

## Focused on the Future

- Quality first-line teaching and learning
- Quality professional development
- Quality leadership development
- Gifted & Talented: increased opportunities
- Workforce development & training
- Career and Technical Education/College, Career, Military Readiness
- Strategic Planning
- Establishing Business Partnerships
- Establishing Community Partnerships
- Marketing the brand of excellence related to the school district
- Facilities/grounds care, maintenance, transportation
- Strengthen Central Office support

## Stakeholder Collaboration

Plans for monthly meeting with stakeholders

- Regular meetings with the Board of Trustees
- Supt's Teacher Advisory Committee
- Supt's Student Advisory Committee
- Supt's Community Advisory Committee

## Focused on Positive District Culture

- Above all, students first!
- High visibility by district leadership
- High expectations for all
- Transparency and communication
- Building meaningful relationships with all stakeholders
- Handwritten notes to students & staff from the Superintendent

## Key Takeaways

- Our greatest assets are our diverse student body, staff and stakeholders.
- Our greatest responsibility is to improve student academic performance.
- Our greatest challenges are mitigating COVID-19 and increasing student enrollment and participation.
- Our greatest priority is the health, safety and retention of our students and staff.
- Working together, we will strengthen the ties of La Porte ISD.



"La Porte ISD aspires to make a significant and transformative impact on the lives of our students. We aim to develop critical thinkers, futuristic innovators, bold and imaginative lifelong learners who will, in turn, impact the world in positive and meaningful ways." — Dr. Walter Jackson



# Superintendent's 100 Day Report

*It's a Great Day to be a Bulldog!*



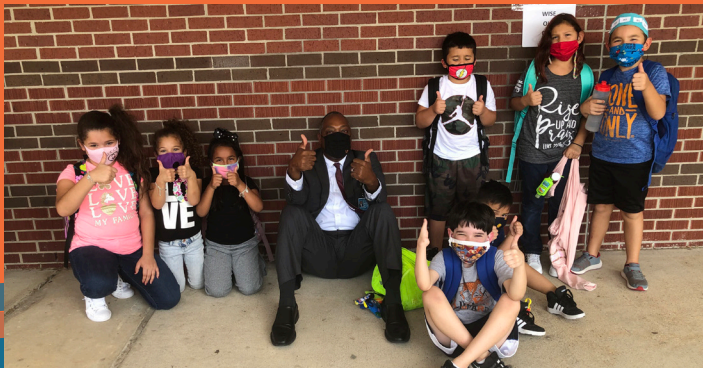
"Our greatest opportunity is to develop and sustain a world-class school district that will attract young families to join La Porte ISD." - Dr. Walter Jackson

October, 2020

## Overview

The purpose of this report is to give an overview to the Board of Trustees and the La Porte ISD stakeholders of the superintendent's first 100 days on the job. This report will by no means capture all of the interactions of the superintendent over the past few months. Great care has been given to the establishment of a solid relationship between the superintendent, the Board of Trustees and the La Porte ISD learning community. The broad areas this report will include will be: Academics, Budget, Health & Safety, Relationships and Planning.

Dr. Jackson began his official duties as leader of La Porte ISD on July 1, 2020 amid a global pandemic. He immediately began the work of building relationships with members of



the Board of Trustees, leaders in the district, business leaders in the community, and with local superintendents in the Bay Area Greater Houston area.

Assuming the role of superintendent of La Porte ISD has been no small feat. Dr. Jackson first and foremost has publicly honored the phenomenal and visionary work that has already been accomplished by the Board of Trustees, former superintendent, and district leaders.

During the time the Jackson family moved to La Porte, the school district, and much of the city's businesses were closed, and many people were working from home. This did not stop Jackson as he immediately began attending the weekly MS Teams Cabinet meetings. He also conducted in-person graduations for La Porte High School and The Academy of Viola DeWalt High School, shortly after his arrival.



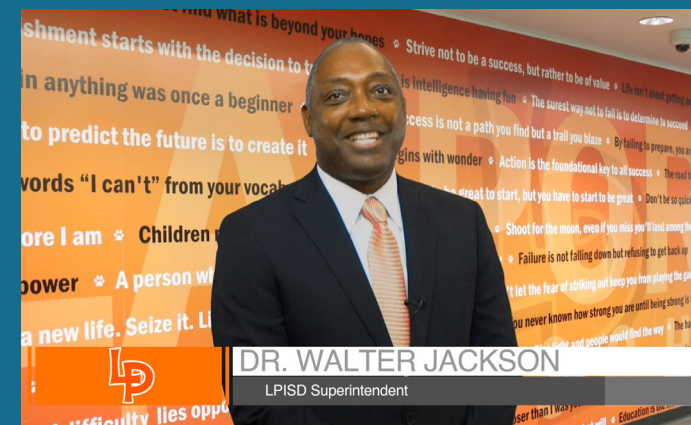
## Health & Safety

Great care has been given to ensure the health and safety of all staff and students under the COVID-19 Pandemic. Dr. Jackson has given direction to the maintenance and operations department to purchase supplies, including PPE materials, that meet CDC standards for proper disinfectant and cleaning of classrooms, schools, etc.

Dr. Jackson also had to make decisions about several weather events during his first 100 days including Cristobal, which headed toward La Porte but ended up veering east to Louisiana, Hannah, our area received storms though the system eventually made landfall near Corpus Christi, Laura and Marco which were both in the Gulf at the same time and the district closed one day for Laura, and Tropical Storm Beta, which closed the district for two days.

## Board of Trustees Communication

A superintendent's success and tenure is often tied to the positive working relationship he/she builds and maintains with the Board of Trustees. Nothing fosters relationships more than transparency of leadership and effective communication. Dr. Jackson regularly communicates with the Board of Trustees updating them weekly in a written report on the affairs of the school district.



## Teaching & Learning

The superintendent serves as the chief instructional leader for the district and Dr. Jackson made teaching and learning major priorities; he has overseen the hiring of new teachers, new principals, additional content/curriculum specialists and the adoption of a new ELA curriculum for secondary schools. He has taken time to meet with these important stakeholders regularly. On multiple occasions he has taken an entire day to visit all 13 La Porte ISD campuses, meeting with teachers, principals, students, and support staff.

## La Porte IS Ready!

The number one challenge we were faced with was to develop a comprehensive district-wide ReEntry plan for students and staff to safely return to both virtual and in-person learning. Dr. Jackson, throughout the process, communicated with stakeholders through social media, informational videos, written letters, and personal calls to the entire district. The administration along with Dr. Jackson sent out a series of informational parent surveys to communicate our plan, vision and protocols for our ReEntry plan. Ultimately, La Porte ISD was among the few area districts to begin school as scheduled on Aug. 19 in virtual mode. On Sept. 8 approximately 50 percent of our students returned to campuses for in-person learning.

## Business Management & Finance

Under Dr. Jackson's leadership the Board of Trustees adopted the 2020 tax rate at the September 8, 2020 board meeting. The Board of Trustees showed overwhelming support for the tax rate with a unanimous vote. This is important in 2020 as not only did the district lower the tax rate by \$.0103, but it also added a "golden penny" to the maintenance and operation tax rate that is permanently available to the district because of the Board of Trustees' unanimous support. This "golden penny" is available due to House Bill 3 passed by the 86th Texas Legislature which had to be approved by the school Board of Trustees unanimously with the 2020 tax rate adoption and adds approximately \$400,000 in revenue to the district every year.

## Community Relationships

Over the past 100 days Dr. Jackson has met with various members of the district and community and has worked to become an engaged member of La Porte. Below are just a few of the groups and individuals with whom he has met:

- Weekly Rotary Meetings
- La Porte-Bay Area Chamber of Commerce
- La Porte Education Foundation
- La Porte Mayor Louis Rigby, City Manager Corby Alexander and Police Chief Steve Dearthoff
- Morgan's Point Mayor Michel Bechtel
- Shoreacres Mayor David Jennings
- La Porte ISD Board of Trustees candidates
- La Porte City Council candidates
- Visit local parent/teacher groups
- Visit with La Porte Retired Teachers Association

## Communication & Outreach

- Wrote centerpiece retrospective for statewide *TSPRA/Communication Matters* magazine (to be released mid-October)
- 'A Few Moments' videos; more than 5,500 views through Sept.
- Multiple all-calls to internal stakeholders
- Visited every campus on the first day of school – before lunch
- Published columns in *Around La Porte* and *The Leader*

