

## **Superintendent Report: September Board Meeting**

**Submitted on September 14, 2018**

### **Administrative work:**

The Welcome Back/Staff Recognition Breakfast took place on Wednesday, August 29<sup>th</sup> followed by teacher professional development. A second day of PD took place on Thursday, August 30<sup>th</sup>. School started on Tuesday, September 4<sup>th</sup> with a half-day, followed by more teacher professional development that afternoon.

The theme of the year that was shared with the staff is that it is The Year of the Aggie and we have signs of healthy Agginess all around us. I shared a picture that is filled with symbolism and will give each of you copies at the board meeting. The staff were encouraged to write messages on pieces of Aggie fruit to celebrate signs of healthy Agginess in their fellow staff members. This year, the board is encouraged to do the same. We also recognized several valued staff members who had achieved milestones in their years of service in five year increments ranging from 5 to 30 years of service.

During our professional development (PD), we reviewed last year's goals, talked about our proficiency data and rolled out this year's goals with the staff. The district MSTEP and SAT data will be presented to the Board on Monday night.

I have also attached my goals and the merit pay document for this school year for your review and feedback.

### **Athletics:**

All fall high school teams are in full swing as well as middle school cross country and volleyball. Next will be middle school boys' basketball followed by the start of the winter sports season in early November.

We will begin working on interviewing for our vacant Varsity Softball and Varsity Girls' Soccer positions in the next few weeks. We are pleased that we have quality applicants for both positions.

We are still working with the construction company to determine when we might be able to hold grand opening events for our new athletic fields/facilities. We want everything to be ready (press boxes, bleachers, etc.) and our fields to be completely ready before we open them.

### **Budget Info:**

We budgeted for 715 students for this fall and we are currently at 732. We had 729 at the end of last year and 737 for last year's fall count.

The audit presentation will take place at the October meeting and then the first revision of the budget will be presented in November with final approval in January.

### **Communication:**

The Back to School newsletter went out in August and we continue to post events and info on our district FaceBook page.

Regular communication is sent to the district employees via email. Info is also shared with teachers during an optional 'district updates' time prior to the start of every PD day.

We are excited to announce the launch of our new Aggie app! It goes live today and then we will be making some tweaks prior to its official launch to the community, but it is VERY informative and will be a great asset to our families and community members. Thank you to Tania Dupuis for her hard work in bringing this project to fruition!

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

We opened up all three schools to the community on the evening of September 4<sup>th</sup> to celebrate our new facilities as The Aggie Family Came Back to School. We had hundreds of visitors throughout the district and distributed maps with relevant info for each school. Thank you to Becky Ames for making the maps and for many of our staff members who stayed to help that evening!

We held the district auction on August 25<sup>th</sup> thanks to the hard work of Becky Ames and many others who helped move and sort through the items. Very special thanks to Judy Soule and Mary Fran Reed who volunteered (again!) for the three day distribution period. We raised approximately \$4000 between the online auction and the selling of remaining items over the three day distribution period. After the class composites are all restored, we will work with the foundation to determine how we will use any remaining funds.

Please consider attending the upcoming Education Foundation dinner/auction event on November 3<sup>rd</sup> at the English Inn. This is a wonderful event and raises significant funds for programming at our school.

Community Day was postponed to be a spring event this year due to the ongoing construction. It will be held on Friday, May 3<sup>rd</sup>. This is a special date for the district as it marks the three year mark of the date the bond was passed- May 3, 2016.

We officially switched from Pepsi to Coca Cola for the upcoming school year. This is due primarily to poor service and lack of contract follow through with Pepsi along with a very responsive and helpful negotiation with Coca Cola.

### **Curriculum/Training:**

We have been meeting with literacy specialist Adrea Truckenmiller, a professor from MSU, as we work to roll out our literacy coaches this year. She has been helping us over the past several months as we revisit our Multi-Tiered Systems of Support and work to improve our literacy outcomes K-12.

### **Data:**

I will be sharing MSTEP and SAT data with the board at the meeting. Our graduation rate will be reported as 93.4% for last year. We are disappointed that two students who moved out of our district last year didn't enroll in the school where they moved and both of those students counted against our graduation rate. Otherwise we would have had a rate of 96.9%.

### **Facilities:**

New construction and renovation work continues throughout the entire district. Several areas are continuing to get finishes while construction continues on everything else. We are working to get the health room finished to be able to open that room up for our students ASAP and major attention is being paid to getting the music room finished. This is a very large and unique space that is connected to the mechanical area and the connecting vestibule, so a lot of work surrounds the space that makes it more labor intensive to complete.

Work is also being done on the new soccer field as well as on the baseball and softball fields. Ongoing work continues on the maintenance and FFA buildings and all aspects of the new HS gym including the fitness room and the wrestling room.

### **Personnel Update:**

All of our new staff members have hit the ground running and we are excited to have them on board!

### **Safety:**

Thank you to Tania Dupuis for her hard work in coordinating with law enforcement officials as well as with the safety glass company to recently submit a grant to try to get safety film on all of the new interior and exterior first floor windows that don't already have the film.

We held our first fire drill today, which went very well.

### **Teaching and Learning:**

Our staff has been amazing as they have worked with the resources they have had available to start the school year in an effective way for students. They have generally been both flexible and accommodating and worked to deliver effective instruction for our students regardless of their situation.

### **Technology:**

We are excited that all of the Promethean boards were in place on the first day of school and that the elementary Chromebooks will be in classrooms on Monday. Teachers received training to begin working on this technology at the August and first day of school PD sessions. More training will take place at the September PD at the end of the month.

### **Upcoming Dates of Note:**

September 26- Half Day with PD

September 28- Homecoming