

# Superintendent Report: September Board Meeting

Submitted on September 15, 2025

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## ADMINISTRATIVE WORK

It is hard to believe we are already more than 10% into the school year. Our administrators remain busy supporting families and students, visiting classrooms, and meeting with teachers to establish professional growth plans. This year's half-day professional development sessions are being designed based on last year's staff feedback. Topics will focus on best practices to improve student proficiency, including formative and summative assessments, teacher feedback, clear learning targets, rubric design, student reflection, and retake opportunities.

While our overall spring assessment performance remains below our desired levels, we did see some encouraging growth. A key highlight is third-grade reading proficiency, where our students outperformed the state, county, and CMAC averages. Notably, the Michigan Department of Education reported a statewide decline in third- and fourth-grade reading performance—yet Dansville did not experience this trend.

The District School Improvement Team met on September 11 to debrief the spring results, noting celebrations, areas of curiosity, and growth opportunities. The team also helped shape the upcoming September 24 professional development session.

This year, we launched several initiatives to strengthen student proficiency:

- **NWEA MAP** (Measures of Academic Progress) for periodic, objective benchmark assessments
- **enVision Mathematics** to enhance math instruction
- **Lexia** to support literacy interventions

As with any new implementation, there were initial technology and logistics challenges, but most issues have now been resolved.

We also continue our intensive support for new teachers. In August, our mentor-mentees began monthly meetings, with the most recent session led by Kate Tringal on *Special Education 101*.

Finally, a reminder that October is **National Principal Appreciation Month**. We are proud to recognize Josh, Tania, and Amy for their leadership, vision, and dedication to the Aggie Family. Their long hours and unwavering commitment reflect a deep love for their schools and community.

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## BUDGET

This month, our financial auditor, Maner Costerisan, will present findings to the board. Early indications are positive, showing that we were once again able to keep >20% in our fund balance at the conclusion of the 2024–25 school year.

Looking ahead, **Count Day** will take place on October 1. We anticipate a lower FTE than projected and expect enrollment may dip below 700 students.

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## FACILITIES

Our facility study, conducted by GMB and Christman, identified **\$10.7 million in needs** over the next three years, with the elementary building requiring the most immediate attention. Many finishes are outdated or at the end of life, ADA accessibility issues must be addressed, and electrical demands far exceed what the 1960 building was designed to handle. The next step is to explore financial pathways to address these needs.

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## TRANSPORTATION

The reduction of a bus route this year initially caused concern. Dean Transportation and I had discussed this option last year, and they implemented it for 2025–26. In addition, rosters were streamlined to remove non-riders. Despite consolidation, average morning ride times decreased by six minutes, while afternoon rides remained largely unchanged.

Bus Route Comparisons				
	2024-2025		2025-2026	
	First Pick-Up	Last Drop-Off	First Pick-Up	Last Drop-Off
BEAR	6:05	4:10	6:33	3:59
BUTTERFLY	6:48	3:51	6:32	4:00
COW	6:38	4:33	6:44	4:25
DOG	6:20	3:38	6:33	4:02
DUCK	6:58	3:42	XX	XX
FROG	6:41	3:51	6:32	3:56
HORSE	6:17	4:22	6:38	4:07

The district van has been well-utilized since its introduction, logging over 1,700 miles and averaging 2–3 checkouts per week. Recent users include:

- Josh Andrews
- Ashley Townsend (Prom Committee)
- Mike Sheridan (FFA, twice)
- Cal Hodgson (Girls Golf, seven times)
- JD Pepper (Track/Cross-Country, three times)

While I had hoped the van would also support two-way transportation for away athletic events such as soccer, volleyball, and football, it has not yet been used for that purpose.

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#### UPCOMING DATES

- **September 24** – Half-Day Dismissal: Professional Development
  - **October 1** – Count Day
  - **October 10** – Half-Day: Fall Break
  - **October 13** – No School: Fall Break
  - **October 15–16** – 6–12 Parent-Teacher Conferences
  - **October 29** – Half-Day Dismissal: Professional Development
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#### POSITIVE NOTES

- A special thank-you to **Jaime Ruckel**, who continues to volunteer her time by picking up staff lunches from Jersey Giant on professional development half-days.
- The **Dansville Schools Education Foundation** has approved funding for the following teacher grant requests:
  - *Bridges Mathematics Intervention* for special education students
  - *DSLR cameras* for middle/high school art classes
  - *Innovative PE equipment* (tentative approval)