

**Superintendent Report: February Board Meeting
Submitted on February 19, 2026**

ADMINISTRATIVE WORK

We held our third half-day professional learning session on January 28. The session included time for our staff to collaborate in groups and use a new artificial intelligence tool we built in Gemini to assist teachers in the review of standards, rubrics, and assessments. The idea behind the tool was to help ensure that we are truly assessing state expectations and that we are challenging students to their greatest potential. This session was productive, and we continue to receive positive feedback from staff regarding the tool.

Additionally, our school improvement team met to discuss our upcoming professional learning on Monday, February 23 and February 25. On Monday, we have an all-district staff meeting planned after school to learn more about NWEA MAP growth and parent reports. On Wednesday, staff will continue to work on rubrics and assessments with the exception of the math department who will participate in a three hour training on enVision.

Our annual education report is now available on our website under "District Information."

We have been appreciative of Marcia O'Brien's service as interim elementary principal and look forward to welcoming Amy back next month.

Our mentor-mentee program held its sixth meeting on February 4, led by Josh Cooper at IISD. This session focused on classroom management to ensure our newest teachers are entering the second semester with a renewed confidence for a positive and safe learning environment.

I had the pleasure of presenting to aspiring and practicing women in leadership at the 2nd annual MEMSPA Women in Education conference on February 18:



The poster features the MEMSPA logo at the top, which includes a map of Michigan and the text "MEMSPA MICHIGAN ELEMENTARY & MIDDLE SCHOOL PRINCIPALS ASSOCIATION". Below the logo, the title "WOMEN IN EDUCATION LEADING THE WAY" is prominently displayed in large, bold, blue letters. Three circular portraits of women are arranged horizontally in the middle. Below each portrait is the name and title of the speaker: SHANNA SPICKARD, ED. D.; JENNIFER WONNELL, ED.S.; and DR. ERIN NORTH. A paragraph of text below the portraits describes the event as a day designed to energize, empower, and elevate women leaders, featuring a panel of authors including Allyson Apsey, Dr. Debbie McFalone, and Vicki Wilson. At the bottom, there are three icons: a calendar for the date "February 18", a location pin for "Grand Rapids", and a "REGISTER NOW" button with a cursor icon. To the right of the button, it says "Register now at MEMSPA.ORG".

We are thrilled to celebrate Amanda Bush, first grade teacher at Dansville Elementary, for earning the title Region VI Teacher of the Year.

The Regional Teachers of the Year were selected through a competitive application process that began with Michigan Teacher of the Year nominations from students, staff and community members from across the state.

The 2026-27 honorees were selected for their dedication to the teaching profession, as evidenced by their commitment to students and their records of service in the teaching profession.

Together, the Regional Teachers of the Year make up the Michigan Teacher Leadership Advisory Council. The council's mission is to bring teacher voices to a wider audience, including through direct work with MDE to provide input on proposed policies and initiatives and to help share valuable information and resources with their colleagues in their respective regions.

The next step in the process is for each Regional Teacher of the Year to interview with a panel of statewide education partners. One person will be selected as the 2026-27 Michigan Teacher of the Year. Amanda's interview is scheduled for March 4, 2026.

FACILITIES

Mr. Miller has included his board report, but it is important to note the big items we are currently working on include:

- grease and asbestos clean-up in the tunnels under the elementary school
- coliform contamination in the well at the athletic complex
- upgrades to the GSRP room

Vendors had an opportunity to do a walk-through of the GSRP classroom on February 6. Look for bids to approve in the March BOE packet. Please note that general fund dollars will not be used for this upgrade.

BUDGET

The decline in enrollment combined with the late approval of the state aid budget—along with some surprises in the funding—has contributed a structural deficit in our budget... meaning that we have planned on and are currently spending at a rate that exceeds revenue. Our fund balance is still on trend to be healthy, with approximately 17-18% remaining after the fiscal year; however, we have already started conversations regarding next year's budget and how to eliminate the deficit spending. It is important to note that these surprises are affecting all districts with most of them dipping into fund balance to make it through the current year. David Stibich will present Revision I of the budget during the February regular meeting.

I am happy to report that the district successfully negotiated the disbursement of \$105,400 in 271 Educator Compensation Funds. We were able to ensure each member of our Aggie Family receives a piece of the pie, including EduStaff as well as administrators and directors. The negotiations included using the extra funds to

cover the cost of FICA and retirement. A letter of agreement is in our board packet for approval this month, and funds should be distributed on the March 6 payroll. Thank you to DEA and DESPA for working with the district for fair and equitable distribution of these funds.

Funds were deposited into our escrow account on Tuesday, February 17, after refunding our 2016 bond. I am working with IISD to craft a public press release letting our tax payers know that the action taken by the Board of Education has resulted in a gross debt service savings of \$2,431,963.89.

Effective February 20, 2026, we will have taken all steps necessary to transfer the duties of Treasurer from Chad Minnis to Ross Hacker.

UPCOMING DATES

- **March 4-5:** K-12 Parent-Teacher Conferences
 - **March 18:** Half-Day Dismissal, Professional Learning Day
 - **March 24:** Kindergarten Round-Up
 - **March 27 - April 5:** Spring Break
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POSITIVE NEWS & COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS

Many thanks to the DDA for including Dansville Schools in the planning of community events, such as the upcoming Pancake Breakfast and Memorial Day weekend activities. Unfortunately, due to the extreme cold, we had to cancel the FREE community Movie Night.

I failed to mention in previous reports that Kristen Ream, Kate Tringal, and Lori Torres presented a three hour session at Ingham ISD last December. Their session was entitled, "From Literacy-Aligned Evaluations to IEP Goals." As always, we are incredibly proud of our educators who are able to lead and share their expertise with colleagues across the area and the state.

Thank you for your continued support and dedication to our students and community.