

Superintendent Report: November Board Meeting **Submitted on November 18, 2021**

ADMINISTRATIVE WORK:

We have continued to work diligently to manage all of the contact tracing and testing related to enforcement of the Ingham County Health Department order. Unfortunately, the school nurse that was assigned to our district has been reassigned and we are told that they will have a new person ready to start next week. We also applied to be part of the CDC health liaison program that would bring additional support to the district, but these positions are currently not scheduled to be filled until maybe January of 2022. Athletes and performers are now also given the chance to test if they would like to compete/perform without a mask, so that will increase the number of potential tests that will need to be conducted over the coming months.

Each of the principals have been meeting with teachers to finalize their goals and student growth measures, as well as getting into classrooms to provide feedback regarding instruction.

Commitment to Graduate was held for our current freshmen to honor their plans to complete high school and dream about what will come next for them. Vance DeCamp, a former teacher and marathon runner who lost his vision after being hit by a drunk driver nearly 20 years ago, shared an inspirational message with the students at the ceremony. Thank you to Tania Dupuis, Heather Lloyd and Sophia Mackoul for their efforts to make that such a nice event for our students.

We continue to struggle to cover all support and teaching positions each day in the district, as was discussed in the email communication that went out last Friday. Tomorrow, for example, we have had to come up with creative ways to cover nine teacher absences (for personal sickness, funerals, family illness, pre-planned absences that cannot be changed, etc.) in spite of having substitute teachers drop the jobs and having to use other staff to cover. Teachers and others are canceling appointments and plans to help cover, which is very generous of our staff. If anyone else is unable to attend tomorrow, we will have to cancel school. This is not a Dansville-specific problem, as schools throughout the state are canceling for the same reason.

ATHLETICS:

Fall Updates: Our Cross Country team also had a strong finish to their season, with the Boy's team taking 15th place overall in the State Meet, freshman Theo Davis finishing 5th and senior Adrienne Rector earning the State All-Academic Award and placing 27th at States!

Our volleyball team had a wonderful season this year, winning a district championship before falling to tough P-W team in the first game of Regionals. It was very special to see them compete in Regionals in our home gym, which was filled with Aggie fans! Congratulations to the volleyball players and Coach Schild on their outstanding season!

Congratulations also go out to sophomore Drew Frantz, who earned honorable mention All State honors in soccer this fall.

Other: The winter sports seasons are in full swing. Wrestling, bowling, girls' and boys' basketball teams are all practicing and preparing for competitions to begin in the next few weeks.

BUDGET UPDATES:

Raelynn and I have been working on Revision 1 of the 21-22 budget, which will be shared at the Board meeting as part of discussion and will then be considered for Board approval in December. Several positive outcomes have impacted the budget. One of those is our unaudited student count, which was 770. This is 30 students more than what was budgeted and than we had last year. The other factor was the foundation allowance, which increased from \$8111 to \$8700 per pupil.

Negotiations have occurred with the DEA and DESPA groups regarding the opener in all contracts to discuss wages and insurance, where applicable. We have tentative agreements with both bargaining units. Non-bargaining unit members will be notified of the plan after discussions with the Board. All of this will be discussed more in closed session.

COMMUNICATION:

The elementary held parent-teacher conferences in a mixture of online and in-person meetings, during the first week of November, which are always well attended.

The fall district newsletter was distributed throughout the community since the last meeting as well.

There will a survey sent to the parents, staff, students and also posted to the community to give them a chance to be part of the planning for the ESSER III funding plan. It will go out before Thanksgiving.

COMMUNITY OUTREACH/PARTNERSHIPS/CONNECTIONS:

MEEMIC insurance (The Scherff Agency) is providing a box lunch for staff on Monday, November 22nd to show their appreciation. The staff very much appreciates this very kind gesture.

The Board will host the annual Staff Holiday Breakfast on Thursday, December 16th with a backup date of Friday, December 17th. Similar to last year due to the impact of COVID-19, this will be limited to current staff. We have worked with the Foundation to provide Biggby coffee/cocoa and we will also provide locally baked, individually packaged cinnamon rolls for the staff. All Board members typically attend this event and your presence and kind words/holiday greetings are very much appreciated by the staff.

Becky and I have been working on sending a holiday postcard to all retirees/past Board members since we are not able to bring them in for the Staff Holiday Breakfast again this year. We hope to revive this tradition again in future years.

In partnership with the families directly involved in our local scholarships, we have worked to create a way for the community to contribute online via e-funds, to all of our local scholarships that will launch on Tuesday, November 30th, the Day of Giving. This grew out of conversations with Patty Horn, Adam's mom, as they continue to establish his memorial scholarship fund. Much thanks to Tania Dupuis, Raelynn Johns and Heather Lloyd for their help in getting this ready.

Our Education Foundation will also have a Day of Giving campaign to help make up for the canceled dinner auction event this year. They will also host an online auction around Valentine's Day in 2022.

We held our first Community Day planning meeting in preparation for the May, 2022 event. Students and staff attended to evaluate and brainstorm for the return of this tradition in the spring.

CURRICULUM/TRAINING:

Our team attended a training to further learn about and put more effort into the completion of the MICIP work that will be due at the end of the school year.

Our admin team will attend more training regarding Title IX the week after Thanksgiving break.

We had a half day of professional development at the end of October during which our Aggie Improvement Teams met and we launched our new Aggie Problem-Solving Teams! This was a very exciting day that will establish the rhythm of our professional development for years to come.

DATA:

More of our HS math classes finished the entire Spring Math intervention since the last report. Again, this is indicative of the mastery of these foundational skills that is occurring in elementary and middle school, which was not the case when we started this program. Our teachers are giving our students a gift that will serve them for the rest of their lives by investing in this work.

FACILITIES:

We continue to work on updating and completing work in alignment with our asset management plan. We have paused on the pursuit of elementary air conditioning after learning about the need to survey the community before finalizing our plans for the ESSER III funds. No plans will be finalized until that feedback is collected.

PERSONNEL UPDATES:

The district gave tokens of appreciation with personal notes to the Food Service and Bus Driver folks during the last week of October.

POLICY WORK:

We met with the NEOLA representative on Monday morning and the policy committee is in the process of finalizing our meeting date to discuss the fall updates.

SAFETY:

Rick Miller and I met with Brandon Whipple, the Fire Chief, to talk about our partnership, our fire alarm system and to establish lines of communication.

TEACHING AND LEARNING:

More work has been done with inspections and submissions of applications to allow us to move forward with launching preschool and eventually (we hope) before and after care. We will be posting for the preschool teacher and certified aide positions in the next few weeks in hopes of the preschool classroom opening sometime after the New Year. Mr. Cox has been working diligently to coordinate all of this work and to help prepare for this additional program, which is very exciting and inching us closer to the realization of a long time goal for the district!

TECHNOLOGY:

The Promethean Boards are finally all here and will be placed in classrooms over the course of the coming weeks. We also will be adding additional security cameras in the parking lot and in a few places in the district.

Upcoming Dates of Note:

- *December 13: Board Meeting
- *December 16: Proposed Staff Holiday Event w/the Board in the AM
- *December 17: End of first semester/Winter Break begins
- *January 3: Second semester begins

Check out the district calendar @ www.dansville.org to find upcoming school events!