

Superintendent Report: August Board Meeting

Submitted on August 19, 2018

Administrative work:

We had our first Administrative Orientation meeting on August 13th and 14th where we revisited the district vision and goals, administrative goals, worked out a move-in/transition to staffing plan and reviewed everything else that needs to be done to ensure a smooth start to the school year. We interviewed/hired for the open art position, had a Community Day committee meeting, a DSIT meeting (where we finalize PD for teachers), Meet the Aggies and New Teacher Orientation this last week. We have met throughout the summer to work on our staffing as various changes have arisen.

The district staff are serving on one of four K-12 Aggie Improvement Teams to work on our goals for the 2018-19 school year. Our teams will again focus on literacy with distinct elementary and secondary subgroups, assessment practices and Healthy Habits. The details of this work will be shared at the Board Meeting as the entire District Improvement Plan will be distributed.

The Welcome Back/Staff Recognition Breakfast will take place on Wednesday, August 29th followed by teacher professional development. A second day of PD will occur on Thursday, August 30th, followed by the Back to School Bash and the first home football game. School starts on Tuesday, September 4th with a half-day, followed by more teacher professional development that afternoon and then our Aggie Family Goes Back to School Open House event from 6-8 pm that evening.

Athletics:

We are pleased to announce we have hired Jodi McMillan as our new JV Volleyball coach. She has coached for us previously and also has extensive club volleyball experience. We are also pleased to share that we hired a Varsity cheer coach for fall.

We are working with the construction company to determine when we might be able to hold grand opening events for our new athletic fields/facilities.

Budget Info:

The initial audit results are indicating that there will be a positive variance due to a number of factors. Due to the added requirements of the auditors related to the bond, the first official board reporting may not occur until October.

We budgeted for 715 students for this fall and we are currently at approximately 729, although we will have much more accurate information after Registration Day.

I conferenced with Moody's in July to talk through several aspects of our district- from community demographics to enrollment to our budget. Their reporting that was shared with investors and is included for your information in your board packets.

Communication:

The Back to School newsletter has been submitted to the printer and will be sent shortly.

Registration Day will take place on Tuesday, August 21st. The secondary students will go to the Community Center while the elementary students will go to Registration Day in the fifth grade hallway.

Community Outreach/Partnerships:

We are planning to open the school up to the community on the evening of September 4th from 6-8 pm. We are calling it The Aggie Family Goes Back to School in our invitations online and have also included information about this in the newsletter.

The village has sent us a bill for the upcoming school year that includes an increase for the crossing guard fee. I hope we can talk more about this at the meeting on Monday.

Our district garage sale resulted in a donation to the Education Foundation of \$1475.25 that was then given to the Historical society to help with the restoration of class composites.

Curriculum/Training:

We look forward to the launch of Aggie STEAM Adventures, which will feature Dream Flight Adventures missions along with coding, STEAM and other technology curriculum for students in grades K-8. This has been made possible because of the generous donation by DEAN Transportation. Dean made a \$10,000 donation to this project, allowing us to make the most of this opportunity.

Data:

We have MSTEP results, but they are all currently embargoed. I will be sharing some of the outcomes we were able to achieve after a very short period of math intervention using Spring Math for approximately six weeks or so last spring. We will start at the beginning of the school year this fall and are anticipating significant outcomes.

Facilities:

New construction and renovation work continues throughout the entire district. Several areas are getting finishes at this point. The focus is on instructional spaces. The Board will have the chance to tour the project on Monday again. The band room is connected to the main mechanical spaces and therefore cannot be accessed right away due to ongoing work. The middle and high school band students will meet in a large portable classroom for approximately the first four weeks of school while their space is completed.

There are other challenges we are working on related to the opening of the school, but just continue to focus on opening all classrooms on time.

Personnel Update:

New hires will be at the meeting tomorrow night. In addition to the three I described last month, we hired a new K-8 art teacher. Meranda Shirley will take the position vacated by Kat Blackwood, who had to resign due to personal matters. Meranda lives in Dansville and has children in the district. We are very excited to have her join our Aggie Family!

We have also invited Sarah Saucedo to the board meeting tonight. Sarah was hired last spring to replace longtime Aggie teacher Tracy Galloway. Sarah taught our secondary Spanish classes and did a wonderful job coming into the year at a challenging time.

Safety:

We continue to work with Miller-Davis to ensure the safety of our staff and students as we transition to coexisting with construction folks after school starts. We are also working to develop safety protocols both for now and after construction is complete. We have been working on submitting a proposal for the Michigan State Police School Safety Grant as well.

Teaching and Learning:

We look forward to meeting with MSU and ISD staff in the coming weeks to help establish our plan to make our literacy program more robust to match the work we've done in adopting Spring Math.

Technology:

We are pleased to share that the ISD has introduced us to our new technology director, Jon Harpst. Jon has been very impressive so far and has hit the ground running on all fronts.

We look forward to the upcoming Promethean board and Chromebook trainings that we have scheduled for the Back to School PD. This will ensure that our teachers are equipped to roll out our new technology over the next few months.

Upcoming Dates of Note:

August 21- Registration Day

August 23- Teachers invited to return to school

August 29- The Board is invited to the Back to School breakfast at 8 AM in the MS Commons

Sept 4- First day of school