

Superintendent Report: September Board Meeting
Submitted on September 19, 2023

ADMINISTRATIVE WORK:

September is when things get “real” in schools. We are past the first few honeymoon days of the new school year. Our administrators are busy daily with parent and student conversations, visiting classrooms, and meeting with teachers to set professional growth plans for the year. We work hard to ensure that individual professional goals are aligned to the [district improvement plan](#).

This year’s school improvement plan was collaboratively composed. The administrative team set the overarching goals with input from our DSIT members. On August 15, we took the goals to our staff and provided the opportunity for every teacher to contribute to the action steps. Keep in mind, though, the school improvement plan is a fluid document. After looking at last spring’s assessment scores, we may decide to refine our goals a bit. I’ll keep you updated on that process. The next Aggie Improvement Team meeting is scheduled for October 25.

This year, I’ve decided to bring all departments together for a monthly meeting: business, facilities, food service, athletics, technology, and instructional admin. It’s so incredibly important that we do not work in silos and that we all have a common vision for the district. During our first meeting this month, we discussed projects, initiatives, and even assessment scores.

Just a reminder that October is National Principal Appreciation Month. This is an opportunity for district leaders, elected officials, parents, students, teachers, staff, and communities to celebrate and honor our incredible principals for their visionary leadership and tireless pursuit of success for each student. I cannot be prouder of the work Josh, Tania, and Amy do on a daily basis. They work long days, long evenings, and usually some portion of the weekend. They each have a vision for their individual schools and a love for their Aggie Family.

BUDGET:

Next month we will have a presentation on our financial audit by Maner Costerisan. Initial reports are looking very positive as we were able to add to the fund balance during the 2022-23 school year. We are also looking forward to Count Day on October 4.

COMMUNICATION:

Free meals are back with the National School Lunch Program! Because so many of our grant funds rely on free and reduced lunch counts, we are actively encouraging families to complete the application, now known as the “Educational Benefits” application.

Positive news matters. We are making a concerted effort to post at least one positive message from the district via our Facebook page. We are also beginning to utilize Instagram. You can follow Mr. Andrews’ IG page here:



FACILITIES:

Mr. Miller continues to ensure that our buildings are fresh, clean, and in tip-top condition. Walking through the halls you will notice new paint, rearranged trophy cases, and new school spirit signage. Just this week he added an “Aggie Achievers” sign and television display outside of our middle school gym for Tania to use to showcase select students.

We are excited to settle on a contractor to replace the rooftop units over the middle school and look forward to getting this scheduled. It will likely be a spring break or later project due to the lead times from the manufacturer.

SAFETY:

All classroom doors, PreK-12, now have window coverings to better ensure the safety of our students and staff during a crisis situation. We have approximately \$40k left over from our safety funds from last year and will be working to prioritize other needs within the district.

Josh Andrews has now become a certified trainer for ALICE (alert, lockdown, inform, counter, and evacuate). He will be leading our staff training on September 27 on how to respond to an active shooter.

Rick and I completed a walkthrough with SetSeg on August 22. We were given a few items to remediate (ie - ensure paper cutters have finger guards, clean and organize storage closets, ensure proper enclosures for animals, etc.). All recommendations have been addressed.

The village continues to struggle to find a crossing guard for the mornings in front of the elementary school. We are grateful to Ms. Barnett who is helping to fill that gap for the time being.

I am in the process of coordinating a joint meeting with Ingham Township Fire Department, Ingham County Sheriff’s Office, and the Critical Response Group who has created digital maps of our facilities and grounds.

COMMUNITY OUTREACH / PARTNERSHIPS:

At the time of this report, the community and our Aggie Family are rallying around the Prevo family. The Prevos have several children in the district, but their 4th-grade son is currently fighting for his life in intensive care. There are several efforts to ensure the family is financially stable and that there is food on the table. Please contact the elementary school office or the superintendent's office to learn about ways you could help during this time of need.

UPCOMING DATES:

September 22: Homecoming
September 27: Half-Day Dismissal: Professional Development
October 6: Half-Day: FALL BREAK
October 9: No School: FALL BREAK
October 25: Half-Day Dismissal: Professional Development

POSITIVE NOTES:

- Congratulations to Makenna Krieger who married Frank Shanley on Friday, September 22. We wish them many years of happiness and health.
- Congratulations to Jessica Herzfeld who is currently honeymooning in Scotland after her marriage to Nicholas Kressler.
- Three under three! The Kodets welcomed their third child, Alexander, last week. Mom and baby are doing fine. Jimmy should be back to work on the 25th.
- The Popek family has learned that their baby-to-be is a girl! We are eagerly awaiting this newest member of the Aggie Family.