

**Superintendent Report: February Board Meeting**  
**Submitted on February 21, 2025**

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## **ADMINISTRATIVE WORK**

We held our third half-day professional learning session on January 29. The session included time for our Aggie Improvement Teams to collaborate in groups, followed by a district-wide activity analyzing student proficiency data in relation to report card data. These discussions were insightful and will help ensure we continue to provide the highest quality education for our students.

Additionally, our school improvement team met virtually with educators from Northern Cass, North Dakota, who were recently featured in an EdWeek article, *"What is Standards-Based Grading, and How Does It Work?"* (September 16, 2024). Their insights were thought-provoking, and I look forward to debriefing with our team at a future meeting.

The technology committee met on February 4 to finalize device recommendations for students in grades 1-12. With the exception of Kindergarten, the district will transition to a Chromebook platform for student learning. High school students will receive an enhanced Chromebook, a 2-in-1 device that functions as both a laptop and a tablet. Chromebooks offer improved security, better software compatibility, and alignment with technology used in colleges and workplaces. This recommendation follows last year's review of survey data and industry trends.

Approximately 130 elementary Chromebooks have aged out of service and are no longer CIPA/COPPA compliant. During the February BOE meeting, I will recommend replacing these devices as soon as possible to ensure we have adequate Chromebooks for spring testing.

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

A year ago, I reported on my meeting with Becky Hills, IISD Assistant Superintendent of Finance and Business, to initiate a five-year extension of the Dean Transportation contract. This negotiation process is still ongoing. Recently, we experienced a delay in communicating mechanical issues to families. I am working with the ISD and Dean Transportation to improve the timeliness of these updates.

Our mentor-mentee program held its sixth meeting on February 5, led by Leah Braman and Kristen Ream, focusing on high-quality assessments and using standards to evaluate student performance.

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## **FACILITIES**

New entrance mats have been installed at each main entrance, improving safety during this particularly slushy and salty winter.

We continue addressing door repairs that were not completed during the bond project. Look for updates regarding the new high school double egress doors on the first and second floors.

One classroom remains without air conditioning, coincidentally the same room that experienced a burst heating coil. While inconvenient, this presents an opportunity to install air conditioning in the space. Further details and recommendations will be included in the board packet.

The facilities committee (Dave Lilly, Chad Minnis, and Ross Hacker) met on February 13. We reviewed the building use policy proposed last December and received an update on the 2016 bond from Raelynn Johns. The committee unanimously recommends conducting a comprehensive facilities study, which we will discuss at the February 24 board meeting.

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## **BUDGET**

Despite a decline in enrollment, sound fiscal planning has kept the district on track for a fund balance exceeding 24%. David Stibich will present Revision I of the budget during the February regular meeting.

In this month's board packet, I will request approval for expenditures exceeding \$100K, primarily for technology improvements. I have worked closely with our business office to ensure these expenditures are accounted for in the proposed budget revision.

The district will receive \$57,449.39 to reimburse certain employees contributing 3% of their income to the ORS healthcare fund. The business office and I are developing a plan for equitable distribution of these taxable funds, based on last year's wages but allocated to this year's employees. We estimate that this amount will cover 88% of current employee contributions.

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## **SAFETY**

Our February 26 professional learning half-day will focus on staff and student safety. Topics include drill procedures, cardiac event response, and tourniquet training. All staff, including support and food service employees, are invited to attend.

We are exploring an upgrade to our public address system based on recommendations from our 2023 security assessment. Enhancements will include improved notifications in noisy areas and additional speakers in under-served locations, such as restrooms. An invitation to bid will be issued soon, though this does not commit the district to the project.

On January 30, I participated in a virtual training session titled "*Assessing and Responding to Anonymous Threats of Violence in the K-12 Environment*," presented by the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA) School Safety Task Force.

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## UPCOMING DATES

- **March 5-6:** K-12 Parent-Teacher Conferences
  - **March 19:** Half-Day Dismissal, Professional Learning Day
  - **March 21-30:** NO SCHOOL - Spring Break
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## POSITIVE NEWS & COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS

Congratulations to Sydney Hammerstein, who was selected for a fellowship with the Michigan Master Teacher Program (MTP). This program, a collaboration between Michigan Technological University and Northern Michigan University, supports 30 experienced science teachers in improving science education for grades 5-9 in high-need districts.

The program aims to enhance fellows':

- Knowledge of participatory action research, student-centered pedagogy, and facilitation.
- Ability to implement evidence-based instructional improvements.
- Capacity to lead professional learning communities within their schools and across the state.

All tuition costs are covered, and Sydney will receive a minimum \$10,000 stipend for her participation.

The Dansville Downtown Authority (DDA) has begun planning Memorial Day activities, and the district has been invited to help organize and host some of the weekend's events.

Finally, I have had the opportunity to attend recent meetings for White Oak Township and Ingham Township. It has been valuable to engage with the governing boards that support our district.

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