

Superintendent Report: November Board Meeting
Submitted on November 15, 2018

Administrative work:

We have been meeting to review administrative individual goals for this year. Each administrator is focusing on goals that align with the overall district vision/mission and improvement plan.

We have made progress on formalizing a plan in coordination with Adrea Truckenmiller, a literacy specialist/professor from MSU and Courtenay Morsi, a brilliant ISD consultant, to essentially perform a Program Evaluation of our MTSS system. We have shared various aspects of the system that we would like to analyze and have sought their expertise in doing so.

Athletics:

The winter sports seasons are all now underway. Numbers increased for girls' basketball, resulting in full rosters for both JV and varsity girls' basketball teams. Our new coaches are working on increasing wrestling numbers as well. We are excited that the team was able to occupy the new wrestling room in time for the start of the season. We are also hoping to add MS Wrestling as a club this season. Our bowling team also launched this past week. There are also full rosters for the JV and varsity boys' basketball teams.

The HS gym floor is in progress and while we are not ready to open it for the start of the upcoming winter sports seasons, we are hopeful to have it ready for the start of the new year. We are very thankful for the ROC and the HUB for supplying additional gym space and for the flexibility of our coaches while we wait for this gym to open. The elementary gym is another space we are hopeful will become available in the next month or so.

Several soccer players earned postseason recognition by MIHSSCA for Division 4: Cody Luce, 1st team and Matthew Frantz and Ethan Ryder, honorable mention.

Budget Info:

I have been working with Raelynn and the administrators to work on every detail in preparation for Revision 1 of the 2018-19 budget. After the reporting that ensues following count day, we have submitted our fall count and it looks like we are currently at 723. We budgeted for 715 initially and will revise Revision 2 accordingly.

I have worked with Raelynn to work on Revision 1 of the 2018-19 budget and this will be discussed at the board meeting in addition to the audit presentation.

We were notified that we did not receive the School Safety Grant this year. None of the schools who received funding from the first grant was awarded the grant this time.

We will discuss the timing of our sinking fund renewal election at the meeting. Our sinking fund expires after the 2019-20 school year. It is recommended that we put this on the May, 2019 ballot. The sinking fund is extremely critical to the district. We have an asset plan that drives the use of these funds, but it is our hope to save this money to put air conditioning in the elementary.

Communication:

Parent-Teacher conferences took place last week. We also sold bricks from the MS and old yearbooks. The district will be keeping one copy of each year's yearbook and then we will be recycling the rest.

Our Aggie App has been approved in the app store and we are working on updating our content. The administrators have training on Friday of this week and then we will work on rolling it out.

The first District Advisory Committee meeting took place this week. We welcomed one new member to take the place of Tim Bolles and will be seeking one more member due to a parent no longer being able to serve. We toured the district and then discussed several key topics in order to provide information and for the district to get feedback.

Community Outreach/Partnerships:

The Dansville Schools Education Foundation held their annual dinner/auction on November 3rd. It was a year with several changes including a new venue, a theme, a new auctioneer, a magician and an online silent auction. This group works very hard to put on this amazing event and it was very well attended! A few school board members were able to attend, and that always means a lot to everyone. We pay for our math curriculum and Project Lead the Way supplies with their support. They are anticipating this event to be the most successful in the history of the Foundation in terms of the financial support they will be able to provide to the district and we are very thankful.

I attended the LadyBug Auction on November 1st to be sure to show support for this group, as they are also generous contributors to our school district. It was a very nice event with a lot of community support.

Curriculum/Training:

We are going to be presenting a proposal during the meeting for the Board to adopt the additional of a STEM endorsement for our HS diplomas. More information will be provided during the discussion portion of the meeting.

Amanda VanDerHeyden, the author of Spring Math, will be in our district for the afternoon of November 28th, which coincides with a district PD day. We are excited that she will be able to spend time with our Math coaches, our elementary teachers, our secondary math teachers and our administrators. This was made possible by the support of IISD. She will be spending the morning in Haslett, as they are also implementing Spring Math.

Data:

Our administrative team will have EIDEX training after Thanksgiving break to better understand how to access our data in a very easy to understand system that also allows us to break our data down by subgroup, etc, to dig into each demographic. We are really looking forward to using this new tool!

Facilities:

The big news of late is that the music room, the connecting corridor and the wrestling room all passed inspections and were opened for our staff and students at the end of last week. We are very excited about these new spaces and were excited to see students enjoying them. We are very pleased that all of our buildings are connected again. We utilize the connection much more than we realized☺

Work is ongoing on the new soccer field as well as on the baseball and softball fields as weather permits. Press box work continues and the concessions stand will be going up soon. Ongoing work continues as we finalize the maintenance and FFA buildings while also working on the flooring in the new HS gym including the fitness room, as per the previous info in this report.

Steve Rusnock from IISD will be moving into a more formal role as our Facilities Director as we look to add his administrative skillset and expertise to ensure we are providing the best oversight and maintenance plan for our facilities. He will work with me, LaValle and Mike Sykes as we continue to clear out items we no longer need and move into our new spaces. Mike replaced outgoing maintenance person Marc St. Amant, who resigned when he was hired into a full-time position elsewhere doing different work.

Currently we are planning to have The Aggie Family Goes Back to School 2.0 on Monday, January 7th from 4- 6 PM. We hope to show the community the Aggie STEAM Adventures spaces, the elementary gym/performance area, the music room, the HS gym, the fitness room and the track. We will wait to make sure all of these spaces are available prior to unveiling this plan formally.

Personnel Update:

We honored both bus drivers and food service over the past month with small tokens of appreciation from the district. These are very important personnel for our district and we are thankful for their great work.

Our speech pathologist, Andrea Loomis, submitted her resignation this week, as she is seeking part-time employment that allows her to have more time at home with her young family. We are sad to see her leave, but understand her situation and have begun looking for a new speech pathologist.

Policy Update:

I will be meeting with Dr. Halik from NEOLA after Thanksgiving to get the latest policy updates and will then be reaching out to the policy committee to meet about the changes.

Safety:

We are looking forward to getting the security portion of our bond investment up and running in the coming weeks. We are hoping to get training on the secured vestibules and the camera systems and then will let everyone know how the new systems will work.

Teaching and Learning:

The administrators have been working to get into each of our classrooms to see our wonderful teachers in action! Their walk-throughs allow them to record data that is then imported into the teachers' evaluations. We are so proud of the high quality of our teaching staff.

They are also incorporating the new Chromebooks at the elementary, using the Chromecart at the MS and using the new Promethean boards in MS science and throughout the high school, which is benefiting our students.

Technology:

Several of the new display panels were installed recently. I am working with the ISD tech folks to try to make them as accessible as possible for both educational and communication purposes. We are very excited about this aspect of the bond work.

We are looking forward to the rollout of the new Scorevision board as well as we get ready to open the new gym.

Upcoming Dates of Note:

Board Breakfast – Dec 20

Grand Opening of HS Gym? – Dec 21

Holiday Break- Dec 22- Jan 6

The Aggie Family Goes Back to School 2.0- Jan 7