

Superintendent Report: January Board Meeting

January 22, 2026

Administrative Work

The time between winter break and MLK Day has limited the number of school sessions since our last Board of Education meeting. However, our time in session has been packed with essential activities:

- **Probationary Staff Check-Ins:** Mid-year evaluations for probationary staff are underway, focusing on their professional growth plans and progress toward set goals.
 - **Professional Learning:** January marks our third half-day dedicated to professional learning for school improvement goals. These sessions, scheduled for January 28, were collaboratively designed by the administrative team and DSIT. Our next focus will be on using artificial intelligence (AI) to analyze our rubrics against the state standards and examine them for rigor.
 - **Mentor-Mentee Meetings:** Monthly sessions for first- and second-year teachers continue. On January 7, Jared Baker from IISD presented on ACES (Adverse Childhood Experiences) and the impact it can have on student learning.
 - **MASA Mid-Winter Conference:** I was able to attend a portion of the mid-winter conference this past week in Kalamazoo. Some of the sessions that I attended included: *Leveraging Your Sinking Fund to Strengthen a Future Bond Proposal, Collective Bargaining Hot Topics, and Legislative Updates.*
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Facilities

- **Heating Issues:** We are grateful to Steve Rusnock from Ingham ISD who stepped up to help us with our surprise heating issues this past week.
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Budget

- **Revision I Budget:** As you recall, we are required by law to pass a budget by June 30th of each year. This particular year, this was well before the state had finalized its budget and before the student count was completed. Dansville Schools took a hit in two areas: some surprise contingencies in the state aid funding, and a greater decrease in student enrollment than expected. This will cause us to dip into our fund balance at a higher rate than anticipated. David and Raelynn will be presenting a high-level overview of the amendments to our budget during the January BOE meeting.

- Dansville Schools successfully refunded our 2016 bond, saving our taxpayers an expected \$2.4M. More information will be in this month's packet. As a reminder, these were the timelines for refunding:

11/24/25	Refunding bond resolution adopted at regular Board of Education meeting.
12/04/25	Due diligence conference call to review the bond preliminary official statement at 10am.
01/20/26	Bond sale at 10am. Bids received and reviewed.
01/26/26	Ratification resolution adopted at regular Board of Education meeting.
02/17/26	Bond closing. Funds deposited into the escrow account.

Safety

- **Lockdown System Review:** EverOn was on campus on MLK Day to test and address a couple of outstanding issues with our lockdown system. They also believe they have isolated the issue with one of our interior electronically-accessed doors that seems to forget its programming from time to time.
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Community Connections

- **Winter Homecoming:** Scheduled for January 30.
 - **Kindergarten Round-Up:** Moved to March at the county's request. The decision to offer Begindergarten depends on parent interest following this event; however, I see Begindergarten as a program that may have "run its course." Since introducing GSRP (our Great Start to Readiness preschool program), we have seen less and less interest in Begindergarten. We are excited to offer GSRP as it is designed to be the state's leading program for preparing children for kindergarten.
 - **Community Movie Night:** Dansville Schools, in partnership with DDA, plans to host a FREE family movie night on January 23 in the performing arts center / elementary gym. We will be showing the latest version of *How to Train Your Dragon*. March 13 will be the alternate date.
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Upcoming Dates

- **January 30:** Winter Homecoming
 - **February 16:** No School – Presidents' Day
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Attitude of Gratitude

- Mrs. St. Amant's "Little Play" captivated students with their rendition of the children's story, "June B. Jones Is Not a Crook!"
- In December, Mrs. McNabb led the all-school sing-along, a holiday highlight, with plans for a patriotic-themed event on the last day of school.
- I wanted to express my gratitude to everyone who showed grace during our heating debacle this past week. I especially want to thank Tashina Kiley, who passed out hot cocoa to staff and students at the elementary while we addressed the classrooms that required additional adjustments.