

Superintendent Report: September Board Meeting
Submitted on September 17, 2024

ADMINISTRATIVE WORK:

September is when things get “real” in schools. We are past the first few honeymoon days of the new school year. Our administrators are busy daily with parent and student conversations, visiting classrooms, and meeting with teachers to set professional growth plans for the year. We work hard to ensure that individual professional goals align with the district improvement plan.

This year’s school improvement plan was collaboratively composed. The administrative team set the overarching goals with input from our DSIT members. On August 13, we took the goals to our staff and allowed every teacher to contribute to the action steps. Keep in mind, though, that the school improvement plan is a fluid document. After looking at last spring’s assessment scores, we may decide to refine our goals a bit. I’ll keep you updated on that process.

The District School Improvement Team met on September 12. We debriefed the spring assessment results, noting celebrations, wonderings, and areas for growth. The team also planned for the upcoming half-day session on September 25.

Several teachers are piloting a new math curriculum, enVision. We have embedded professional learning surrounding this program during our half-days of professional learning. The administrative team also continues to meet with Debbie MacFalone to hone our leadership craft. Our next meeting is scheduled for September 26.

Our new model for new teacher induction is up and running. Instead of three (3) one-hour sessions sprinkled throughout the year, our newest hires will attend an assessment and instruction “boot camp” during each half-day of professional development. Furthermore, each month we will have a scheduled mentor-mentee meeting. This past month, Amy Popek led a session entitled *Organizing for Instruction*.

Monthly department meetings will continue again this year: business, facilities, food service, athletics, technology, and instructional admin. It’s so incredibly important that we do not work in silos and that we all have a common vision for the district. During our first meeting this month, we discussed projects, initiatives, and even assessment scores.

Just a reminder that October is National Principal Appreciation Month. This is an opportunity for district leaders, elected officials, parents, students, teachers, staff, and communities to celebrate and honor our incredible principals for their visionary leadership and tireless pursuit of success for each student. I cannot be prouder of the work Josh, Tania, and Amy do on a daily basis. They work long days, long evenings, and usually some portion of the weekend. They each have a vision for their individual schools and a love for their Aggie Family.

BUDGET:

This month, we will have a presentation by our financial auditor, Maner Costerisan. Initial reports are looking very positive as we were able to once again add to the fund balance during the 2023-24 school year. Keep in mind that the positive variance we will see will likely offset a deficit budget for the current school year. David Stibich attended a webinar last month to learn more about 31aa funding for mental health and school safety. Last year, the district received \$175,721. This year, Dansville can expect a 92% reduction, or approximately \$12,000.

Count Day is October 2.

COMMUNICATION:

ParentSquare is fully implemented! We are hearing positive feedback from both parents and staff about the platform. Nevertheless, we will conduct focus group discussions to ensure we are not inundating families with posts.

SAFETY:

SetSeg will do its annual walkthrough on October 11.

The camera project is almost complete with People Driven Technologies scheduled to complete the final punch list on September 24.

ADT/Everon has been contacted to move the “buzzer” system from the foyers to the outside of the building. At the time of this report, a date for the completion of this project has not been set.

I attended the I Love U Guys training at Pontiac on August 22. This is a nationally recognized standard response protocol for any school crisis. They also provide a well-scripted reunification protocol should a school have to evacuate. The State of Michigan has recently adopted this model and has shared updated emergency operations plan (EOP) templates reflecting the change. In the months ahead, you can expect Dansville Schools to bring an updated emergency plan to the Board for approval.

On September 17-18, Josh Andrews, Amy Popek, and Jessica Herzfeld attended a two-day summit in Bath Township sponsored by the Office of School Safety. Topics included:

- Childhood Trauma
- Sextortion
- Behavioral Threat Assessment and Management
- Digital Threat Assessment
- Legal Consideration
- Mental Health First Aid
- Incident Command
- Reunification - I Love U Guys Foundation
- Stop the Bleed

UPCOMING DATES:

September 25: Half-Day Dismissal: Professional Development
October 2: Count Day
October 11: Half-Day: FALL BREAK
October 14: No School: FALL BREAK
October 16-17: 6-12 Parent-Teacher Conferences
October 30: Half-Day Dismissal: Professional Development

POSITIVE NOTES:

- Thank you to the Vantown Community Church Ladies' Ministry who donated \$300 to the Many Hands account.
- The Knights of Columbus Council 13516 from Leslie donated \$700 for the purchase of clothing storage closets. These are now filled with gently worn items for students in need.
- The Millville United Methodist Church Women's Group donated \$200 to our Many Hands food program.