

Superintendent Report: January Board Meeting
January 19, 2023

ADMINISTRATIVE WORK:

The administrative team is leading the charge on mid-year benchmark assessments. We also held a session with the creator of SpringMath to dive deeper into our mathematics data. We will present an update to you and the public on our student progress during the February regular board of education meeting.

Mid-year is also the time to check-in with each staff member. We review their professional growth plans and the progress they have made toward their goals.

January marks our second half-day of professional learning devoted to school improvement goals. The administrative team and DSIT worked collaboratively to design the sessions for January 25.

I have met with DEA leadership to review the 2024-2025 calendar which is on the agenda to be approved during this month's meeting. We will soon be preparing for negotiations.

Being "Orange" (aka - positive) is still at the forefront of our minds. The principals and I have arranged for a session on self-care during the January 25 professional development session, and we continue to bless our staff from time to time with snack and beverage carts.

I am working with our NEOLA representative to update our administrative guidelines that support our board policies. AGs do not go to the board for approval, they just outline the procedures administrators will follow to uphold the policies previously approved by the board of education.

On January 18, I attended a session through MASA specifically designed for new superintendents where we discussed instructional leadership. Relationships were emphasized for the basis of learning, and we worked directly with Hanover Research to review best instructional practices in the post-covid era of education. This past month I have also attended professional learning through Thrun on the Open Meetings Act and all things FOIA.

FACILITIES:

Rick and the administrative team met with Midwest Security on January 19 to plan the key structure for the district.

Many thanks to the Board of Education for approving the HVAC project at the elementary school. Although we are not looking forward to the construction, we are looking forward to the outcomes. We have already started planning for alternative locations for elementary summer school.

Carolyn Jones and I are coordinating a time to meet with the contractors for the drainage project.

This past month, Rick, Mike Sykes, and I reviewed and updated our outdoor maintenance guide that includes protocols for drain care, playground upkeep, moving, athletic fields, snowplowing, vehicle / equipment maintenance, landscaping, fencing, trash, concessions stands, and irrigation.

ATHLETICS:

Winter Athletic Coach Line-Up

Coach	Sport
Glen Adkins	Wrestling
Brian Baker	Wrestling, Asst.
Brad Chattaway	Basketball, Boys, JV
Andrew Hodgson	Basketball, Boys, 7th
Jon Jolin	Basketball, Boys, 8th
Jon Jolin	Basketball, Girls, 8th
Mike Klimkiewicz	Bowling
Ryan Masters	Basketball, Boys, Varsity
Raj Nelson	Basketball, Girls, JV
Daniel Pepper	Basketball, Boys, JV Asst.
Tonya Richey	Basketball, Girls, 7th
Jesse Skouby	Basketball, Boys, Varsity Asst.
Mike Sykes	Basketball, Girls, Varsity

At the time of this report, our girls' varsity basketball team were ranked #1 in the Associated Press and #2 in the Detroit Free Press.

BUDGET UPDATES:

Revision I of the budget is going before the Board in January. We did include a technology refresh for high school for this budget cycle. This is a year ahead of schedule, but we have several grants that will be expiring soon, and I don't want a major tech purchase to occur at the same time we may be absorbing some costs back into the general fund. We also are watching our food service costs, which have increased, especially since we no longer have a shared food service director.

SAFETY:

The principals, Rick, Jon Harpst, and I will meet with Secure Education Consultants before the end of the month to schedule a security audit of the building. This assessment is purely grant funded.

Mr. Andrews is gathering a team to attend MI-BTAM training in February. This training is through the Michigan State Police and is designed to help schools identify, engage, and work collaboratively with families and students to mitigate life situational factors contributing to thoughts of violence and aggression.

In March, we will also be attending a session with local responders on crisis management for school-based incidents, specifically for rural districts. Look for more information to come.

COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS:

This month, I have made an effort to connect with our local clergy and food bank coordinator. Mark your calendars: Community Day is back in full force and is scheduled for Friday, May 5. We have a team already deeply involved in the planning.

This past week has been filled with exciting activities for our Winter Homecoming.

UPCOMING DATES:

February 20: NO SCHOOL - PRESIDENTS' DAY
March 1-2: 6-12 Parent-Teacher Conferences

ATTITUDE OF GRATITUDE

In an effort to model "orangeness" and an attitude of gratitude, I'd like to take a moment each month to highlight individuals and groups who support us along this journey:

- I just want to take a moment to say "thank you" to the Board of Education. You give tirelessly because you love this district: the students, the staff, and our families. You are the eyes and ears of our community and provide appropriate support and feedback to me as the executive leader. You lead the way for public education and make a powerful difference in the lives of our students. You have a vision that our district not only survives but thrives during these extraordinary times. Thank you for your advocacy and devotion.