

# Superintendent's Report to the Board of Education

Submitted: June 18, 2026

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## ADMINISTRATIVE WORK

Summer is a season of reflection and planning. As we close out the 2025-26 school year, we are finalizing year-end reports and actively preparing for a strong start to 2026-27. Summer school is wrapping up with just four days remaining. This year, 82 students enrolled in grades K–8, while 19 high school students participated in the summer credit recovery program.

Our District School Improvement Team met for a full-day session on June 15 and will meet again on June 26 to finalize professional development plans for the upcoming school year. We've reviewed feedback from our staff and student data. Our next step is to outline the plans for half-days, and we're committed to maintaining monthly mentor-mentee meetings. These meetings support intentional conversations around student learning, assessment practices, and grading philosophies.

We may have pushed our elementary teachers to their capacity at the moment, and so we've slowed the push on mathematics. This year, the staff incorporated 95 Core Phonics, NWEA MAP testing, Lexia Core 5, and a new math curriculum. Originally, I wanted to visit Tier II math supports for 2026-2027, but after feedback from the elementary staff, I've decided to give them time to become more confident and comfortable with the initiatives they tackled this year. Furthermore, the State of Michigan (legislators, the governor's office, MDE) has banded together to address literacy through a unified approach across the state. We are waiting to hear the final decision on this, how much time we need to devote to the training, and when implementation is expected to begin.

All administrative and director evaluations have been completed. With board approval, non-union contracts, DEA (teacher), and DESPA (support staff) wages are in place for 2026-2027.

The summer newsletter is in the works and will be arriving in mailboxes soon. It's packed with celebrations and important updates for our school community.

Typically, I report on new hire orientation that we have planned in early August; but, we are not anticipating any significant changes in staffing this year, so no dates have been set.

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## BUDGET

During Monday night's budget hearing, Raelynn Johns and/or David Stibich will present the *Revision II Budget* for 2025–26 and the proposed budget for 2026–27. As required by law, the board must vote on the proposed budget by June 30.

We have endured two years of surprises by the state aid budget: a last-minute change in what was promised in 2024-2025 and a budget that was passed three months too late in 2025-2026. What we present to you in June is always our best guess for what the funding could be and what our enrollment might be.

## **FACILITIES**

Many thanks to Rick Miller who can take a few hundred dollars and make our public meeting space shine.

Mr. Sykes is working with companies who stripe parking lots to get quotes for striping Adams St., Dakin St., and the elementary parking lot to improve traffic flow for safer drop-off and pick-up.

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## **COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS**

I met with Ingham Township, DDA, and village leaders on May 21 and will meet with them again on June 25. We continue to discuss partnerships between the three entities, staffing for crossing guards, and traffic flow on Adams and Dakin Street.

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## **UPCOMING DATES**

- **July 20:** BOE Meeting
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## **ATTITUDE OF GRATITUDE**

As always, I'm filled with gratitude for the dedication of our staff, the trust of our families, and the support of this board. Together, we are growing a school community where students thrive.

I am also incredibly grateful for Tania's years of dedicated service. She was an absolute lifeline to me when I first came on board, a grace she extended just as generously to our two newest administrators. We have all grown so much under her calm, steady leadership. Even in our most stressful moments, Tania always found a way to bring laughter into the room, beautifully showing us what it truly means to be steadfast, caring, proactive, and professional. While we wish her the absolute best in her retirement, she leaves behind an incredible void, and we will have to look hard to find the strength to carry on without her.