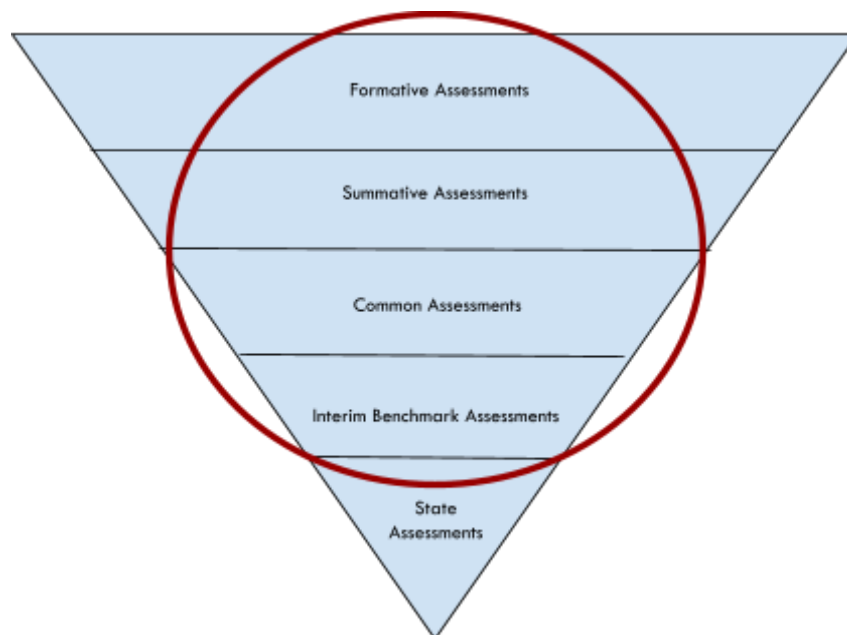


**Superintendent Report: April Board Meeting**  
**Submitted on April 25, 2025**

**ADMINISTRATIVE WORK:**

**Testing season** is well underway. At the time of this report, we have administered WorkKeys, MSTEP, and SAT to the juniors as well as PSAT to our eighth and ninth graders. Middle School has also finished state testing, and our elementary students will be done soon. We will share results in the fall. This is my annual reminder that state assessments are only a tiny portion of our balanced assessment approach to measure student progress. A true balanced assessment system resembles an inverted triangle:



For 2025-2026, we will be adding a standardized **interim benchmark assessment** in grades 2-12: NWEA. This will give us immediate feedback on student performance compared to students across the nation and is also designed to help students set personalized academic goals. It provides objective information to parents on their child's progress, and it will help us calibrate our own internal grading practices.

**Summer school** planning is being finalized. We are hosting 16 days of learning for select students in grades K-8 from June 2-26 from 8:30 am - 11:30 am, Monday-Thursday. Transportation is provided for families of students in grades K-8. Credit recovery for high school students will run five days per week from 8:30 - 3:00 during June.

I continue to work with **Dean Transportation** to improve their communication with the district and our families. Several individuals at Dean have access to ParentSquare where they can send messages on the status of bus routes. We have one particular route that has been canceled three times within two months with little or no notification. That route has recently received a staffing change, so we are hoping to see improved performance, which our families and students deserve.

Our **school improvement team** has planned our last professional development day of the year. With the recommendation of Debbie MacFalone, the consultant working with the administrators, we've decided to take a long, strategic approach to address low student achievement and apparent grade inflation. This will be a 12-18 month process that will begin with a study of our state standards and unpacking them.

**Community Day** is fast approaching! We are excited to give back to our community that supports us in so many ways.

I adore my time in **conversation with students**. At the time of this report, I have met with all of our seniors to view the district through their eyes. I look forward to sharing some overall trends with our staff and the public at the end of the year. Yesterday was my last student advisory meeting of the year.

Our administrative team is working hard to end the year strong. There are so many scheduled activities that are compounded by testing, field trips, banquets, and evaluations. However, Amy, Josh, and Tania work tirelessly and have developed great visions for their respective buildings. We look forward to another year together. Soon we will be sending out **surveys** for feedback to help shape school improvement goals as well as our own professional goals.

With the **winter storms and power outages** we experienced this year, our district missed seven (7) days of scheduled instructional time. The state allows for six (6). Mrs. Davies completed a request to ask forgiveness for the additional day, which was granted by the Michigan Department of Education. That means we do not have to come back after Memorial Day to make-up one day.

**News from the federal government:** On February 14, 2025, the US Department of Education sent a "Dear Colleague Letter" to all public schools in the nation asking that they certify compliance with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act, which is a way to force districts to end diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) initiatives or risk losing federal funds. This certification was to be completed by April 10. The Michigan Department of Education responded to the certification on behalf of all public schools in Michigan. Since federal monies flow through state education agencies and not directly to local districts, it seems appropriate for MDE to respond in this manner. And, as someone who works on our federal grants can attest, there are always certifications that must be checked on the grant applications, so this recertification seems unnecessary.

This directive from the USDOE has gotten caught up in the court system with temporary injunctions in place. Because of that, the certification date has been moved to April 24. On the morning of April 24, it appeared that local districts may need to provide certification, and school leaders were getting varying opinions from legal counsel on the topic, until two additional courts provided another injunction. Virtual calls and emails flew back and forth yesterday, with a final understanding that schools in Michigan were covered by MDE's response on April 10.

## **BUDGET:**

**We are in the planning stages to begin bargaining** with DESPA and DEA. David and I are running numbers back and forth while we wait to hear how the May revenue conference unfolds. The greatest unknowns continue to be healthcare costs, retirement costs, and the uncertainty of federal funding. I look forward to sharing tentative agreements with you once the process has been completed.

Great news! I just received word yesterday that Dansville Schools was **awarded \$81,611 for 31aa Student Mental and Safety** grant dollars. The timing is perfect as we are looking to improve our public address system and provide enhanced safety to our playground.

We have a large amount of money in Section 31a that can no longer be spent in ways we had used it before (ie - to offset teacher salaries for lower class sizes). This fund is specific to addressing the needs of at-risk children. Since we know the overall social-emotional well-being of our students is a top priority, we have decided to use the funds to **post for another counseling position at the 6-12 level.**

## **FACILITIES:**

Our **high school and elementary fenced-in parking lots** continue to need repair; however, our sinking fund cannot handle this expense at the moment. I've been researching various companies that can provide more than sealing, patches, and crackfill. If we can find a company that can truly stretch the life of our lot out another 3-5 years at a reasonable cost, we will get this addressed this summer.

We continue to assess the **damages due to the storm on March 30, 2025.** Currently, we have incurred at least \$23,000 in damages, with assessments of our roof still in progress. Insurance will cover the repairs with a \$2500 deductible.

We had eight (8) companies attend the mandatory walk-through for our **facilities assessment** bid, and seven (7) companies attended the **PA system** bid. Please look for the results of these bids and a recommendation for approval during our May BOE meeting.

## **UPCOMING DATES:**

April 25-26:	Drama Club Presents: <i>The Chronicles of Narnia: The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe</i>
April 30:	Community Day
April 30:	Half-Day Dismissal, Professional Learning Day
May 2:	Puttin' on the Hits
May 5:	HS Band Concert
May 5-9:	Staff Appreciation Week
May 12:	MS Band Concert
May 13:	11th Grade Passion Project Showcase
May 14:	Senior Awards
May 17:	FFA Banquet
May 18:	Graduation
May 19:	May BOE Meeting
May 20:	8th Grade Moving Up Ceremony
May 23:	Last Day of School, ½ Day Dismissal

## ATHLETICS:

We are incredibly proud of our **CMAC Scholar Athletes** who have lettered in at least two sports (one in their senior year) and maintained a 3.0 or higher GPA:

Athlete: Alex Baker  
Sports: Football, Soccer,  
Wrestling, Baseball & Golf  
Parents: Trista & Brian Baker

Athlete: Faith Caroen  
Sports: Volleyball & Soccer  
Parents: Tracy & Chris Caroen

Athlete: Everett Dysinger  
Sports: Football, Cross Country,  
Wrestling, Baseball & Track &  
Field  
Parents: Dan & Chelsea Dysinger  
and Tonya & Mark Richey

Athlete: Cole Hagelberger  
Sports: Soccer & Golf  
Parents: Teresia & Curtis  
Hagelberger

Athlete: Austin Hovey  
Sports: Soccer, Basketball &  
Baseball  
Parents: Kristie & Brian Hovey

Athlete: Aubree Mayr  
Sports: Cross Country & Wrestling  
Parents: Melissa & Bernie Mayr

Athlete: Chloe Moore  
Sports: Volleyball, Basketball &  
Softball  
Parents: Christina & Scott Moore

Athlete: Brianna Richardson  
Sports: Volleyball & Soccer  
Parents: Darlene & Adam  
Richardson

Athlete: Ethan Root  
Sports: Cross Country, Bowling &  
Track & Field  
Parents: Katie & Gary Root

## ATTITUDE OF GRATITUDE

- Thank you to the **LadyBugs** who have donated \$500 to the Many Hands project and \$500 to the Washington, DC, trip.
- Congratulations to **Jennifer Williams**, who was the recipient of an MDE grant to participate in Cohort 8 of **LETRS training**. LETRS is a two-year intensive training program for teachers of reading and spelling.