

Superintendent Report: January Board Meeting
January 23, 2025

Administrative Work

The time between winter break, snow days, and holidays has limited the number of school sessions since our last Board of Education meeting. However, our time in session has been packed with essential activities:

- **Probationary Staff Check-Ins:** Mid-year evaluations for probationary staff are underway, focusing on their professional growth plans and progress toward set goals.
- **Professional Learning:** January marks our third half-day dedicated to professional learning for school improvement goals. These sessions, scheduled for January 29, were collaboratively designed by the administrative team and DSIT.
- **2026-2027 Calendar Review:** Discussions with DEA leadership have finalized the proposed calendar for 2026-2027, an action item for this month's agenda. Highlights include:
 - Avoiding an early August start.
 - Maintaining June as an intervention month.
 - Preserving the Friday before spring break as a day off, requiring a waiver from the Michigan Department of Education.
- **Opportunity Thrive Partnership:** Coaching support for teaching staff continues, with a mid-year wellness check conducted by OT. Teachers flagged as at-risk will receive individual outreach, and administration will review an overall staff well-being report next month.
- **Title IX Updates:** Changes in Title IX are on the horizon. While gender identity is excluded under Title IX following recent rulings, Michigan's Elliott-Larsen Civil Rights Act continues to protect it as a class. Current board policies from 2020 remain applicable for traditional sexual harassment complaints.
- **Classroom Observations:** Recent visits included sixth-grade science, eighth-grade social studies, seventh/eighth-grade physical education, and Spanish I. These observations affirm the excellent teaching happening in our district.
- **Mentor-Mentee Meetings:** Monthly sessions for first- and second-year teachers continue. On January 8, Josh Cooper from IISD presented on classroom management strategies.

- **CMAC Superintendent Meeting:** A special meeting with the CMAC superintendent's group is scheduled for January 27 to address unfinished business, including athletic code policies, gate fees, and conference alignments.
-

Facilities

- **Infrastructure Study:** Dansville Schools participated in the statewide School Finance Research Foundation's study on school infrastructure. Results are expected by January 27. While this study is not as detailed as a full facilities review, it highlights the inequities in funding based on local property taxes.
 - **CleanTeam Turnover:** Recent staff turnover at CleanTeam raised concerns. A meeting is scheduled for January 30 with their leadership to ensure sustainable plans are in place for maintaining clean and safe buildings.
 - **Heating Unit Issue:** A burst coil in a middle school classroom's heating unit caused flooding. Gunthorpe is addressing the issue, and the affected teacher has temporarily relocated to the high school computer lab.
-

Safety

- **Cybersecurity Breach:** We continue to work with SetSeg and Thrun to address the PowerSchool global cybersecurity breach. Impacted families will be notified following Michigan's Identity Theft Protection Act.
 - **Security Recommendations Review:** Administrative teams reviewed safety recommendations from our 2023 security assessment. All items are complete except for upgrading our public address (PA) system, which lacks modern functionality for crisis communication. Remaining funds from prior years' 31aa allocations could support this critical update.
 - **Training and Audits:**
 - A webinar on handling anonymous threats is scheduled for January 30.
 - Michigan State Police are conducting a routine audit of our criminal background check procedures.
-

Community Connections

- **Winter Homecoming:** Scheduled for January 31.
 - **Kindergarten Round-Up:** Moved to March at the county's request. The decision to offer Beginndergarten depends on parent interest following this event.
-

Upcoming Dates

- **January 31:** Winter Homecoming
 - **February 17:** No School – Presidents' Day
-

Attitude of Gratitude

- **Dansville High School Symphonic Band:** Featured on WILX's Mid-Michigan Christmas Celebration, performing "Up on the Housetop."
 - **Dansville Ladybugs:** Sponsored house t-shirts for middle school students and a field trip for the leading house, enhancing our positive culture.
 - **School Events:**
 - Mrs. St. Amant's "Little Play" captivated students with the trial of the Big Bad Wolf.
 - Mrs. McNabb led the all-school sing-along, a holiday highlight, with plans for a patriotic-themed event on the last day of school.
-