

Superintendent Report: October Board Meeting
Submitted on October 23, 2025

Administrative Updates:

October is National Principal Appreciation Month, providing a special opportunity to celebrate our remarkable principals for their visionary leadership and commitment to student success. I am incredibly proud of the work Josh, Tania, and Amy do every day.

This month, we also observe National School Lunch Week and National School Bus Safety Week. Our food service staff and drivers play essential roles in supporting our students beyond the classroom, ensuring they feel safe, valued, and ready to learn.

The Student Superintendent Advisory Council is back in session. We are holding our first meeting this Thursday over lunch, bringing together two student representatives from each of our elementary, middle, and high schools. Throughout the year, these students will advise on district matters, provide valuable insights, and suggest actionable solutions.

The mentor-mentee group met on October 1. Facilitated by Leah Braman, Kristen Ream, and Andrew Hodgson, the session focused on the *15 Fixes for Broken Grades*. After an introduction to the text, the group modeled differentiation: our second-year teachers, who were introduced to the "fixes" last year, worked in a small group to refine their understanding and practice of the concepts.

On October 22, our administrative team and the District School Improvement Team (DSIT) collaborated to plan the upcoming half-day professional learning session. This session will be heavily focused on data analysis. After reviewing spring state assessment scores last month, it is now time to compare that data against our other local assessments, such as NWEA, FastBridge, and Lexia.

Budget:

The state budget was passed on October 2, 93 days after the deadline and 25% of the way through our fiscal year. As of October 23, significant questions and concerns remain.

Key budget issues include:

- **Conditional Penalties:** The budget includes boilerplate language threatening a 5% reduction (approximately \$350,000 for Dansville) for failure to comply with directives that appear to be very difficult, if not impossible, to meet.
- **MPSERS Cost Shift:** Funding for the Michigan Public Schools Retirement System (MPSERS) was removed at the state level. This cost must now be absorbed directly by our general fund.
- **Delayed Allocations:** Categorical funds were approved by the state but have not yet been allocated, leaving that funding uncertain.

The state has touted an unprecedented 4.6% increase in per-pupil funding (from \$9,608 to \$10,050). However, the reality for our district is an effective increase of only \$71 per pupil, or 0.7%.

When this minimal increase is combined with our decreasing enrollment, it appears very likely that we will need to utilize our fund balance more than originally planned.

Count Comparison					
	Fall 2024	Fall 2025	Difference	Difference by Cohort	Notes
Kindergarten	55	49	-6	-11	Difference between graduating seniors and new kindergarten students
1st	49	55	6	0	
2nd	51	50	-1	1	
3rd	57	51	-6	0	
4th	73	60	-13	3	
5th	56	74	18	1	
6th	56	53	-3	-3	
7th	54	53	-1	-3	
8th	59	50	-9	-4	
9th	47	58	11	-1	
10th	54	48	-6	1	
11th	47	51	4	-3	
12th	60	45	-15	-2	
			-21	-21	

We have been analyzing our student enrollment data since Count Day. While Dansville Schools predicted a 10-student drop, we experienced a loss of 21 FTE (Full-Time Equivalent), bringing our official count to 697.

The chart above compares this year's count to last year's. The biggest factor in this decline remains that our incoming kindergarten cohorts are smaller than our graduating classes.

School of choice numbers have remained relatively stable:
186 in 2025-2026 versus 187 in 2024-2025.

UPCOMING DATES:

October 29: Half-Day Dismissal: Professional Development
 October 31: Halloween Parade, Elementary
 November 6: Ladybug Auction
 November 11-12: Elementary Conferences
 November 11: Veterans Day
 November 22: PTO Craft Show
 November 26-28: NO SCHOOL: Thanksgiving Break

POSITIVE NOTES:

- We appreciate the secondary families who attended conferences this past month. We love partnering with you in the education of your children!
- Many thanks to Jaime Ruckel for organizing dinner for teachers and staff during 6-12 grade conferences.
- Congratulations to both Makenna Krieger and Amanda Bush, who were nominated by parents for the Michigan Department of Education Teacher of the Year!