central Middle School parent Megan Legear was the District Parent of the Year. Vancleave Upper Elementary teacher Gwendolyn Thrash was the District Teacher of the Year, and Vancleave Middle School principal Karen Glass was the District Administrator of the Year.

During the Board meeting the Board also discussed the concern of vaping and the impact vaping and drugs have upon the wellbeing of students. The Board authorized the purchase of equipment to detect vaping and the importance of a systematic drug testing program.

The Board also received an update regarding district finances. Although the district continues to maintain a healthy fund balance, administration is keeping a close eye on state funding for the 2023-2024 school year. “While we are optimistic about next year’s state funding numbers, we need to continue to take a conservative approach of maintaining a healthy fund balance and make necessary reductions in a timely manner,” said Strycker concerning finance.

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