

Superintendent Report: May Board Meeting
Submitted on May 17, 2019

Administrative work:

The administrators are hard at work to ensure the success of all year-end activities (honors nights, graduations and other celebrations). Administrators are working on teacher evaluations and final observations as well.

We have completed master schedules for each building for next year. These include a six period day for the high school building and more shared staff between the middle and high school buildings to account for the movement of our largest class (current 8th graders) to the high school. We have also added a 4th kindergarten position based on enrollment, the needs of the students and best practice.

The spring testing cycle is nearly complete. This is quite an effort by our staff. We are frustrated to have lost so many instructional days between the late start and the snow days, but our teachers did their best to prepare the students and we continue to work to improve our outcomes.

I did end up applying to be part of the Governor's Advisory Council, but see that there ended up being no rural school representation on the council.

Athletics:

Spring sports will be wrapping up soon and there has been significant progress made on all of our outdoor bond projects. The ballfields, pressboxes, bleachers, concessions stand and sitework/paving are all moving forward.

Budget Info:

We are currently budgeting for 715 students for next year based on recent tours and new student enrollments. This is up five students from last month's report. We had 724 students this year.

Unlike the past eight or more years, we have not been given any sort of estimate regarding state funding for next year. The Governor and Senate proposals are very different and the House has not published a proposed budget. This makes planning for the June 17 Budget Hearing and proposed 2019-20 budget very challenging. I will share some generalities about estimates regarding the current budget as well as the proposed budget at our meeting, but these are definitely just estimates.

We have started talking to the bargaining groups, but have will talk with the Board on Monday about proposals.

Communication:

WILX was here a few weeks ago to do a Schools Rule segment about our Aggie STEAM Adventures Program. It aired today: <https://www.wilx.com/content/news/Dansville-schools-use-space-simulator-to-explore-STEAM-curriculum--510057191.html>.

We have shared this with our families and appreciate this positive coverage.

Another media release was the recent LSJ piece about school compliance with the state's bullying policies. Dansville and Mason were noted as the only two area schools to be in compliance. We do appreciate the administrators' efforts to always strive to comply with these types of legal requirements. We feel we can also continue to improve. Here is the link:

<https://www.lansingstatejournal.com/story/news/local/2019/05/16/bullying-do-michigan-schools-do-enough-to-prevent-it/1112491001/>

Our waiver for the additional three days was granted by MDE and that, along with the Governor's forgiveness of four days and the standards six days of forgiveness has resulted in our ability to release the last day of the 18-19 school year. We will end on the originally scheduled date, which is June 12.

Community Outreach/Partnerships:

Our annual Community Day took place on Friday, May 3rd. Many acts of service and kindness took place throughout the day and we affirmed what a wonderful group of students and staff we have here. Here is a link to the Community Day video that was created by our Media Productions students: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Wmqe9v2w2y0>

Curriculum/Training:

We will be sending a number of teachers to receive Reading Apprenticeship training this summer. This will help improve the ability of our teachers to incorporate reading strategies into all content area courses in our middle and high schools.

Data:

We continue to monitor the Spring Math progress data weekly and provide additional supports as needed to ensure ongoing progress and/or problem-solving. We are working closely with Amanda VanDerHeyden (author of Spring Math) as well as others to ensure we are doing our best to implement this with fidelity and as is most appropriate for our students.

Facilities:

We were very thankful to finally hold the Grand Opening of our Community Fitness Room on Friday, April 26. Several community members who no longer have children in school came and signed up to use the track and/or fitness center. We received a lot of positive feedback, including how much they were going to save by canceling their other gym memberships. Thank you to Brenda Moran, who is the point person for registration for the fitness center and to Becky Ames, who did a lot of work to help us open and also to get folks into the door

system/do background checks over that first weekend so they could start using everything the following Monday.

I am hoping to bring the Board a proposal regarding increasing the fees associated with renting the facilities in the next few months. Our prices are significantly less than schools around us.

We were very disappointed that the sinking fund proposal didn't pass. We have sought feedback from the community and have heard a number of rumors that we will need to address as well as hearing from many supporters of the sinking fund who didn't vote in May due to a number of factors and are hopeful that we will seek approval again.

The ramifications of not passing the sinking fund could be significant in the areas of building maintenance, projects and also technology/security. Potential projects included: adding more technology to the elementary, adding safety film to the windows in the new areas and addressing parking lots. We also planned to explore the possibility of elementary air conditioning.

Personnel Update:

Bobbie Jo Whipple recently resigned from her food service position.

We are pleased to share that Aggie parent Nicole Skouby was recently hired to be a recess aide.

We need to discuss a superintendent evaluation committee meeting to review merit pay evidence.

Policy Update:

We have shared an updated policy related to the credits required to graduate to accompany the change to a six period day. This will be considered by the Board in a committee as a whole format due to the timing of the policy need.

Other policies will be reviewed with Dr. Halik on May 28, so it would be helpful to get a policy committee meeting date scheduled. Proposed dates are: Monday, June 10 at 5 pm or Thursday, June 13th at 5 pm. We will also be reviewing a packet of technology policies.

Safety:

The district has purchased additional AEDs to ensure we have them throughout the facility in light of our new additions.

We have held all of our safety drills for the 2018-19 school year.

Teaching and Learning:

The Assessment Aggie Improvement Team met a full day on May 10th and then again for a half day this afternoon to finalize a building-by-building guide that clearly articulates best practice for

every aspect of assessment and grading based on a careful examination of current practices and the need for appropriate scaffolding.

We will be rolling out the elementary guide during a day-long work session on Monday and then will work with the entire staff during the PD on Friday, May 24.

Technology:

Andy and I are working to find ways to replace the aging Smartboards in the elementary. We are hoping to start with Kindergarten and first grade.

Other:

Graduation will be held on Sunday, June 2. Please plan to be outside the new gymnasium no later than 2:45 pm that day. The ceremony starts at 3 pm and parking can sometimes take longer than expected. Graduation practice is Friday, May 31 at 9 am. We will have a better idea about the new procedure after that date.

I hope we can discuss if the Board is interested in holding the End of the Year Celebration Luncheon on Wednesday, June 12 after the half day.

Upcoming Dates of Note:

Graduation: June 2

Budget Hearing: June 17

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