

Superintendent Report: September Board Meeting
Submitted on September 26, 2020

Administrative work:

We continue to meet/communicate regularly to reimagine all upcoming events. One example is that we were recently able to bring students in for individual appointments for picture day. The seniors came in to do SAT testing and approximately 190 teacher meetings have been held in person with secondary students. We are finalizing plans for our September teacher PD on Wednesday to accommodate both in-person and virtual attendees. All of these events require a lot of logistical planning and communication.

Our principals have also been helping run Aggie Distribution Day each week, ensuring we are able to get free meals and needed educational materials out to our Aggie Tech Academy students.

Athletics:

Football, soccer, volleyball and cross country started back up in accordance with the MHSAA guidelines. Baseball and softball players have been able to hold some fall workouts this fall also. We will continue to adhere to the Governor's Executive Orders as well as the guidelines put out by the MHSAA as we endeavor to offer athletics while also attending to the health of our athletes.

We will continue our hiring process to fill middle school track, varsity boys' basketball and JV girls' basketball positions. We are excited to share we hired Sandy Hunt as our JV Volleyball coach after several months of the position being posted. Becky Kuznicki and Angie St. Amant were hired to coach our two middle school volleyball teams.

We do not have final details about the possibilities for winter sports, but if it happens, middle school boys' basketball will begin at the end of October. This will be followed by the start of the winter sports season in early November. The cross country team has experienced significant success this year, as they have several strong veteran runners and some helpful newcomers.

Budget Info:

We based our current budget on a student enrollment of 724, but currently still have approximately 737 students, which is very close to what we had last year. Enrollment data is being updated regularly when we receive updated information. We have been notified that the state is expected to keep funding flat for public schools for this year, which is tremendously good news, as we budgeted for a \$480 per pupil cut. We did spend an unanticipated amount of money on PPE and hotspots and didn't sell back our iPads, all which impacted our budget also, but the outlook is currently much better than predicted. The last major factor for the budget moving forward is that the district has the renewal of the operational millage on the ballot in November.

We sent a postcard to every household in our district, sent info to all staff and posted an information document on our website to communicate with the community about the upcoming

renewal of the operational millage. Every school district is expected by the state to levy this tax and for our district, this makes up nearly \$1 million of the annual funding.

The auditor and Raelynn will present information from our annual audit during the meeting on Monday.

Communication:

Our teachers and admin team continue to send School Messenger emails, post videos, call and meet with families to talk about how school is going and to problem solve what we can do better. We are posting information on FaceBook and on our website as well.

We hope to be publishing our fall newsletter soon to enable us to share personnel and school updates with the community. Tania and I met with the Sunrise Rotary Club earlier this month and shared our plans and answered their questions about the start of school. They asked how they could help and I shared our need for hotspots as well as pricing, at their request.

Community Outreach/Partnerships:

We were able to host a funding opportunity for the community to support the Luce Family, as they suddenly lost their father, Jason, earlier in September. Our community is always very generous during sad times like this and our new e-funding mechanism makes it very easy for us to post and manage.

The Dansville Schools Education Foundation is still meeting and brainstorming ways to support our school, in light of the dinner/auction event being canceled this year. This is currently another cut to our funding.

Curriculum/Training:

We overhauled New Teacher Orientation this year, with such a large incoming group. New/updated binders and materials were created and reorganized as well as updated mentor/mentee binders. This was quite an undertaking, but well worth the investment of time, as we held our New Teacher Orientation on Wednesday, September 8th from 3:30 pm- 6:45 pm. The teachers will have periodic full group mentor-mentee meetings in October and January and then a culminating celebration/reflection time in May. This formal program supplements weekly meetings between mentors and mentees and between mentees and their principal.

Our staff have continued to learn new systems, adapt to try to meet student and parent needs and do their very best to keep going in spite of extremely long hours and an unbelievably steep learning curve during a pandemic.

We will be hosting a CHAMPS training day with the Ingham ISD behavior/classroom management trainer for all of our new staff on Tuesday of this week. CHAMPS is the tool we use to help teachers consistently set student expectations to help manage classroom behavior throughout the district.

Data

We are very excited to bring Elizabeth Troia before the Board next month, as she is our first National Merit Finalist in many years. More information will be shared when she visits in October.

We are collecting engagement and attendance data for our online students to ensure we are following up and holding them accountable for their learning. We have been recording the engagement of our students in Aggie Tech Academy as a percent by building each week, in accordance with the threshold established by the pupil accounting folks, per the legislative requirements. The elementary has ranged from 95% to 98% engagement. The middle school (Grades 5-8) has ranged from 91.6% the first week to a high of 100%. High school participation has ranged from 88% to 93%. The mandate for funding is a minimum of 75% engagement.

Facilities:

The value being added with the work of Rick Miller as our facilities director is hard to quantify. He has identified and worked to resolve several issues that are both preventative and repair-related that will position the district much better than we've experienced since I've been here, especially from a maintenance standpoint.

We are also continuing to communicate with and wrap up all things construction-related.

Personnel Update:

We have one new teacher who will be introduced to the Board on Monday night.

We hired Lisa Krejcik earlier this month to teach K-5 Art and PE. Lisa is from the Jackson area originally and a graduate from WMU, but has spent the bulk of her teaching experience working in the Chicago area. She returned to Michigan in the past few years to be near family. We are fortunate to have her for our elementary art/PE position because she has experience as an art teacher and she is extremely passionate about being physically active and fit. She is a certified children's yoga instructor, served as a coach and coordinator for Girls on the Run, provides swim lessons in the summer and has participated in many marathons and triathlons herself. She is getting ready to launch a new Facebook page called Aggie Artists & Athletes, which will allow families to view artwork and follow the adventures of their students in both specials experiences.

Policy Work:

The Policy Committee will need to schedule a meeting, preferably before the next board meeting, as I met with Dr. Halik last week. Proposed dates include: Tues. 10/13, Thurs. 10/15 or Mon. 10/21.

Safety:

We continue to monitor every aspect of what we have rolled out with a lens of safety first. We are also still attending to safety in terms of intruders and fire, tornado, etc.

We are adding protocols as we add events such as fall sports.

Teaching and Learning:

We established our educational goals and finalized the District Improvement Plan at a District School Improvement Team meeting on Tuesday, September 15th. This was where the overall educational goals were reviewed and finalized, as per the legislative timelines.

We are rolling out the District Improvement Plan to the entire staff (sent to the Board via email), launching Aggie Improvement Teams and holding two “EdCamp” sessions where teachers share best practices around assessment, engaging students online, and much more at our PD meeting this week.

Technology:

We rolled out the T-mobile hotspots and have finally received and been able to distribute the Verizon hotspots. The parking lot boosters are also now installed and functioning.

Upcoming Dates of Note:

- *October 9 (half day) – October 12: Fall Break
- *October 26: Board Meeting
- *November 3: Election, including local school board election and non-homestead renewal
- *November 23: Board Meeting
- *November 25- November 27: Thanksgiving Break