

As Superintendent of this district I believe that January is a great time to provide some useful information to you in regards to the operations of our district for the current school year. Tonight I want to share with you where we are, celebrate many, many good things that we have experienced over the first half of the year (but will not be able to share everything due to time), and then discuss some challenges we foresee for the future. I can assure you we are working diligently to provide more for your students daily!

The school report card link is on the website and I ask that you review the information individually. Please remember that the school report card has information from the last school year and financial information is from the 2018-2019 school year. If you have any questions, please call or stop by the office.

The district currently has 1,241 (which is down from 1,308 in April 2019) students enrolled. We have 40 children in preschool and Early Childhood. We have 82 in Kindergarten at Ste. Marie, 563 first through sixth grade at Newton Elementary, 167 students at Jasper County Junior High, and 408 students at Newton Community High School. We have 21 students that are transported out of district to be educated. The projected enrollment over the next 10 years based on the trend of 82 students in Kindergarten will see a fluctuation between 1245 to 1202 during these years - again this is an ESTIMATE!!

We have 7 Board members elected by the community to set policy and direction for the district. We experienced the loss of board member Rob Street. We appreciated his dedication and determination for the future of our students. We were BLESSED to have his wife Mindy to show interest in his position and the board to approve her to be seated. Thank you Mindy for stepping into this important position for the future of our children. Employees of the district include 6.5 administrators, 81 certified teachers, and 88 classified staff including bus chaperones, bus drivers, cooks, custodians, lunch supervisors, maintenance, nurses, secretaries, and teachers aides. The district covers 462 square miles and is the largest geographical school district in the state. (We have had four families annex out of the Jasper County School District into the Dieterich School District over the past four years.)

Parental contact with the school district is very good and we appreciate this communication very much!! We are fortunate to see many of our parents attending back to school night events, school programs, interscholastic events, and various education nights such as parent - teacher nights. We are continually looking for more ways to involve our parents and community in the daily activities of our students.

Our students receive instruction in Mathematics, Science, English / Language Arts, Social Science, Art, Music, Physical Education, Vocational Education and more! Our teachers are all highly qualified and 50% of them hold a Master's Degree or above. Salaries for teachers and administrators are below the state average. Another area to brag about is that our teachers are absent fewer than 10 days a year percentage is 77.5% compared to the state average of 73.5%.

Donors / Support Groups for JCCU1

The JCCU1 district is very fortunate to have received donations from the community and from several civic groups:

PTO
Rotary

Booster Club
Band Boosters

Eagle for Life

**** We appreciate your continued support for our academic and athletic programs!!!!**

Our district focus is Student Achievement, improvements for facilities, and financial fiscal responsibility!

The following reflects an estimated comparison from FY19 to FY20 budgets:

	June 30, 2019:	June 30, 2020 (estimate)
Educational	\$1,820,653	\$1,723,539
O & M	\$954,961	\$789,620
Debt	\$197,476	\$200,836
Transportation	\$138,307	\$59,192
Social Security	\$702,106	\$485,486
Capital Projects	\$4,418	\$105,918
Working Cash	\$442,594	\$529,244
Tort	\$204,035	\$148,537
Fire Prevention	\$275,571	\$332,721
TOTAL	\$4,740,121	\$4,375,093 (-\$365,028)
Big 4 Funds	\$3,356,515	\$3,101,595 (-\$254,920)

Financial Trend Data:

Percentage of revenue from taxes paid by the power plant FY06' = 58.45% (\$4,289,256.00) compared to FY19' = 18.87% (\$1,493,888.00). Tax rate FY06' = 3.49 compared to FY19' = 4.37. Over the past 19 years the EAV topped out at \$229,288,282 in FY11' and bottomed out at \$169,902,369 in FY17', it is currently growing but we do anticipate another drop in the near future with the uncertainty of the power plant.

We are very fortunate to have a projected balanced budget at the end of this school year. This is very difficult to do without the help of our staff and taxpayers. Thank you taxpayers and community for continuing to support our schools. We spend an immense amount of time trying to create a budget that will provide us with the funds to educate our students in a manner that is very pleasing to our community. We meet with Vince Gallo with ISBE to utilize his expertise when setting the levy. A continued concern for our budget is the proration of funds from the state in the transportation line.

The State is doing a better job for the most part on providing us with our allocations in a timely manner, we are still delayed mostly in transportation at this time. We have made great strides in the right direction with our

Transportation Fund, but we are not where we would like to be just yet. We will continue to seek ways to transport our students more efficiently and safely!!

Ste. Marie Elementary

Ste. Marie Elementary provides our prek and kindergarten students with the ideal start to their educational careers. Because of the small size of the school, the staff is able to provide a warm and inviting environment that helps our youngest students feel comfortable and excited about learning. The staff at Ste. Marie Elementary is supportive and skilled. The staff believes they can collectively accomplish great things and make a positive impact on students attending Ste. Marie Elementary. Teachers share ideas and resources among one another on a regular basis. Teaching and learning are based on academic as well as social emotional development.

Kathy Johnson is a half-time administrator at Ste. Marie Elementary this year who is dedicated to the staff and students. Currently 86 kindergarten students are enrolled at Ste. Marie Elementary, along with 40 pre school students. The staff consists of eight certified and eight classified staff members.

With the anticipation of the district's upcoming building project, Ste. Marie Elementary would be open for students in 2020 - 2021, but will likely not be open for students after the FY21' school year.

Newton Elementary

Newton Elementary welcomed a new Principal this year - Jessica Guzman has joined the administrative staff and brings a passion for student learning and a desire to improve curriculum to help challenge our students cognitively and socially. She has been a great addition and has big plans for the staff and students and Newton Elementary for the coming years.

Newton Elementary also saw Katy Conder move from ½ time Assistant Principal ½ time Counselor to ½ time Assistant Principal ½ Director of Social Services for PreK through sixth grade. She spends quality time assessing our newly implemented programs on the social emotional side, works weekly with our counselors in the district, and works with Melissa Semple on the CSCI survey information. The purpose of this effort is for our district to become more data driven in our decision making. This has already had a huge impact on the quality of the programs we are offering students on the social emotional side of life.

Students in first grade through sixth grade attend Newton Elementary. The students and staff of Newton Elementary live by the Eagle Way mission statement: Newton Eagles work hard, are kind, are brave and have fun. Staff and students work and learn by this mission statement.

Newton Elementary students and staff work hard. This year started with an Eagle Way Training Camp in which staff helped students learn the expectations of Newton Elementary's classrooms, hallways, playground, and lunchroom. Students and staff worked on building relationships and getting to know one another and then began the work of academics. High academic achievement has always been and continues to be a focus at Newton Elementary. Rigor, relevance and student growth are very important components of the educational program at Newton elementary along with strong social emotional skills. Second Step curriculum is being taught building wide to lay a strong social emotional foundation. The PASS Classroom was implemented this year. Though this classroom has only been in action for five months, we do feel this class is and will continue to be beneficial in helping support our students in need of this intervention. The students and staff of Newton Elementary have worked hard from day one and have continued with that strong work ethic each day.

Newton Elementary students and staff are kind. Learning and showing kindness is a top priority at Newton Elementary. One of the ways in which students grow in kindness is through community service projects and acts of kindness. So far this year, students have made posters and thank you cards for the Veteran's Day Program, partnered with Jasper County Home Front to make Christmas cards to send to our troops, spread Christmas cheer by caroling, and collected caps to recycle into benches for the playground. The Newton Elementary PTO funded the processing of the benches. We are very grateful for the continued work and support of the PTO! Additionally, all of the students and staff of Newton Elementary participated in a canned food drive this December for the Ministerial Association in which 4,003 food items were donated! Newton Elementary staff and students continue to strive to teach and model kindness on a daily basis.

Newton Elementary students and staff are brave. The students and staff of Newton Elementary show their bravery everyday as they lead, learn and try new things. Students at Newton Elementary have leadership roles within the building and in their classroom. Within the building, students lead the announcements each morning, raise and lower our American and Illinois flag at the beginning and end of each day, help in the cafeteria and in the office at the end of the day by running notes. Also, this year, students and staff at Newton Elementary teamed up with students and staff at Jasper County Junior High and Newton Community High School to hold a student-led Veteran's Day Program. The students did an outstanding job honoring our veterans. Additionally, Newton Elementary students have held several musical programs in front of live audiences this year. These performances included the First Grade Thanksgiving Program, the First-Fourth Grade Christmas Program, and the Fifth and Sixth Grade Band and Chorus Concert. The students did a great job displaying their talents each time. Giving students opportunities to shine, exert bravery and build their leadership skills is a core value at Newton Elementary.

Newton Elementary students have fun. Students and staff at Newton Elementary like to have fun learning every day. Students have fun learning and exploring with science experiments, participating in math review games and learning new skills like Cardio Drumming in their Physical Education class. Students also look forward to the opportunity they have to participate in a Fun Friday activity if they have met the expectations for the week. Additionally, students have enjoyed opportunities to interact with high school students during FFA Day and High-Five Fridays in which members of the high school Tennis Team, Cheerleaders, Football Players and Volleyball Players have taken turns coming over to greet students on Friday mornings. The staff at Newton Elementary does an excellent job finding creative and fun ways to engage students in learning each and every day!

Newton Elementary staff understands and believes that no significant learning occurs without a significant relationship with students. Working hard, being kind, being brave and having fun are all focused around building positive relationships with students and the staff does a great job keeping relationships at the center.

***** In FY19' the PTO donated \$40,000 for NE playground equipment and Eagle for Life donated \$10,000 for groundwork, concrete, post hole digging, ground preparation and rubber mulch.***

***** Many volunteers and the JCCU1 custodial staff were able to erect the playground equipment to the East of Newton Elementary this past Fall.***

(Thank you very much PTO, Eagle for Life, staff and volunteers for your part in this incredible project!!)

Jasper County Junior High

JCJH saw Ryan Klier move from the classroom to an Administrative position - JH / HS Assistant Principal and JCJH athletic director. Ryan has been a great addition to the administrative TEAM. He keeps very busy helping students 7-12 on a daily basis and providing our junior high athletic programs with guidance and support.

JCJH with it's 167 - 7th & 8th grade students. They are asked to take more responsibility for their daily approaches as well as being challenged to grow daily by a highly qualified staff that believe having strong positive relationships with students is the basis of all learning and growth in education. All academics are based around the Common Core, as well as having the opportunity for self-selected elective classes: Life Skills, Weightlifting, Communications, Hands on Science, Current Events, Yearbook, Life Math, Intro to Agriculture, Fitness Concepts and RtI in Reading and Math. The Chorus & Band program continues to have the highest quality of performances you will ever see and hear from a Jr. High. This year the Band finished Grand Champion of the Jr. High division at the Oblong Spooktacular Parade. The Science Fair in the spring for all 7th & 8th grade students always shows great ideas from students and is well attended by the community. The 8th Grade Reading Rocks program, also in the spring, does a tremendous job of connecting a student with an adult partner, a truly outstanding community reading program. The junior high has done a Rise Above day for the past 3 years. This day allows students to attend sessions and discuss topics such as body image, leadership, gaming, vaping, friendships, family issues, depression and many more topics. The day is a day to focus on kids and talk about issues they face on a daily basis. It is a great day for both students and staff.

JCJH offers 10 different extra-curricular activities throughout the year which on an average over 70% of the students take part in at some point throughout a school year. JCJH belongs to the Illinois Elementary School Association, which oversees all the requirements/guidelines and state series competitions, where success as teams and individuals continue. JCJH was recognized as the IESA Region "N" Sportsmanship Award in 2013-14 and this award remains a high honor for our student/athletes, coaches, parents, fans and administration. The students and coaches work hard at all facets of their activities learning life lessons beyond the classroom.

In the Fall of 2018 the State of Illinois began a process of scoring districts on several areas of academic growth. We were designated as a "lowest performing" score. This was very disappointing to our staff, but they along with Mrs. Probst embraced the challenge of improving for our students. With just one year under their belt with this challenge, the recent designation moved to "underperforming" which is one step up from the original designation. The staff and administration have been very involved with an assigned ISBE staff member and have teamed up with several consultants and learning partners. I am very proud of our staff and students with the movement in a successful direction. Change is not easy and this group has and are still seeking changes to better the educational process for those students.

Newton Community High School

Newton Community High School is the home of 408 Eagles this year, freshmen through seniors. At NCHS, we all strive to be our best every day and prepare students for whatever path they choose in life. The Student Advisory Team along with the teachers have been working on a list of goals they developed together.

A goal this year at NCHS was finding time to educate all students on soft skills, focus on careers, building relationships and teach those life skills that are sometimes taken for granted or are unable to be taught due to time constraints. To meet that goal, we have continued RtI Monday, where teachers team teach and invite community members into our school to discuss specific topics, raise awareness of important issues and work on team building skills. They have also had a panel of alumni come and talk to seniors and hosted a career fair for the sophomores. Many great things have resulted from RtI Monday.

As far as academics and class offerings at the high school, we continue to offer many dual credit courses to prepare students for postsecondary education and to help families financially. We were excited to announce there were 9 Illinois State Scholars from NCHS this year. Our CEO program continues to offer students a great opportunity to consider the business world as an entrepreneur for a career. Currently, we have 15 outstanding students enrolled. This class just completed their class business, Hometown Showdown. They will once again host an annual Trade Show in late April. Our Fine Arts department continues to excel. The Marching Eagles had a very successful season, the Pop's Concert displayed endless talent, the Yearbook club continues to win numerous awards, and the art classes are bursting at the seams. Students have already begun rehearsals for this year's musical, "Joseph and the Technicolor Dreamcoat".

Extracurricular is another area where our Newton Eagles exceed expectations. Around 80% of our student body is involved in some type of extracurricular activity or sport! We had a very successful fall in all sports! The Volleyball team won the Conference for the 5th year in a row. The Football team created an electric atmosphere on Friday nights and made it to the playoffs. The girls and boys basketball teams are having successful seasons; they both just won the Dieterich Christmas Tournament. As for our athletes, what I find more impressive than their performance on the court is their time spent out in the community and their dedication to help others. However, the spirit of volunteerism extends throughout the entire student body and staff. Whether it be packing bags for Blessings in a Backpack, visiting care centers, tutoring elementary kids, collecting food, or organizing coat and gift drives, helping with Chamber events, the students at NCHS are proud to give back to a community that does so much for them.

NCHS has amazing teachers that put students first, a dedicated staff that works very hard, and a student body that has a limitless future. The mentoring program at the JH / HS has many volunteers this year and they are "Being the Difference" for many of our students. We really do have an Amazing "Village" helping our teenagers seek their desires for the future!!

Special Education Department

Our district welcomed a new Special Education Coordinator this year - Jennifer Bales moved from the classroom to join the administrative staff. She has been a tremendous addition and is doing an amazing job with our staff, students and parents!!

The special needs department continues to focus on providing individualized instruction and support to meet the needs of our students. Parent input and support is valued as we know that it takes everyone working together to obtain the best outcomes for our students. The teachers work diligently at communicating with parents but also teachers and support staff. Collaboration is a key to student success. Our district has a talented and dedicated group of special needs teachers and speech-language pathologists that strive to help our students reach their maximum potential.

As educators of students with special needs, we work to foster an environment that is collaborative among parents, students, teachers and school personnel. As a department, we communicate closely with the general education staff for the benefit of our students. We pride ourselves in our efforts to involve parents in the planning and execution of their child’s educational needs.

The Special Needs Department provides a rich learning environment. Our staff of eleven highly qualified teachers and trained paraprofessionals work to achieve the highest level of education and emotional stability for our students. Instructional decisions are based upon student data and individual growth. Student progress is regularly monitored in order to ensure the proper supports and services are being delivered to reach each child. Thus, the support goes beyond the child and touches the lives of the entire family.

Jasper County Community Unit #1 Counseling Report

The counseling staff at JCCU#1 has been collecting data to monitor and track programs and determine what services are needed to provide support to students, staff, and families. Newton Elementary began collecting data and tracking student contact in August. Jasper County Junior High began collecting data and tracking session data in August. Newton Community High School began collecting data and tracking session data in October. One goal that the counseling staff has for the remainder of this year is to continue looking at data and determining what programs and supports are working and where adjustments need to be made for the highest level of efficiency.

Newton Elementary - One of the main goals at Newton Elementary in the 2019-2020 school year was to work on the number of crisis responses by counseling staff. The number of responses decreased from August - December 2018 to August - December 2019 by a total of 32 contacts. The PASS classroom and early identification paired with placement within this program have played a significant role in this shift. This has also allowed the counseling staff to conduct more proactive counseling sessions.

Building	Student Sessions/Contacts	Group Sessions	Percentage of Student Population
Ste. Marie/Newton Elementary	A total of 1,103 student contacts were made at Newton Elementary *2 Counselors	A total of 15 groups serving a total of 80 students through social/emotional and academic groups	*40.7% of the student population received student contact by a school counselor *14.8% of the student population participated in a group
Jasper County Junior High	A total of 498 student contacts were made at the junior high *1 Counselor	A total of 10 sessions were held at the junior high	*The data collected included # of sessions, but not # of students - this data is not available to report.

Newton Community High School	A total of 330 student contacts were made at the high school *1 Counselor *Data collection had a later start date.	There were no groups.	*The data collected included # of sessions, but not # of students - this data is not available to report.
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PTO

Our Parent Teacher Organization in the Jasper County School District is Amazing. We are very Blessed to have this group to support our students and staff in the manner in which they do. There is much work and many hours of donated time from them as they provide so much that we as a district are unable to provide. The current PTO officers are: Brooke Wolf, Kristin Radke, Kylee Frichtl, Jennifer Meinhart and Robin Deckard. Here are items in which they have contributed so far this year:

- Teacher wish list for K-6 grades, Resource, PE, Music, Cross Cat and Speech Teachers \$ 5,400
- 4 benches from 3rd grade plastic cap recycling \$ 1,400
- 4 carpets for 2nd grade classrooms \$ 1,400
- Assist in instillation of new playground equipment \$ 620
- Multipurpose room recess tubs for rainy / cold days @ NE \$ 850
- JCJH gift cards for classroom supplies \$ 450
- 3 umbrellas / bases for outside picnic tables @ NE \$ 200
- Sensory pathways @ SME \$ 50
- Total \$10,370

What is the State of the District?

Jasper County Community Unit District #1 continues to focus on student achievement! Many of our administrators, staff and coaches have continued emphasizing community service this year as well. We are putting students first. Our students are learners, leaders, and our best hope for this community, state, and country. They are excelling because of excellent administrators and faculty, an outstanding classified staff, parents who are involved in their lives, and a community that values and supports them. It takes a village to raise a child and we have many elements in this village to promote the success of our students. We feel our TEAM, which has been listed here is topnotch!

Specific things we have been working on this year are:

- Promoting trust amongst everyone.
- Building project to provide a much more safe and efficient education in our facilities.
- Continually looking at programs to provide our students with the best education possible.
- Ste. Marie Elementary School to close in the coming years, move staff and students to town.
- Enjoying the opportunity to support, lead, listen, learn, care, and make a positive difference.
- Striving to expand our vocational offerings, such as bringing back construction trades.
- Increased efforts and resources for social emotional support for students.
- Implemented a PASS classroom at Newton Elementary to assist with behavioral interventions.

Some real challenges looking us in the face are:

- An aging bus fleet - we are currently $\frac{3}{4}$ of the way through the process of this upgrade. We have lost three mini-buses this year to date.
- Huge expenses to renovate and consolidate our facilities for more efficiency and safety.
- Athletic facilities need upgrades / renovations in the coming years.
- Unfunded State Mandates
- Teacher shortage
- Continued prorations in funding from the State

** We are very BLESSED to have our counselors promoting an AMAZING MENTOR PROGRAM at both our Elementary School and the Junior High / High School. This program has grown over the past couple years and is still seeking anyone interested in being a part. We again are very fortunate to have volunteers investing time into our student's lives!!

After four years as the Superintendent of this fine district, I can honestly say we have great students, staff and community members. I have felt very supported from many within the district and the community. I would just ask that we continue to create a more cohesive bond between each other and between our education system and our community. After all, we are all on the same TEAM!!!! Trust is very important to me and I desire for that to continue to grow within our district and with the school and community!! The future of our educational institution weighs heavily on you as a community. Education is changing at an alarming rate and we must be ready to embrace these changes. We will likely see more financial concerns with the effects from the potential closing of the power plant. However we are working diligently to prepare for the day that takes place, if it does. We will continue to be transparent with what our needs will be and options of how to attain those needs. We again appreciate your support for our systems as we are only as good as you help us be!!

As a new decade 2020 rolls in, it is a very exciting time for all of us as we are very blessed to have a district full of staff that care about students and are willing to spend much time helping them explore the future. We have a community that supports the educational process for their children. With these two combinations our students are destined to SUCCEED over the next five months. I ask that you communicate with your child's school on a regular basis so you can help us Make a Difference - One Child at A Time!!!