

# Superintendent's Report: March Board Meeting

Submitted: March 20, 2026

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## ADMINISTRATIVE & INSTRUCTIONAL LEADERSHIP

### Assessment & Data-Driven Instruction

- **WIDA Testing:** We are currently assessing four English Language Learners (ELL) for English proficiency. Jessica Herzfeld is nearly finished with the administration of these required assessments.
- **Professional Learning (March 18):** Our half-day session focused on winter NWEA growth data. We specifically identified "cusp" students—those nearing proficiency on upcoming state assessments—to analyze the specific skills needed to move them into the next category. Our special education staff also led a targeted session on implementing small-group instruction models district-wide.
- My own professional learning this month included webinars on the foundations of math for leaders; fact fluency; analyzing NWEA growth data; strengthening research-informed decision making in mathematics; MASB negotiation strategies and hot topics; and Thrun Law Firm's labor and employment webinar.

### Technology

- **Chromebook Update:** We successfully secured 66 new elementary Chromebooks before the REMC price increase. The cost (\$18,800) was under the \$19,000 budget and already accounted for in this year's projections.
- **Screen Time Balance:** While these devices are vital for research, interventions, and typing, we are actively discussing the balance of digital vs. traditional learning. To avoid the "fancy worksheet" pitfall, we are reintroducing more paper-and-pencil tasks where research shows handwriting better supports brain development and retention.

### Staff & Student Engagement

- **Senior Interviews:** I have begun structured interviews with our seniors. Their feedback is invaluable for identifying our district's strengths and pinpointing areas for growth from a student perspective.
- **March is Reading Month:** This year's "Fairy Tale and Dragons" theme has been a hit. I've enjoyed visiting classrooms to share my favorite books with our youngest learners.
- **New Teacher Support:** On March 11, our first- and second-year teachers met with Leah, Kristen, and Andrew to continue their work on the 15 Fixes for Broken Grades.
- **Math Curriculum:** On February 25, our K-12 math team attended enVision training to ensure high-fidelity implementation of our new curriculum.

### Special Education Regional Review

The Michigan Department of Education's Office of Special Education (OSE) recently reviewed Ingham County. While Dansville was not audited directly, we are reviewing the findings to stay ahead of future

requirements. Anticipated focus areas for the next few years include:

- More stringent data requirements for paraprofessional support and annual plans to transition students toward independence.
  - Increased accessibility to extracurricular activities.
  - Greater General Education teacher input during IEP meetings.
  - Expansion of true co-teaching models.
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## BUDGET & FINANCE

- **Deficit Management:** Due to lower-than-anticipated state funding, the late state budget approval, and declining enrollment, the district is currently operating in a deficit. The administrative and business teams are identifying potential reductions to present to the Board next month.
  - **Bargaining Season:** David Stibich is beginning to draft Budget Revision II. This will serve as our financial roadmap as we prepare to present fair and sustainable offers to our employees for the 2026-2027 school year.
  - **Enrollment Trends:** I have provided you with the Ingham ISD report detailing county-wide trends, including School of Choice and incoming Kindergarten patterns.
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## FACILITIES & SAFETY

- **Athletic Complex Well:** The well tested positive for coliform again this spring. Rick is currently shocking the system and we are working with a specialist to identify the root cause. We hope for a simple fix, but I want the Board to be aware that more extensive well work may be necessary before the spring season begins.
  - **Safety Drill Compliance:** We are toward our safety requirements for the year:
    - **Fire:** 4 of 5 completed.
    - **Lockdown:** 3 of 3 completed (**Final**).
    - **Severe Weather:** 2 of 2 completed (**Final**).
  - **State Funding:** There are no new updates regarding the legal proceedings surrounding 31aa mental health and safety funds.
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## COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS

- **Kindergarten Round-Up:** Scheduled for **Tuesday, March 24**. We are excited to welcome approximately 40 prospective students!
  - **Parent-Teacher Conferences:** Spring conferences are complete. A huge thank you to the PTO and our parent volunteers for providing meals for our staff during those long evenings.
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## **UPCOMING DATES**

- **March 27 – April 3:** NO SCHOOL (Spring Break)
- **April 29:** Half-Day Dismissal (Professional Learning)
- **April 29:** Community Day