

Superintendent Report: March Board Meeting
Submitted on March 14, 2024

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 will be holding another half-day of professional learning on March 20. During this session, we will be working on more compliance training for our newest hires, Narcan and tourniquet training for all teachers, and Aggie Improvement Team goals.

The ad hoc technology committee has been working on getting surveys out to our families, secondary students, and staff. We will use the half-day on March 20 to get student and staff input. Family surveys were encouraged to be completed at conferences and again via email. The team meets again on April 2 to go over the results. At the time of this report, Jerrod Braman is attending the annual MACUL conference to learn more about educational technology. He has already attended some exciting sessions and has sent PowerPoints for us to review.

I met with our elementary math team on March 12. We reviewed state and local data on student proficiency and discussed barriers to success. We are taking the time to analyze our curriculum, our interventions, and even our daily schedules to ensure we have the right time allotted and the right materials and the right instructional practices in place. We met again on April 9.

As far as curriculum, we have learned that the Go Math curriculum used in Grades K-6 will be sunsetted after next year. The math committee will help identify teachers who are willing to pilot new materials.

We continue to have a difficult time filling our open foreign language position. We believed we had a viable candidate, but she ultimately turned down the position as our high school was not on a list for significantly economically disadvantaged schools and that would affect her grants and student loans. Back to the drawing board!

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.

Dansville Schools Education Foundation has released their educator and student level grants with an April 5 deadline. We hope to have lots of innovative ideas to support teachers and students in the district.



ParentSquare has launched! The middle school has been piloting the new communication tool, and so far we are hearing positive feedback from both families and staff. Spring athletics should be rolling this out next.

March is Reading Month activities have been a blast! This year's theme is Reading Rocks! Elvis Presley has been sited in the building from time to time, and if you're lucky, you can get your picture taken with him.

BUDGET:

We have been in conversation with the IISD, Webberville, and East Lansing to continue our consortium for pupil transportation. At this time, the consortium is in agreement to begin negotiations for a five (5) year extension with Dean Transportation.

Bargaining season is upon us! I am completing a series of webinars with Thrun Law on the changes to PERA to help facilitate the bargaining process. I will keep the board updated as progress is made.

I continue to serve on the Special Education Funding Committee for Ingham County. We have decided to address just a portion of the funding formula we currently use that actually does not pertain to special education but rather the general education FTE. This portion of the formula has proven to be problematic in other counties, even resulting in court cases. Superintendents, finance officers, and special education directors believe there is a better and more equitable way to distribute these funds to ensure money follows the students with the highest needs.

FACILITIES:

The invitation to bid on the parking lot rehabilitation project has been released. We hope to have a bid to recommend for approval at the April BOE meeting. This project, if approved, will be paid for with sinking fund dollars.

WM Floyd will begin their work on the middle school HVAC project on March 22.

SAFETY:

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

The invitation to bid on a new camera system has been released, and we hope to have a bid to recommend for approval at the April BOE meeting. This project will be paid for with 31aa mental health and safety funds as well as 97 funds for safety.

Once more, we will have Michigan State Police and other area law enforcement agencies running K9 drills in our buildings during spring break on March 26.

COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS:

The Free Methodist Church has reached out to the school to see how they can support students through their missions ministry.

We continue to participate in Memorial Day planning with the village. The district will host the Saturday night outdoor movie night on the football practice field.

The Ladybugs have generously donated funds to purchase dinner to feed families during the most recent PreK-Grade 1 Literacy Night. We typically have between 65-75 children attend each time a literacy night is held. We are grateful, too, for our partnership with the Dansville Preschool and Child Development Center who co-plans and co-hosts these nights with us.

UPCOMING DATES:

- March 20: Half-Day Dismissal, Professional Learning Day
- March 22-31: NO SCHOOL - Spring Break
- April 10: SAT / PSAT Testing Day
- April 24: Half-Day Dismissal, Professional Learning Day
- May 3: Community Day