

Superintendent Report: March Board Meeting
Submitted on March 15, 2018

Administrative Work

We are so excited that the entire elementary and middle school as well as our intervention teachers have begun implementing Spring Math!, which will help us to more accurately diagnose the status of our classes and each student as it relates to specific math skills. We have been working with a coach from the ISD who has come to our school to help teachers for these first few weeks. She will continue to be onsite to ensure we have a successful launch. In addition, the administrative team has had training regarding how to monitor the progress of each teacher.

The building principals are working hard again this year to keep up with all of the regulations and paperwork associated with the upcoming testing cycle.

Our administrative team spent time with a different ISD consultant looking through the new school accountability preliminary scorecard for each building. She helped us understand the new measures and helped us identify areas where we may have incorrect data.

Tonight we will be presenting a new district mission statement and a definition of the Aggie Family. It was presented to the elementary and secondary teachers and their feedback was considered by the core committee before finalizing it for presentation to the board. Becky helped take the survey and feedback regarding the definition of Aggie Family and create a single visual for rollout starting this spring. This will be shared during the board meeting by at least one member of the core committee.

It is without hesitation that I recommend we extend the contracts of all three administrators. We are unbelievably blessed to have such committed, excellent building administrators. I cannot say enough about the benefits they each provide for this district.

Athletics

High school bowling had one bowler place in the state competition, boys' basketball won a district championship and made it to the regional finals and Anthony Mack took second place in the state in wrestling.

We are in the first week of spring practice for softball, baseball, girls' soccer, track and golf.

We interviewed four candidates for the varsity football position and were very pleased to hire Jeff Graf. We are currently looking for a varsity volleyball and junior varsity football coach.

We received a really complimentary email from a referee in response to action we took when one of our athletes displayed unsportsmanlike conduct. I will share it on Monday night.

Budget Info

We have had more advanced meetings to get schedules ready for next year, which goes hand-in-hand with our budget projections. The Governor is proposing an increase, but it is still unclear

what will be proposed by the house and the senate as well as the plan for the retirement offset. We are currently anticipating as much as a \$50,000 increase in expense for the district. I have meet with the ISD to begin establishing projections for the 18-19 school year and will present preliminary budget info in April.

Kindergarten/Begindergarten Round-Up was successful and more than 45 students enrolled for next year. These will combine with most of our current Begindergarteners, resulting in three kindergarten sections.

Communication

We have been posting the biweekly bulletins created by Miller-Davis that highlight project updates. We appreciate these visual updates to share with the community. We will have another site walkthrough prior to the board meeting to see the progress that has been made.

We are still working on putting together the district's winter newsletter. We have waited to get more project updates to be able to share as much as possible with the community. Due to other pressing matters, we have not been able to complete this piece.

The ISD has moved our current content to the new website platform. Becky and I will be reviewing this site in hopes of rolling out the new site this spring.

Community Outreach/Partnerships

Our February basketball game to honor Coach Mack and collect funds to help support the Mack family was very successful. We will continue to look for ways to help support this family.

Curriculum/Training

We are excited about the opportunities we have been able to provide for our high school and middle school students for next year as we finalize the schedules. We are also working on getting funding to help launch a new elementary/middle school STEAM elective.

Data

We are now reviewing data from Spring Math regularly to see how we are doing with ensuring our students have mastered the subskills necessary to be successful on the state assessment. This has been a game changer. In addition, we have been reviewing our school dashboard preliminary scorecard. We will be able to discuss this more after the embargo is lifted.

Facilities

Much more progress has been made over the last month due to improved weather conditions. We are getting closer to having roofs in place and the building of the maintenance building began this week.

We have been working on getting abatement done on the spaces that will be renovated in the current high school classes. The new elementary office space demo is nearly complete.

Personnel Update

We are very excited to announce that we hired Sydney Malthaner as a classroom paraprofessional in the elementary school. She is taking the spot that was vacated when Courtanie House took the middle school office paraprofessional position.

Longtime Aggie Spanish teacher Tracy Galloway was approached by the school that is one mile from her home, Jackson Northwest, to be their ELL teacher. The district is currently out of compliance and in urgent need to fill the position. Tracy accepted the position and plans to leave Dansville at Spring Break. She has been very helpful in seeking a substitute and also potential candidates for the permanent position. We are very sad about her departure, but certainly understand her reasons for accepting this position.

Safety

We are partnering with the Ingham County Sheriff's Department by inviting local deputies to visit our school when they are in our area. The sheriff has committed that we will be visited regularly by the same three officers -- Deputy Chad Doyle, Detective Ryan Cramer and Sergeant Mary Hul.

Ingham ISD is looking to move toward ALICE training for all schools in the county. We have explored this training and incorporated pieces of it in our protocols. We will continue to evaluate the benefits and potential drawbacks to determine our next steps.

Teaching and Learning

The elementary teachers recently completed another round of TLTs, observing one another and giving each other feedback. This is a very high-yield strategy to improve teaching. We also have some teachers who are working to improve by videotaping themselves teaching and reflecting on their practice--another effective improvement strategy. Several teachers have also surveyed their students to get mid-year feedback regarding what is working best and what needs to be re-evaluated. These are all ways we are working towards continuous growth and improvement in our practice.

Technology

The technology bids came in last week and were rigorously evaluated by ISD personnel, leading to their recommendation for the award of the bids that will take place this evening. The bids came in better than expected, which will help the overall project.

Upcoming Dates of Note

- Spring Break: March 30 - April 8
- Elementary Parent-Teacher Conferences: March 27 and 28 from 4-7 PM.
- High School Honors Night: April 17