Superintendent Report: October Board Meeting
Submitted on October 22, 2026

Administrative Updates:
October is National Principal Appreciation Month, providing a special opportunity to celebrate our remarkable principals for their visionary leadership and commitment to student success. I am incredibly proud of the work that Josh and Amy do every day.

This month, we also observe National School Lunch Week and National School Bus Safety Week. Our food service staff and drivers play essential roles in supporting our students beyond the classroom, ensuring they feel safe, valued, and ready to learn.

On October 21, our administrative team and the District School Improvement Team (DSIT) collaborated with consultants from IISD to plan the upcoming half-day professional learning session. This session will be heavily focused on the disciplinary literacy essentials at the secondary level and the implementation of the new literacy requirements at the elementary level. We continue to review the state assessment data as well as the results of benchmark assessments (ie - NWEA and FastBridge).

The Safe Routes to School initiative is making steady progress. Our goal is to foster healthy, lifelong habits by encouraging students to safely walk and bike to school. In partnership with the Village of Dansville, we will conduct a walking audit of student routes on October 27 to identify potential safety enhancements. Grant funding secured through this collaborative effort will directly support infrastructure improvements in the village surrounding our school campus.

I am in the process of creating a new district-wide testing coordinator position. Currently, this role is primarily Shannon's responsibility, but also shared with special education and the high school counseling office. It is not typically a role that is overseen by an executive assistant, and it makes more sense to move it back to the building level. I have been able to reduce certain line items in the budget to secure funding for this position, so it should be at no additional cost to the district.

Our operating millage campaign is in full swing. This past month, I had the opportunity to visit four local township meetings—White Oak, Wheatfield, Bunker Hill, and Ingham—to share information and answer questions. To ensure our community stays informed, we've mailed postcards to registered voters, created a detailed FAQ webpage, and added a website pop-up banner–thanks to Shannon. We are also posting 1–2 updates each week on social media. Thank you to everyone supporting these outreach efforts—I look forward to seeing the results on November 3!

State compliance audits and monitoring reviews are currently underway across Michigan. Dansville Schools, in coordination with Ingham ISD, is in the process of completing state audits for Title I–IV programs, English Learner (EL) services, and Career & Technical Education (CTE). This active monitoring cycle follows the state's county-wide special education review completed last year.

Athletics:
The football program has requested an exception to our one-way bussing policy for athletic competitions requiring more than 90 minutes of driving time.

Our transition to eight-man football has gone exceptionally well, but it does require traveling greater distances. Over the past month alone, our teams have traveled to Fennville (2 hrs, 1 min), Coleman (1 hr, 37 mins), and Lawrence (1 hr, 45 mins). Requiring one-way bussing on these long trips creates an unreasonable burden on coaches, athletes, and parents coordinating late-night return rides across long distances. (Note: Cheer coaches have occasionally used district vans for travel to these distant locations.)

I am inclined to approve this exception for long-distance athletic events–for all programs, provided the Board agrees. I have placed this item on the agenda for discussion and feedback.

Budget:
We built the budget this year based on 688 students. After the fall count, our student FTE came in nearly spot-on at 686.42. While enrollment continues to decrease, we have already taken the necessary steps to right-size our staffing to properly accommodate the current size of our district. This ensures fiscal responsibility and sustainability.

Next month, I will have additional information on 31aa (mental health and safety) grant funds. This year, districts are able to opt into one or both buckets of funding; however, opting into the safety portion of the grant still subjects districts to the privilege waiver.

UPCOMING DATES:

October 28:	Half-Day Dismissal: Professional Development
October 30:	Halloween Parade, Elementary
November 5:	Ladybug Auction
November 4-5:	Elementary Conferences
November 11:	Veterans Day
November 21:	PTO Craft Show
November 25-27:	NO SCHOOL: Thanksgiving Break

POSITIVE NOTES:

- We appreciate the secondary families who attended conferences this past month. We love partnering with you in the education of your children!
- Congratulations to Shannon Davies who recently earned her Pupil Accounting Specialist certification through MSBO (Michigan School Business Officials). The MSBO Certification Program is designed to support the continued professional growth of school business professionals across the state. Earning this certification is a significant achievement that reflects a high level of expertise, commitment, and dedication to the profession. Shannon's accomplishment is a mark of distinction, showcasing her commitment to excellence in school

business operations. Her certification not only highlights her professional achievement but also reinforces her dedication to serving the staff and students of Dansville Schools with the highest level of knowledge and integrity.

- We are so proud of Ryker Graf who was recently honored as a Narda Murphy Award winner at Williamston's Sunrise Rotary.

