

Superintendent Report: July Board Meeting

Submitted on July 18, 2024

ADMINISTRATIVE WORK:

Knock on wood... we have our teaching positions filled. Therefore, this July has been focused more on rejuvenation, both personally and within the district.

The administrative team still continues to focus on improving school safety. We've reviewed and refined procedures and are working on upgrading the safety around our building entrances. Other upgrades will continue to happen as the team works through our security assessment and as funds become available. On July 15, I was able to attend a school safety roundtable meeting with local law enforcement and school administrators. It is good to see this kind of collaboration between our agencies.

We are putting on the final touches for our professional development for August 12 and 13 as well as planning for Registration Day on August 6. It will be *fantastic* to have students in the building once more!

The administrative team will have a retreat on August 5 with Debbie MacFalone serving as the facilitator and mentor for each administrator in their position less than three years (including me), which is now mandated by law.

Josh, Tania, and I attended a required Title IX training by Thrun on July 10 to learn about the 2024 changes in these federal regulations. Amy will be attending a session on July 25.

BUDGET DEVELOPMENT:

Since our last board of education meeting, there have been twists and turns in the state's school aid budget. The promised increase in per pupil funding is only going to public school charters and academies and not to traditional public schools. Instead, the state is decreasing the amount districts are required to pay toward the healthcare portion of MSPERS. When speaking to David and Raelynn, they have not calculated a difference in funding as a result of the shell game, but are not too concerned about it. Where some funding had decreased, some increased in other areas. It does mean, however, that we may need to do a budget amendment earlier in the year.

FACILITIES:

The drainage issues at the soccer field have been addressed by Chattaway. We have had a couple of heavy rains recently, and every area that has been corrected in the last couple of years seems to be doing what it needs to do.

We have security camera installs happening. Jonathan Green has been assisting with this project.

I met with Rieth Riley and DC Engineering on July 17. The parking lot project is running on schedule. If there are not any significant delays with the elementary lot, everything should be finished by August 2. We have had a couple of change orders since the beginning of the project to address soft spots near the visitor ticket booth area. Please see the board packet for more information.

Student devices have been ordered and are starting to filter in.

Perry Public Schools has generously allowed us to pick up some gently used student desks and chairs that were leftover from a surplus sale. Since opening a section of fourth grade, we needed to outfit an additional classroom.

We continue to investigate the cause of a roof leak in the wrestling room that has been plaguing us—and our roofers—for a couple of years. I believe we have found the root cause, finally, and it is related to the HVAC system over the area. Rick had the HVAC vendor come in on July 17 for an analysis.

In the elementary kitchen a cooler is being repaired. In the middle school kitchen, a new residential-style stand up freezer has been purchased and the serverly curtain door is being repaired.

The spaceship room is coming together. Mr. Miller insists on making this space even better than before.

UPCOMING DATES:

- August 6: Registration Day
- August 8: Elementary Back-to-School Bash
- August 12: First Day for Teachers
- August 13: First Day for Students

Board Members: Please consider joining us for the Welcome Back Breakfast at 8 AM in the Ebert Commons on August 12.