WHAT HAS THE BOARD ACHIEVED?

Enrollment in Jeffco schools is increasing for the first time in many years, and at the same time housing values are increasing.

1) The board has invested in student achievement:
   
   * Approved a new math curriculum for elementary grades, which has resulted in significant improvements in district assessment scores
   
   * Realigned the schools in the Jefferson and Alameda areas with teacher and community input, investing millions to help strengthen the two lowest performing areas of the district with the supports and resources needed to make sure all students have access to a great public education
   
   * Invested millions in new literacy teachers, coaches, and resources to help support and increase the number of third graders reading at grade level.
   
   * Allocated resources to special needs students, as well as gifted and talented students, to ensure the needs of all students are met

2) The board has improved transparency:
   
   * Live-streaming meetings on the Internet; moving school board meetings into the community
   
   * Supporting open-streamed negotiations so the community can watch live or watch the video
   
   * Made spending decisions in public that previously were made behind closed doors

3) The board has increased community engagement.
   
   * Created a choice committee to explore the needs and demands for access to more options across the district, and a data and technology committee focused on staff and student data privacy to better inform board decisions
   
   * Enhanced the curriculum and textbook review process by adding students and community members to the committees and requiring the meetings to be held in public
   
   * Expanded the reach of district surveys, offering them in multiple languages and targeting populations not previously engaged by the district

4) The board has increased accountability.
   
   * Unanimously set measurable student achievement goals, like increasing the rate of proficient 3rd grade readers from 80% to 85%
   
   * Initiated program reviews to ensure what is being done is working and dollars are being invested in programs that work
   
   * Is seeking a new, simple, easy-to-understand teacher’s union contract focused on collaboration to improve student achievement
5) The board is being fiscally responsible

* Reduced administrative overhead, saving over $18 million this year
* Rejected an $80 million motion to use Certificates of Participation to finance two schools and a stadium in south Jeffco, which would have cost the district $5 million a year in lease payments, cutting into operating revenue
* Redirected the $18 million in one-time savings to fund the construction of a new school in northwest Jeffco to help cover growing enrollment

6) The board stands up for students and parents by supporting local decision making

* Allocated more dollars directly to schools through student-based budgeting, allowing schools to prioritize their spending decisions on what is best for their students, breaking the one-size-fits-all, top-down system of decision-making
* Protecting staff and student data by throwing out the overly intrusive data collection systems and protecting the personally identifiable information of students and staff
* Approved a resolution (with support from Mr. Witt, Mr. Newkirk, and Ms. Williams) to limit the burden of state assessments to more reasonable and manageable levels

7) The board has supported attracting and retaining great teachers and leaders

* Increased starting compensation for new teachers from $33,000 to $38,000, helping to attract great teachers to Jeffco, as previous starting salaries were not competitive with neighboring districts
* Reinstated pay for master’s degrees and raised the compensation of Jeffco’s current teachers who received appropriate degrees, since payment for those degrees had stopped
* Raised compensation for teachers working in hard-to-place jobs to over $44,000, and 3% higher for each year of experience up to six years, and raised Jeffco’s current teachers to be in line with the higher compensation
* Awarded raises for highly effective teachers that were twice as large as those for effective teachers, recognizing great performance
* Raised pay for substitute teachers whose pay had been reduced 10% during the recession
* Negotiated with classified staff and allocated raises to those rated effective and highly effective