

Special Education/Pupil Service Board Report  
September 2021

Through Title II funds that are set aside for addressing student social-emotional and mental health, we were able to offer an excellent day of professional development for staff as part of our back-to-school in-service.

This year, for professional development, as a district, we wanted to focus on social-emotional learning and the importance of developing relationships, enhancing school culture, and connecting to our Strategic Plan. Relationships are challenging to cultivate but essential to developing a successful learning environment as well as building our capacity as a staff. We kicked off the year with an engaging, positive message as we prepared to welcome back our students. ALL district staff were included in the presentation, teachers, counselors, paraprofessionals, maintenance, office, and administration as we felt the message was important for all that have contact with students.

We had JC Pohl, a special guest speaker from TEEN TRUTH, a company focused on empowering student voices in every aspect of education. In addition to his work in schools, he is an award-winning producer who has worked on film content for companies such as Warner Brothers, ESPN, and Disney.

Through his work with TEEN TRUTH, he has reached over 10 million people around the world.

The message was very well received by staff, so much so that Mrs. Bolder, Mr. Quesinberry, and myself have engaged TEEN TRUTH to come back to work with middle school and high school students in October. Students will participate in a keynote presentation as well as a student summit. Ms. Oechimen, Director of Teaching and Learning, and Pupil Services will be working with the building principals to incorporate the Top Needs of Staff (respect, support, appreciation) and Top Needs of Students (security, acceptance, attention) into our practice and processes.