

Superintendent's Report

August Board of Education Meeting

Submitted on August 21, 2025

Administrative Work

I am incredibly grateful for the gift of time. Traditionally, school would have started on August 12; however, with the new calendar adopted in January 2024, we pushed the start date back to allow space between Fair Week and Registration Day / Back-to-School Bash. Frankly, I am not sure we would have been able to open on time without this adjustment.

While no major new projects took place this summer, we did face significant challenges with our new HVAC systems. Excessive humidity in both the elementary and middle schools required intervention from CleanTeam, environmental specialists, and HVAC control experts to control moisture.

Dansville's **New Staff Orientation** took place August 5-7. New teachers engaged in three full days of professional development.

- **Day 1** focused on culture—who we are and what we value in Dansville.
- **Day 2** centered on instructional and assessment practices, classroom management, and preparation. We even revisited classic Harry Wong *First 100 Days of School* videos, which, despite being more than 30 years old, remain powerfully relevant.
- **Day 3** included a district bus tour and a keynote from Josh Cooper, a specialist in positive behavior supports.

We also revised our mentoring program to include monthly district-wide meetings, incorporating *A Repair Kit for Grading: 15 Fixes for Broken Grades* as our shared text.

Opening Day with Staff was energizing. Thanks to generous donations, we raffled off prizes to welcome staff back. We partnered with the Ingham Township Fire Department to renew CPR/AED/First Aid certifications. We also reviewed this year's school improvement goals, selected collectively at the end of the 2024–2025 school year:

1. Increase student proficiency on state assessments
2. Develop a common understanding of district instruction and assessment practices

We proudly recognized staff members for their years of service:

5 Years	10 Years	15 Years	20 Years	25 Years
Sarah Hasselbach	Shannon Davies	Lynn Main	Karen Henderson	Jason Gubeno
Andrew Hodgson	Jerrod Braman	Kate Tringal	Matt Hubinger	Loretta Rockwell
Michelle Redman	Emily Dowd	Leanne Barnett	Kristen Ream	
Hannah Jankowski	Heather Lloyd	Andrea Hartman		
Jessica Rautenberg	Kim McNabb			

This year's theme is "**Aggies Grow Together.**"

On August 18, staff training included NWEA MAP assessment administration, enVision Math, school finance, and Chromebook monitoring. An optional session, *Student Supports*, was offered for paraprofessionals, with at least seven (7) members in attendance.

Transportation also improved this year. With systems syncing on time, declining ridership and enrollment allowed us to eliminate one route. Dean Transportation streamlined routes by removing students who do not ride regularly, resulting in more accurate schedules and fewer buses arriving too early. Parent inquiries included one question about extended pick-up/drop-off times and three requests for adjustments to bus schedules.

Technology

New Chromebooks have been distributed at the high school. We are thrilled to welcome **Sammy Shellenbarger**, our new technology specials teacher, into the elementary and middle school rotation. With more curriculum and assessment tools requiring devices, this role will be essential.

While it was a challenge to get all software programs running, progress is steady. Continued PowerSchool updates also caused some issues with ParentSquare, but our team is working through those as well.

Budget

The state's school aid budget remains somewhat uncertain this year. While we anticipate increases in funding, we are particularly concerned about the status of categorical funds:

- Free meals for all students
- Additional transportation funding for rural schools

- Enrollment stabilization funds

These funds, provided in addition to per-pupil funding, are critical to our district's stability.

Compounding this uncertainty, our enrollment decline is greater than anticipated, requiring careful spending oversight moving forward.

Initial Enrollment Numbers

- Dansville Elementary: 339
- Dansville Middle School: 158
- Dansville High School: 204
- **Total: 701***

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

This represents 24 fewer students than this time last year. In addition, 18 students are enrolled in the Great Start Readiness Program.

To better manage enrollment in grade levels at or near capacity, we piloted **Limited School of Choice** this year. We turned away only two school-of-choice applicants due to full sections, and one family reached out after the window had closed. However, some elementary classrooms remain above contractual limits, and we will be compensating teachers for overages.

Facilities

The facility assessment has been completed and will be presented to the Board on Monday, August 25. It is a comprehensive study that will serve as a foundation for long-term maintenance and planning.

In addition, several smaller projects were completed this summer:

- Thorough cleaning and testing of elementary univents
- Installation of the elementary playground fence
- 3–5 year repair of the high school and elementary parking lots
- Crack sealing in various asphalt areas
- Installation of a new baseball scoreboard

- Installation of the donated Aggie head
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Upcoming Dates

- August 20: Meet the Aggies – Fall Edition
 - August 29–September 1: No School – Labor Day Weekend
 - September 22–26: 5th Grade Camp
 - September 24: Half-Day Dismissal
 - October 10: Half-Day Dismissal – Fall Break
 - October 13: No School – Fall Break
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Celebrations

- The Scherff Agency (MEEMIC) generously provided a Jimmy John's lunch for staff on August 14.
 - MEA treated staff to a taco bar on August 18.
 - Many thanks to the Hart family for their generous donation of the Aggie head.
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✨ **Closing Note:** We begin the 2025–2026 school year with optimism and a shared commitment to growth. Together, we will live out our theme: *Aggies Grow Together*.