

Superintendent Report: February Board Meeting
Submitted on February 23, 2023

ADMINISTRATIVE WORK:

Since our last board of education meeting, we have had six “act of God” days due to weather, MSU, and the passing of Ms. Ebert. We have celebrated the 100th day of school and Valentine’s Day. The administrative team has completed *Never Underestimate Your Teachers* and has moved on to reading *Strategic Conversations* also by Robyn Jackson.

The administrative team met twice with our DSIT to plan for both the January and February professional learning days. Unfortunately, both of those days were canceled due to weather. With monthly staff meetings in place, we will still meet our 30 hours of professional development required by law. The DSIT team and the administration will collaboratively conduct a book study in the months ahead with the book *Ten Assessment Literacy Goals for School Leaders*. A webinar to launch the book study has been scheduled with MAC (Michigan Assessment Consortium) on March 6.

The impact of Ms. Ebert’s untimely death will forever change the landscape of our Aggie Family. She was integral in nearly every aspect of the district, and her life intertwined with so many of our staff and students. And while she did not bear the title “administrator,” she certainly was a school leader. We already miss her dearly.

As far as curriculum, we are researching evidence-based resources for our Spanish classes, and we are looking at updating our high school reproductive health materials. Even minor changes to the reproductive health curriculum—not changing the content taught, but using an updated version of the current material—require a recommendation from our local sex education advisory board, two public hearings, and board approval. Please see me for more information. The elementary school continues to pilot two potential new reading series: *Bookworms and Educational Resources*.

This past month, Tania Dupuis was able to attend a middle level principals conference hosted by MEMSPA. I had the pleasure of attending and presenting at the National Conference on Education in San Antonio. Ms. Dupuis and I also attended a session on January 27 through MASB on negotiations.

Our annual education report is now posted on our website under “District Information.”

FACILITIES:

Rick continues to problem-solve the light issue on the second story of the high school. We changed out components, but there still seems to be an issue with the bulbs burning out. We’re now looking at the relays.

The electronic signs have been delivered. This spring we will work on getting those installed.

The Brown Family Ticket Booth sign has also been delivered. We will install it and have a dedication this spring. I've sent pictures of the sign to Mrs. Eva Brown.

The HVAC project is on target and is scheduled to begin immediately after Memorial Day.

We have met with the engineers regarding drainage issues around the soccer field and high school. We believe most of the issues can be resolved with "dirt work" (ie - proper grading).

The re-key project is on schedule. Install will occur over spring break.

We are preparing to sell the 2008 John Deere Gator via a sealed bid process. The item will be placed on the website and Facebook. Interested bidders can view the item in person on March 6.

BUDGET:

We received the following grant awards this past month from MDE:

- 31aa, \$88,741 for student mental health support
- 97, \$86,728 for security updates
- 97c, \$6000 for security consultation
- 97d, \$4,390 for critical incident mapping

ATHLETICS:

Our girls varsity basketball team continues to be ranked #1 in Division 3 in the state. Congratulations to Megan Zeitz who was nominated for LSJ's student athlete of the week.

Congratulations to Mekenzie Herrick, Aubree Mayr, and Alex Baker who are advancing to the state championships in wrestling.

Jeff and I will be meeting with a varsity volleyball coach candidate later this week. Hopefully, by the next board of education meeting, we will have this position filled.

SAFETY:

We are working collaboratively with Michigan State Police and other local law enforcement agencies to host K9 training in our buildings during spring break. This will not interfere with the key project. It is important to give our law enforcement agencies opportunities to familiarize themselves with our campus. We intended to have our site threat assessment on February 13 with Secure Education Consultants. However, caring for our staff and students after the devastating news regarding Ms. Ebert took precedence. We have rescheduled this for March 8.

Mr. Andrews and our mental health team attended MI-BTAM training earlier this week. This training is through the Michigan State Police and is designed to help schools identify, engage, and work

collaboratively with families and students to mitigate life situational factors contributing to thoughts of violence and aggression.

In March, we will also be attending a session with local responders on crisis management for school-based incidents, specifically for rural districts. Look for more information to come.

COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS:

This past month, I have connected with Pastor Steven Emanuele from the Free Methodist Church. I was also able to attend a LadyBugs meeting on February 8.

UPCOMING DATES:

March 1-2: 6-12 Parent-Teacher Conferences
March 8-9: PreK-5 Parent-Teacher Conferences
March 15: Half-Day Dismissal, Professional Learning Day
March 24: Half-Day Dismissal, Spring Break
March 27-31: NO SCHOOL - Spring Break

ATTITUDE OF GRATITUDE

In an effort to model “orangeness” and an attitude of gratitude, I’d like to take a moment each month to highlight individuals and groups who support us along this journey:

- We are so grateful to everyone who showed kindness and grace during the passing of Ms. Ebert. Our staff was showered with food and messages of sincere sympathy. The Memorial / Scholarship Fund has also been blessed beyond measure.
- Thank you to the LadyBugs who have given \$1 500 toward the cost of a sound system for the drama club and who have donated \$300 toward water and snacks for the Washington, DC trip.
- The boosters have donated over \$5000 toward the cost of a new trophy case at the high school.
- DSEF is thinking of ways to help memorialize Ms. Ebert – more to come on that.
- DSEF will be awarding their teacher and student level grants in the days ahead. Look for those celebrations on Facebook!
- Dansville Middle School was the recipient of a generous donation for our STEAM program. The donation is in memory of Dr. Virginia Petit, who taught in the Detroit Public Schools for many years, and her brother Thomas Petit, who was an electrical engineer. The funds were used to purchase new test tubes and holders for our 6th grade science classes.