

**Superintendent Report: February Board Meeting**  
**Submitted on February 22, 2024**

**ADMINISTRATIVE WORK:**

We held our third half-day of professional learning on January 31. We continue to work on pacing guides at the secondary level, literacy at the elementary level, and our Aggie Improvement Teams: assessment boot camp, teaching and assessment guide updates and reviews, community day, work habits, and math. The district school improvement team met again on February 8 to debrief the session from the week before and to plan for the half-day on February 28.

I attended the MiCIP winter session held at IISD on February 6 where I was able to make updates to our school improvement plan that is submitted to the state.

Kindergarten Roundup was held on February 22. As of today, we have 41 students enrolled.

The technology committee will meet again on February 27 to finalize surveys given to students, staff, and families. This input will help the district determine next steps for creating a solid technology plan. Jerrod Braman will be attending the MACUL conference in March and will bring back wonderful ideas for moving forward with innovation in the district.

I am participating in a learning series offered by Thrun on the latest changes in the Public Employees Relations Act and what that means for collective bargaining. Topics include:

- February 16, 2024    Comprehensive Labor Law Webinar
- February 23, 2024    Arbitration and Legal Guardrails
- March 1, 2024        Teacher Placement, Layoff, and Recall
- March 8, 2024        Teacher Evaluation and Merit Pay
- March 15, 2024      Dues Deduction and Teacher Discipline

Tania Dupuis is also staying on top of special education legal issues and attended a comprehensive special education law webinar by Thrun on February 21.

I had the pleasure of attending and co-presenting at the National Conference on Education in San Diego. Dr. Spickard (DeWitt) and I presented on gender biases in the superintendency and the challenges female leaders experience on their path to executive positions in public schools. While at the conference, I also attended sessions on:

- artificial intelligence
- early literacy
- math interventions
- technology innovations
- personal work-life balance for administrative teams
- school safety
- legal issues
- crucial conversations
- communications

Our annual education report is now posted on our website under “District Information.”

I met briefly with Becky Hills, IISD Assistant Superintendent of Finance and Business, to initiate a five-year extension to the Dean Transportation contract. Had this contract been up for renewal a year ago, I'd likely be asking to join a different consortium or look for a different provider. However, we have seen a dramatic reduction this year in number of bus routes that have been canceled—in both regular and athletic routes. There have also been fewer issues with communication between Dean and our families.

ParentSquare will be our new communication platform. We have it fully synced with PowerSchool and will be doing a soft rollout of the product with our middle school staff and families as well as our spring athletics. Office staff and administrators have had their initial training on the product. Look for more information to come!

### **FACILITIES:**

The HVAC project for the middle school is scheduled for spring break. We are told the units are in, and installation is scheduled as planned.

Rick Miller has been designing an Old English Dansville “D” that is three-dimensional and made of sheet metal. Our WTC students in the welding program have brought the concept into fruition and the “D” statue should be in the high school commons in time for end-of-the year activities.

In April, Mike Sykes and Rick Miller will be attending a tri-county training in DeWitt sponsored by SetSeg regarding facilities inspections, roof safety and maintenance, and playground upkeep.

The board packet contains information on the 2022 parking lot bid that was previously put on the back burner. I hope to have new bids for us to review and accept by the March BOE meeting.

Thank you to everyone who attended the commemoration ceremony for the “Linsey Ebert Memorial Commons.” It was a beautiful event and a wonderful way to honor Linsey’s legacy.

### **BUDGET:**

We are thrilled to be part of a grant opportunity that will assist our teachers with repayments toward their federal student loans. The grant is still in the development stage; however, we have had 23 employees express an interest in this program. I will keep you posted as details are ironed out.

While percentages are often not the best way to judge fund balances, we happy to report that Revision I of the budget is trending toward a 20%+ fund balance for the fiscal year. With the blessing of our business office, I have started exploring the potential of purchasing a 10-passenger van for the district. Such a vehicle could help with the transportation of some programs and events, such as: FFA, Band Ensembles, Science Olympiad, Golf, Bowling, Cheer, eSports, Student Council... just to name a few.

Mr. Kapp, Mr. Schmidt, Mr. Miller, and I met with Jesse Nelson from Baker-Tilly as well as David Stibich and Raelynn Johns to review where we are with the 2016 bond. As it stands, our community should see a decrease in mills after December 2026 from 7.0 to 5.65. There is an opportunity, through an election, to

extend the amount of years our community pays 7.0 mills to capture additional funding for capital projects. It is too soon to recommend whether or not the district should pursue a zero-mill bond, but it is prudent to be aware of the opportunity and to at least have conversations about that. We have beautiful facilities that should last our community for decades to come, but facilities do require regular maintenance and upkeep, and technology is ever-evolving.

I am on a county-wide committee looking to revise our special education funding model as part of Ingham County's special education plan that must be approved by the state. Currently, our formula includes extra funding for certain eligibilities, such as Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD); however, with many disabilities, a label, such as ASD, does not equate to the amount of special education services a student may need. That means that special education dollars do not always flow to the students who have the greatest need. The committee is comprised of four superintendents, four business officials, and four directors of special education—all who have very passionate ideas. Currently we are meeting every two weeks to ensure that a plan is approved by the IISD Board of Education in May and submitted to the state for approval by June 1.

#### **SAFETY:**

We are working collaboratively with Michigan State Police and other local law enforcement agencies to host K9 training in our buildings once again during spring break. This will not interfere with the middle school HVAC project. It is important to give our law enforcement agencies opportunities to familiarize themselves with our campus.

Our tabletop exercises went extremely well on February 9. There were first responders and law enforcement agencies from around the county, including MSU. The exercise provided an opportunity for us to reflect on our current procedures; and, some tweaks to our emergency operations plan were recommended moving forward.

#### **UPCOMING DATES:**

March 6-7: K-12 Parent-Teacher Conferences  
March 20: Half-Day Dismissal, Professional Learning Day  
Meet the Aggies, Spring Edition  
March 22-31: NO SCHOOL - Spring Break

#### **ATTITUDE OF GRATITUDE**

- Again, many thanks to Rick Miller who made the unveiling during Linsey's dedication ceremony fun and entertaining. Linsey would have enjoyed that. I also want to thank Angie St. Amant, Tania Dupuis, Sydney Hammerstein, and the commemoration committee for contributing to the entire process including the final details of the event.
- Many thanks to the Memorial Day planning committee for including the District in the early stages of preparations for the events in May.
- Congratulations to Camden Graf who signed with Michigan Tech to play football!