

**Superintendent Report: February Board Meeting**  
**Submitted on February 20, 2020**

**Administrative work:**

Our team has been reviewing the winter benchmark data from FastBridge for literacy and Spring Math. We were appreciative also of the 18-19 Spring Math program review that was recently shared with us by Amanda VanDerHeyden (the Spring Math creator). We have sorted through all of this data and continue to put systems and guidelines into place to ensure we are doing everything we can do improve outcomes in our classrooms. We are very encouraged by our data, particularly the math data.

Andy and I have been working over the course of the past several months to prepare for an audit by MDE of our state and federal programs. Our main program is Title I in the elementary, but there is also a district accountability tool that examines pretty much everything else from professional development to use of homeless funding and much more. As it relates to Title I, we are very fortunate to have Sue Provencal as our Title I Literacy Specialist. She was very impressive as she presented information and documents related to her work. She received several compliments throughout the audit.

In addition, required district documents and information were uploaded into a state database. We also shared evidence via an electronic meeting and created a binder containing all of our district processes and other evidence that Andy and I presented to Margarita Frommert from MDE this morning. She let us know at the end of the meeting that not only did we meet all of the requirements of the audit with no further action needed, but that in eight years, she has only told three districts that she would want her grandchildren to attend their schools... and we are one of them 😊

**Athletics:**

High school bowling, basketball and wrestling and MS girls' bball are near the end of their seasons and we are starting to gear up for the start of spring sports with the seasons opening on March 9<sup>th</sup>. We will hold the spring coaches' meeting on March 2<sup>nd</sup>. We are hoping to be able to have both a JV and a Varsity softball team this year, which represents excellent growth in that program.

Other info:

- On March 5<sup>th</sup> during halftime of the Varsity Boys' Basketball game, we will honor the Varsity Soccer team for their team accomplishments in the fall.
- Spring Meet the Aggies will take place on March 12<sup>th</sup>.
- The second year of our Athletic Auction will take place on Tuesday, March 17<sup>th</sup>. Thank you to Christy for the hard work she has put into fundraising to support our athletic programs. She has started both this event and the summer golf outing that will take place again this summer.

We have been increasing the number of sponsorships and special event info that has been on display on our Scorevision boards. Some families have posted special pix/birthday announcements in addition to our use of the boards to share district news such as Kindergarten Round Up info.

### **Budget Info:**

While the governor has presented her priorities for the budget for next year, we have yet to hear from the House and the Senate. We are cautiously optimistic based on the state's revenue projections for the State Aid Fund, but it will be very difficult to plan without the state's finalized budget.

As part of the budget process, our team has developed tentative schedules for next year for MS and HS. We won't know enough to finalize schedules including the elementary schedule until after Round Up. We have posted a math position for next year, so please feel free to spread the word if you know anyone who may be certified and interested in working with our MS and HS students! We have three teacher retirements: Dave Klingbiel, Michele Momberg and Sandy Hunt. The District Retirement Party will take place on Wednesday, May 13 after school in the MS/HS library. Please plan to attend!

One last reminder: Kindergarten/Begindergarten Round Up is going to be held on Wednesday, March 4<sup>th</sup>. To be eligible for Kindergarten your child must turn five by September 1, 2020. To be eligible for Begindergarten, a child must turn five before December 1, 2020. Please encourage anyone with eligible young children to consider enrolling or at least checking out Dansville Schools.

Just a reminder also that Ingham ISD has a Headlee Restoration for the countywide SE millage on the ballot on March 10. These monies are used to support programs that help students in the county with special needs. We posted information on our website for voters.

### **Communication:**

We remain committed to regular communication with all of our stakeholders via social media, the newsletters, REMIND, School Messenger and good old fashioned Friday Folders in the elementary. We have systems in place to get feedback about our communication throughout each school year and will continue to prioritize this area, as we realize the value of our partnership with our families and the community.

### **Community Outreach/Partnerships:**

We are excited to welcome Marlene Lieder, the leader of the Lady Bugs, to our Board meeting this month! She will share during the Call to the Public that they will be donating funds to allow us to purchase two display panels for Dansville Middle School. These will be placed in the Commons area to allow students to see announcements throughout the day as is happening in the other buildings. We also appreciate that they looked at our two-year calendar and have changed the date of their annual auction to avoid a conflict with our Parent-Teacher Conferences.

We also appreciate the mini-grants the Education Foundation has been offering to staff the past few years. Teachers have been able to get funding for things like the books for the Elementary Book Club.

### **Curriculum/Training:**

We will be hosting a different team from the Michigan Department of Education on Monday, March 2<sup>nd</sup> in our Aggie STEAM Adventures program! This team heard about our program from the folks who visited in December and asked to come visit. One of our visitors is the Manager of Recruitment and Recognition Unit within the Office of Educator Excellence. She and her assistant director plan to visit and consider featuring this program and our district in their Proud Michigan Educator video series (#PME #proudMIEducator).

Our Rigor AIT met recently for half a day to review the research related to homework. We are focused on helping ensure our teachers understand what homework is appropriate as well as how much homework is effective at every grade level. Teachers and HS students will be surveyed as part of this work as well. There will be a pilot and then a plan for implementation as part of the next steps.

Andy and I plan to attend a daylong visit to an Ingham County elementary on March 18 to observe how they are teaching and embedding reading into their day. This is part of our participation in the Reading Now Network.

### **Data**

We are learning by attending webinars, about something called the EVAAS system that is new to Michigan districts. We are planning to evaluate what data it provides relative to the data available to us with our current systems and then decide how it will be used in our district. The next training is on March 18.

We are also attending a webinar in March to learn more about PRISM, which is part of the EIDEX data system we have had since last year school.

### **Facilities:**

We are planning to increase the hours of our indoor maintenance personnel to better meet the needs of the district moving forward.

We also continue to work with contractors to finish punch list work and close out the bond project. There is also ongoing work and meetings taking place related to the baseball and softball fields.

### **Personnel Update:**

None to report at this time.

### **Policy Work:**

The Policy Committee will need to schedule a short meeting to update a few policies, including the wellness policy. Possible dates: Monday, March 16 at 5:30 pm or Monday, March 23 at 5:30 pm.

**Safety:**

We held our second lockdown drill that incorporated the ALICE training protocols this week and also have been working on our safety grant submission.

**Teaching and Learning:**

We have received positive feedback about the calendars the Board approved last month. We also have summer school schedules in the works for the month of June, per the plan for the calendar. We are trying to get all staff and students to take a break from the formal academic side of school during the month of July and the beginning of August as we seek to attend to the whole child and the mental health of our staff and students.

**Technology:**

We are hoping to add Promethean Boards to the rest of the Middle School classrooms, which would mean all of our classrooms would be equipped with the latest instructional technology tool.

**Upcoming Dates of Note:**

- \*March 4- Round Up
- \*March 17- Athletic Auction
- \*March 18-19- MS/HS Parent-Teacher Conferences
- \*April 3- April 12- Spring Break
- \*April 17- Legislative Breakfast at Hawk Hollow
- \*April 21- HS Honors Night
- \*May 17- Graduation
- \*May 29- Last Day of School

Check out the Aggie App Calendar to find upcoming school events!