



I am CPS

A Culture Transformation for Our Tomorrow



James Boyd
Facilities Operations
Supervisor

I Commit to Success

“... Our total existence of being here is to provide a safe, comfortable environment so our kids can learn.”

From the temperature in the classrooms to keeping kid-filled restrooms sanitary, to the manicured lawns out front and highly polished hallways inside, Cincinnati Public Schools’ team of building engineers and custodians makes sure everything every day is in tip-top shape.

James Boyd, CPS’ Facilities Operations Supervisor, wouldn’t have it any other way.

James, a CPS employee for 30 years, personifies the I am CPS value of I Commit to Success, by not cutting corners, leading by example and sending out a demeanor that others want to emulate. I am CPS, the culture transformation taking shape around our district, means to continually seek excellence in all aspects of your work.

“I commit to success because I’m interested in the well-being of our kids — mainly because I once was one of those kids,” says James, a 1984 graduate of Hughes High School. “Our total existence of being here is to provide a safe, comfortable environment so our kids can learn. I want to see them do well and advance.”

James started at CPS as a building engineer right after college and has seen the job evolve and become more complex as buildings’ heating and cooling systems are computerized and maintenance requires advanced training.

It was in those early years in the schools that James began to bond with students. Today, the mentoring is going strong.

“I liked the experience of dealing with the students on a daily basis and building a rapport,” James says. “Over the years, I’ve employed about 12 kids

who I’ve worked with in the schools. Now they’re advancing through our department and making better lives for themselves and their families.”

Growing up in Cincinnati and attending CPS schools drives James to give back. Six years ago, he guided the district through the pilot program with Keep Cincinnati Beautiful, which is leading the district’s move into a higher level of recycling. With the help of the building engineers and custodians, CPS is able to recycle tons of trash annually — with a goal for 2015-16 of diverting 400 tons of waste from landfills.

“We’re excited about the recycling program, and each year we try to find ways to do more. Our end-of-year clean out this year will have a heavy emphasis on recycling,” James says.

With 55 schools and several office buildings to oversee and maintain, James is always surveying the landscape and looking for where his team can improve the daily experiences for students and staff. When special requests come in, such as a need to rapidly get a closed-up building in shape for a TV appearance, James takes it all in stride and helps his team get it done.

“We recently installed a special generator at Roselawn Condon School to guarantee that all emergency areas function during a power outage, and we’re working on a complete renovation of the former Vine Street facility for use as a preschool center,” James says, listing some recent big jobs on his to-do list.

James’ mantra — aligned with I Commit to Success — is to make sure Cincinnati Public Schools’ students and staff have what they need to be safe, successful and productive.