

**Superintendent Report: August Board Meeting**  
**Submitted on August 18, 2022**

**ADMINISTRATIVE WORK:**

August has flown by! We welcomed new elementary principal, Amy Popek, to the Aggie Family on August 2. Within one week's time, she was experiencing her first registration day and back to school bash, and did so with true Aggie Pride and commitment.

August is a time for planning. The Ingham County ISD superintendents met on August 4 for a day-long session, and our in-house Aggie Administrative Team met on August 5. Both opportunities allowed for the onboarding of new administrators at both the building and district-levels.

COVID is still around, and our administrative team was hit hard. It was difficult for many of us to not be fully present during the first few days of school; however, because of the amazing family atmosphere and the pre-planning, we were able to get the year going, and in a positive direction.

We welcomed our newest educators during a day-long new teacher orientation on August 10. While we covered some procedures and housekeeping details, our focus was mainly on "family." We talked about taking risks and supporting each other. We talked about the history of our district and our values. We partnered with our mentors to discuss the cycles a new teacher faces throughout the year: anticipation, survival, disillusionment, rejuvenation, and reflection. We should be very proud of the intentional and scripted mentoring program that Dansville has created over the years. When we hire new educators, our goal is two-fold: teacher success (which leads to student success) and teacher retention.

With the collaboration of the DESPA leadership, we have created a mentoring program for newly hired support staff. New employees are matched with veteran employees in similar classifications and are expected to meet for a minimum of 10 hours throughout the school year. Again, a solid support system will help ensure the success of our employees, their job satisfaction, and retention.

Our district school improvement team met on August 11. We reviewed a draft of the year-long district provided professional development schedule and discussed the continuation of our school improvement goals for another year.

This year we held orientation for sixth grade students on August 9 and kindergarten students on August 16. Freshman were able to receive all of their necessary information during their advisory period the first week of school.

August 15 and 16 were exciting days! We welcomed back our staff with a two-day training called *The Orange Frog*. We focused on the importance of positive psychology and how carrying an attitude of happiness and gratitude can have beneficial effects on personal well-being, classroom environments, student performance, and community connections. All employees were invited to participate, not just teaching staff—which is critical to true team building.

**PERSONNEL:**

We are pleased to welcome the following new staff members to the Aggie Family:

- Ms. Popek, Elementary Principal
- Missy Kadluboski, Interim Food Service Director
- Anna Lloyd, MS Science
- Rachelle Gorrell, Kandice Erikson, and Kirsten Crawford; Elementary DESPA

At this time, we still have the following positions open:

- Three food service positions
- One bus driver through Dean Transportation
- 5th grade teacher

New teachers will be introduced during a special presentation at Monday night’s board of education meeting.

**BUDGET:**

The annual audit is nearing completion and will be shared with the board later this fall in a special presentation.

Currently, we have the following enrollment numbers:

High School	261
Middle School	164
<u>Elementary</u>	<u>348</u>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>773</b>

Our October count day will determine the official enrollment number for funding.

**COMMUNICATION:**

Free meals for all students through the National School Lunch Program has ended. We’ve been working extremely hard to get the word out that families must complete the Free/Reduced Lunch application if they need assistance with school meals. Having families complete this application is also critical to much of the funding we receive for serving at-risk children.

Specifically, it can affect certain grant applications, such as Title I and II, 31a, private grants, and eRate (for subsidized technology-related purchases).

We continue to work on our fall newsletter which should be released in September.

**FACILITIES:**

The new freezer and serving lines were installed at the elementary just prior to school starting. Many thanks to Mrs. Carloyn Jones, Rick Miller, and Chris Salmon for seeing these projects through fruition.

The “new” asphalt was seal-coated and painted the weekend before school started and some necessary repairs were completed to the parking lots. These efforts were put in place to buy time until a full resurfacing project can be completed.

DuraEdge will be out to address the drainage issues on the softball field beginning on Monday, August 22.

At this time, there is no update to the district rekeying project.

**ATHLETICS:**

Fall coaching positions have been filled:

Boys Soccer	Ethan Felsing
Boys Soccer (Asst.)	Trevor Brusseau
Cheerleading	Ashley Shoup
Cross Country	JD Pepper
Cross Country (Asst.)	Chere Pepper
Cross Country (Middle School)	Chere Pepper
Football (Varsity)	Zach Mendez
Football (Varsity Asst.)	Devin Patrick
Football (Varsity Asst.)	Brian Bell

Football (Varsity Asst.)	Jon Comer
Football (Varsity Asst.)	Jeff Graf
Football (Middle School)	Tim Young
Football (MS Asst.)	Justin Young
Football (MS Asst.)	Clay Soule
Football (MS Asst.)	Logan Ruckel
Volleyball (Varsity)	Rashonda Schild
Volleyball (Varsity Asst.)	Abby Mays
Volleyball (JV)	LeAnna Titus
Volleyball (Freshmen)	Becky Kuznicki
Volleyball (8th Grade)	Beth Carter
Volleyball (7th Grade)	Tasha Ewing

I look forward to meeting parents and community members at many of our home events—whether working the concession stands or selling 50/50 tickets.

Unfortunately, Dansville will not be having a JV football team for the 2022 season. We didn't have enough athletes to establish a team.

**SAFETY:**

I continue to be in contact with local first responders regarding emergency access to the building to avoid situations such as Uvalde, TX. Mr. Jon Harpst has been assisting us with running audits on our lockdown equipment to ensure proper functioning. We have connected with the Ingham County Sheriff's Office to conduct emergency broadcasting using our radio system. Lastly, I am working with the Ingham Township Fire Department to conduct a walkthrough of the premises.

**COMMUNITY OUTREACH / PARTNERSHIPS:**

Several community groups were represented at our Elementary Back-to-School Bash, including PTO, CADL, True Credit Union, DSEF, Girl Scouts, eZone, Dean Transportation, DCAA, and Dansville Four-Leaf Clovers. As Ms. Popek mentioned, it was terrific to see so many partnerships and smiling faces at this event.

The Class of 1962 will be meeting with me on Saturday, September 17 for a tour of our campus as part of their class reunion. What a great opportunity to highlight the investment our community has made for our district and the contributions the Dansville community continues to make on behalf of the Aggie Family!

New this year: We have partnered with the Ingham Township Fire Department to provide complimentary annual passes to our fitness center for our local firefighters. Their health and well-being is crucial for everyone's safety, and we are happy to give back in this capacity.

#### **UPCOMING DATES:**

September 2: No School - Labor Day Weekend  
September 5: No School - Labor Day  
September 23: Homecoming  
September 28: Half-Day Dismissal: Professional Development

#### **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:

- Ladybugs - donated \$250 to the Middle School / High School Media Center
- DSEF - donated \$400 toward the purchase of staff shirts that highlight our positivity for the 2022-23 school year. DSEF is also revamping their grant opportunities to provide students, staff, building, and district leadership with opportunities to apply for funds to support innovative programs.
- The Scherff Agency (MEEMIC) graciously paid for a Tomato Brothers' lunch for staff on August 15.
- MEA graciously provided a Subway lunch for staff on August 16.
- The HUB is very interested in supporting our teaching staff and have approached me to think of innovative ways to ensure teachers have what they need to succeed.