

**Superintendent Report: March Board Meeting**  
**Submitted on March 16, 2023**

**ADMINISTRATIVE WORK:**

We have three students who are considered English Language Learners and are required to be assessed for English Proficiency using WIDA. Jessica Herzfeld has assisted the district with this assessment and is almost finished administering it.

We have now missed eight days of school this year due to “Acts of God.” The state automatically forgives six. I have been in contact with our local pupil accounting auditor and the state. Dansville Schools will be applying for forgiveness for days seven and eight. Let’s hope the winter weather is behind us.

We were able to (finally) hold our day of professional learning on March 15. During this half-day session, our DESPA members were involved in training from IISD on supporting students with disabilities. Teachers were focused on our school improvement teams. We were excited to host the Baker Family and their mobile *Never Better Caffe* as a lunch option for staff. Despite having the last two half-days canceled, many of our staff continued to meet and plan over the last couple of months to help ensure that our school improvement goals do not fall through the cracks. We look forward to our next session on April 26 and our presentation to the board in June.

We received grant funds to send our GSRP teacher, Charlotte Remington, to the MiAECY (Michigan Association for the Education of Young Children) conference this April. We even secured enough funds to also send the GSRP teacher, Mia DeLano, from Dansville’s Preschool and Early Childhood Development Center to the same conference. The success of children in the community-based GSRP program helps ensure the success of our future Aggies.

As far as curriculum, we continue to research 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—requires a recommendation from our local sex education advisory board, two public hearings, and board approval. The elementary school continues to pilot two potential new reading series, *Bookworms* and *EL Education*, and should have a recommendation to me by the April meeting.

I have met with Patrick Dean from Dean Transportation to discuss ways to potentially improve service to our community for the 2023-24 school year. We are exploring ways to improve communication to families and looking at recruitment strategies.

I have begun the process of interviewing our seniors. I have a set of questions designed to help me see our school district through the eyes of our students. This will help us celebrate the things we are doing well and potentially give us things to think about for improvement.

**BUDGET:**

Ms. Johns and I have met twice since the last board meeting. We have reviewed grants, capital projects, preliminary staffing needs for next year, and overall finances to prepare for bargaining.

**FACILITIES:**

The 2008 John Deere Gator has sold for \$5100. We have agreed to hold the vehicle for the highest bidder until after spring break. The electronic sign was installed at the elementary on March 9, and the base was installed for the sign on Jackson Road. An invitation to bid went out on the drainage project last week.

**ATHLETICS:**

Congratulations to our girls' varsity basketball team who were CMAC and District Champions once again this year. We are proud of you!

It was exciting to see WILX cover our wrestlers who were headed to Ford Field for the state championship. Alex Baker did a terrific job on his interview lifting up his female teammates and this history-making event.

Both the boys' basketball program and the bowling program had a strong season under new coaches, and they are heading in the right direction.

Spring athletics began this week. Here's our roster of spring coaches:

Baseball	Mike Sykes
Baseball (Asst.)	Matt Bailey
Girls Soccer	Marcus Charlick
Girls Soccer (Asst.)	Jeannie Kapp
Softball	Bill Sherwood
Softball (Asst.)	Lance Graf
Track	Jon Jolin
Track (Asst.)	JD Pepper
Track (Middle School)	Chere Pepper

**SAFETY:**

The administrative team met with our mental health team on March 3 to debrief the emotional-side of the Okemos swatting incident. We also debriefed the two trainings that Josh and his team attended

regarding behavioral threat assessments and responses to crises for rural districts. As a result of this meeting, we decided to send a second team of administrators and mental health professionals to MI-BTAM training for behavioral threat assessments.

Secure Education Consultants completed their interviews and walk-throughs on March 8. We look forward to the debriefing in April.

Our schools have completed fire drill #4 out of 5 for the year. All completed drills are posted on the website.

We continue to train staff on phishing and cyber security threats. As you are aware, another attack happened in our area this past week at Lansing Community College. At the time of this report, we are unsure if the attack has any implications for our dual-enrolled students and/or our network.

Re-keying the district will take place during spring break. We also have Michigan State Police and other area law enforcement agencies running K9 drills in our buildings on March 28.

### **COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS:**

This past month has been busy! It is such a pleasure to connect with families through athletic events, kindergarten round-up, March is Reading Month, and Family Fun Night!

### **UPCOMING DATES:**

March 24: Half-Day Dismissal, Spring Break  
March 27-31: NO SCHOOL - Spring Break  
April 26: Half-Day Dismissal, Professional Learning Day  
May 5: Community Day

### **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:

- Congratulations to our middle school and high school concert bands who performed at the Band Festival. Both earned Division II ratings and received plaques and medals for their performances.
- DSEF has awarded the following grants:
  - **District grant of \$30,000**  
*New student devices at the high school*
  - **Student grant of \$500**  
*Dexter Schneider and Gabriella Griese - Gaga Ball Pit*
  - **Educator grant of \$2000**  
*Jerrod Braman - E-sports*
  - **Educator grant of \$1960.00**  
*Karen Henderson and Lynn Main - OCR Reading Pens & Magnetic Fraction Tiles*

- **Educator grant of \$1660**  
*Lisa Krejcik - Sensory Walk Floor Decal*
- **Educator grant of \$400**  
*Amanda Bush - Flexible Seating*