

Superintendent Report: October Board Meeting
Submitted on October 13, 2018

Administrative work:

Each of the principals have been meeting with all of our teachers to discuss their goals. They have also been getting into classrooms to start giving feedback. We have also been working with new staff and mentors to ensure a smooth start for all of our new employees as well. The second district mentor-mentee meeting took place last week.

We have continued seeking guidance from a literacy specialist from MSU and an ISD consultant to ensure we are properly running our Tier 3 intervention classes for math and reading. We are also getting a meeting scheduled with these folks to ensure we are on the right track with planning our data meetings.

As it is administrator appreciation month, I would be remiss if I didn't mention how blessed this district is to have Tania, Erin and Andy serving in their respective roles. Not only does research point to the negative impact of administrative turnover, but we are seeing many positive impacts throughout the district, as we are able to continue to grow and improve due to their consistent effort and leadership. Most people use small school administrative positions as stepping stones to get into larger districts where they can get much larger salaries, but these administrators CHOOSE/WANT to be here. I hope the Board, this staff and this community realizes how special this is and how amazing these principals are. They are all difference-makers, team players and selfless learners who unconditionally love students.

Athletics:

While we have been able to occupy most of our instructional spaces and continue to work to get the remaining spaces complete, our athletic spaces have lagged behind. The HS gym will not be ready for the start of the upcoming winter sports seasons. We are working closely with the construction company and subcontractors to get the floor started once conditions are right. This will be followed by the installation of the bleachers. In the meantime, we are making plans for practices in other local gyms, before school, etc.

In addition, we had hoped to be able to get both baseball and softball fields seeded, as our soccer field was seeded last October and came in quite nicely, but the domino effect of delays due to other site work delays followed by the October weather has prevented this. This is quite frustrating and will result in the need for off-site field use again this spring.

We assembled teams and interviewed to fill our Varsity Wrestling, Varsity Softball and Varsity Girls' Soccer positions over the past few weeks. Glenn Adkins will be our Varsity Wrestling coach, Bill Sherwood will be our Varsity Softball coach, and Kailey Watson will be our Varsity Soccer coach. All three bring the qualities the committees were seeking for these positions and we are very excited for each of these programs and our kids to benefit from these hires.

We are very excited that our football team has qualified to play in the playoffs again this year. Congratulations to Coach Graf and the team for a great season so far!

Budget Info:

We budgeted for 715 students for this fall and we believe we will end with a count of approximately 731 after the audit is complete. We had 729 at the end of last year and 737 for last year's fall count.

I have worked with Raelynn to work on Revision I of the 2018-19 budget and this will be discussed at the board meeting in addition to the audit presentation.

Communication:

We are working to get our Aggie App approved in the app store and then will get our content ready, provide some training and hope to roll it out by parent-teacher conferences.

I am hoping to meet with the District Advisory Committee in November, February and May this year. This committee consists of parents of students who generally represent students in grades K-12.

Community Outreach/Partnerships:

Our Education Foundation has selected Linsey Ebert as the Teacher of the Year and Judy Soule as the Distinguished Service recipient for this year. These amazing women have made awesome contributions to our district as a result of their service. It will be wonderful to honor them at the Dinner/Auction on November 3rd at the English Inn. We look forward to partnering with this awesome group and so appreciate their hard work to support our programs.

The Elementary PTO is also hard at work to put the Craft Show together for November 17th. We are making alternate plans this year since we are unsure about which facilities will be complete at that time.

Curriculum/Training:

Tania, Andy and I were part of a Spring Math Coach webinar last week where we were able to learn additional ways we can help ensure we are implementing this program with fidelity. We will share our learning with our Spring Math Coaches to ensure we are supporting our teachers as we are more convinced than ever that this program is going to have a significant impact on our students' math proficiency.

Data:

At our administrative team meeting last week, we looked at our FastBridge screening data and talked about some additional data we will be examining to determine where we may have some weaknesses. We have learned how important it is to look at multiple years of data before drawing conclusions, so we are pursuing additional data at this time.

Facilities:

New construction and renovation work continues throughout the entire district. The health classroom was released for our classes to occupy it last week while there is continued emphasis on the work in the music room to get it ready for occupancy. We are hoping to have inspections this week that will determine our timeline for that space.

Work is ongoing on the new soccer field as well as on the baseball and softball fields as weather permits. Press boxes have been going up this past week. Ongoing work continues on the maintenance and FFA buildings while also working on all aspects of the new HS gym including the fitness room and the wrestling room. More info was included under Athletics in this report.

Thanks to Steve Rusnock from the ISD, we are collaborating with the welding class at the Wilson Talent Center to remove the graffiti from the bell that was in the old bell tower as we prepare to place it in the new bell tower that is being constructed near the bus loop.

Personnel Update:

We are planning to interview very soon for the outdoor maintenance position, as the posting ended last week. Marc St. Amant has continued to help us out until hiring and training is complete.

Safety:

We held a tornado drill as well as our second fire drill since the last board meeting. We also appreciate the partnership we have established with the sheriff that allows Deputy Doyle and Deputy Doerr to visit our school on regular basis.

We couldn't be more pleased with the mental health support we are able to provide our students due to the increase in our school psychologist to be here fulltime, which has also increased our therapy dog to be here full time. We have seen many situations already that have affirmed this as the best path for our district and our students. An email I received this past week from a probation officer also confirmed this.

Our district received a special certificate from Set Seg this week acknowledging that we were accident-free last school year. This is something we are very proud of, especially in light of all we have had going on here over the past year.

Teaching and Learning:

Our staff continues in general to be very understanding and as they have worked with the resources they have had available to start the school year in an effective way for students. They have been both flexible and accommodating and worked to deliver effective instruction for our students, which has been greatly appreciated as this has benefited our students.

Technology:

We continue to see increased use of the new technology we have throughout the district as teachers are getting more training and are training their students to use it when it benefits instruction. We are excited about the training that will take place for staff who will be using the new Scorevision boards, which includes the Media Productions teacher.

Upcoming Dates of Note:

October 31- Halloween Parade

November 3- DSEF event

November 7 and 8- Parent-Teacher Conferences