

Superintendent's Report

August Board of Education Meeting

Submitted on August 20, 2026

Administrative Work

August is the most wonderful time of the year! The buildings are bright and clean, and the grounds are perfectly manicured. The hustle and bustle of teachers and staff returning, as well as the sound of children in our hallways, make our schools come to life.

While no major new projects took place this summer, we did complete a collaborative project with the village, DDA, and Ingham Township to implement a new morning drop-off procedure. The traffic design is stunning! We've put all extra hands on deck this week (including myself and Mr. Sykes) to make sure that families are learning the new routines.

Typically, I report on the happenings during new staff orientation during my August report, but because we only have returning staff this year, there was not a need for this multi-day onboarding process.

Opening Day with our staff was energizing. Thanks to generous donations, we raffled off prizes to welcome staff back. With only 1.5 days to get professional learning accomplished, we have to be very intentional with our teachers' time. We allotted space in the schedule to:

- complete online compliance trainings (ie - bloodborne pathogens, anti-bullying, sexual harrassment, etc.)
- spend time with building administrators and building initiatives
- collaborate on supporting students with IEPs
- watch a documentary, *Screenagers*, to learn about the effects of too much screen time for students
- learn how to monitor student activity in real time on district-issued devices
- refresh ourselves with NWEA testing and how to collect student growth data

Also, we proudly recognized staff members for their years of service:

5 Years	25 Years
Amy Convey	Pauline Lee
Charlotte Birmingham	
Sara Andrews	
Dawn Oesterle	
Shea Ries	
Amanda Bush	
Jenna Nachazel	

We attempted to forgo Registration Day this year. For elementary, that decision seemed to work just fine. Our secondary office found it a little challenging, so we may need to revisit that in the future.

It is a blessing that Dansville Schools now qualify for “Community Eligibility Provisions” (CEP). The state has a formula with a multiplier that calculates low-income students based on “direct certification” (ie - students who are receiving EBT support outside of the school day). Because of this multiplier, that eeked our free and reduced lunch rates to just over 40%. This could mean additional funding through grants. It also means that if the state were not providing free meals for all students, all of our students would still receive this benefit. We are not required to collect intrusive income information from families while we are CEP eligible, but we are asked to have families complete a less intrusive form. Every year that we qualify, we’re guaranteed benefits for four subsequent years.

We will host a public screening of the documentary, *Screenagers*, to help educate our families about the dangers of screen time. A viewing for secondary families is scheduled for September 1, and a viewing for elementary families will be held on September 8. You are welcome to attend. Look for more information to come.

Recently, I connected with a public relations company to inquire about their assistance in promoting our operating millage on the November ballot. After discussing price points and strategy with Raelynn Johns, I’ve decided to hold off on that partnership. Instead, I’ve acquired a plan from another district with informational materials and will attempt this route. Should the operating millage not pass in November, the district will re-engage with a PR firm.

Once more, I want to express the pride we have for Amanda Bush, who was selected as Region 6 Teacher of the Year. While she did not win the state title, this honor comes with roles and responsibilities that she must fulfill throughout the year. On August 11, Amy Popek and I were able to join Amanda while the State Board of Education recognized and celebrated all of the regional winners. It was such an honor.





Budget

Initial Enrollment Numbers

- Dansville Elementary: 313
- Dansville Middle School: 179
- Dansville High School: 202
- **Total: 694***

****Our October count day will determine the official enrollment number for funding.***

This represents 7 fewer students than this time last year. We are still in the process of enrolling preschool students into our GSRP classrooms. We have 26 total slots available.

Safety

I have been contesting some charges to a company called EverOn that helped manage our electronic door system. This past week, we came to an agreement to settle an outstanding invoice, and then we sought a different service provider to address the ongoing issues with our doors. Sometimes, our system loses its programming, and doors won't open as they should. Occasionally, doors even get mag-locked, where they cannot open under any circumstance. After spending tens of thousands of dollars with EverOn, we've decided to engage a new company, Moss Communications, to assist. Here's hoping that

we see our doors operate as they should. Shannon should not have to constantly manage and problem-solve a system that should simply work: set it and forget it.

We're happy to finally have our Emergency Operations Plan updated and revised to reflect the standardized terminology adopted by the state of Michigan. Many thanks to the Ingham County Sheriff's Office and the Ingham Township Fire Department for their assistance in developing the plan.

Mr. Miller has an appointment to review the critical mapping of our facilities with the CRG group. Once reviewed and updated, our maps are uploaded to the Ingham 9-1-1 dispatch center.

Last spring, Secure Environment Consultants evaluated the safety of our athletic complex. We will debrief with them on August 31.

The state has not released much information about the 31aa mental health and safety grant. This year, districts are allowed to opt into funding for mental health without opting into the safety funds. Being a recipient of the safety funds still requires districts to waive privileges, and legal counsel remains hesitant at this time to give their blessing. I will provide more information when updates become available.

Upcoming Dates

- August 18: Meet the Aggies – Fall Edition
- September 1: Screenagers, Secondary Edition
- September 4-7: No School – Labor Day Weekend
- September 8: Screenagers, Elementary Edition
- September 23: Half-Day Dismissal, Professional Learning
- September 28 - October 2: 5th Grade Camp
- October 9: Half-Day Dismissal – Fall Break
- October 12: No School – Fall Break

Celebrations

- The Scherff Agency (MEEMIC) generously provided a Jimmy John's lunch for staff on August 13.
 - MEA treated staff to a taco bar on August 17.
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