

Superintendent Report: February Board Meeting

Submitted on February 21, 2018

Administrative work:

As part of our standard mid-year protocols, the administrators met with all of the teachers and support staff they supervise to review their goals and to check in. I also met with all of the administrators and directors for the same purpose. The admin team also reviews our team goals midyear to make any course corrections as necessary.

The administrative team has continued working quite a bit with the ISD personnel to examine our MTSS system. Honest conversations have taken place with teachers about our current data and what needs to be tweaked in our systems. The teachers have been very receptive and the entire elementary will begin implementing changes for math as soon as we are able to purchase a program called Spring Math!, which will help us to more accurately diagnose the status of our classes and each student as it relates to specific math skills. In addition to this, some secondary math teachers and all intervention teachers will be piloting Spring Math! as well.

Some elementary teachers will also be making changes in the area of literacy with plans that all teachers will adopt literacy changes for next year. To help ensure fidelity of implementation, we are using a coaching model where ISD and teacher leaders will help monitor and provide feedback for the remainder of the year to help build capacity for us to continue implementing with fidelity in the future.

We have continued to work on the moving logistics and have developed more plans for the purchase of furniture/equipment as well as finalizing our purchase of technology for the district. We hosted another interactive panel vendor last week and several staff attended. The panel remains in one of our HS classrooms for the teachers to be able to try it out.

Significant progress has been made towards the development of a new district mission statement and a definition of the Aggie Family. All staff members, board members, district advisory committee members and mission statement group members were surveyed, the results were compiled and a draft mission statement has been developed after several hours of work by committee members. This draft statement will be shared on Monday with the Board and then the final statement will be shared in March. The Aggie Family work will continue based on the feedback from the committee and should be ready for rollout as originally projected.

Athletics:

High school bowling, basketball and wrestling and MS girls' bball are approaching the end or have finished their seasons and we are gearing up for the start of spring sports.

Just a reminder that our softball team will be playing at White Oak this season and our baseball teams will be playing in Stockbridge. Our new fields will be ready in the spring of 2019. Our soccer team will play on the football field, as the new field will be ready for fall and possibly for one game this spring, as directed by Mark Collins.

Budget Info:

We have started working on our schedules for next year, which goes hand-in-hand with our budget projections. The governor is proposing an increase, but it is unclear what will be happening with other areas such as the retirement offset. We have a lot more work to do and need to have a better idea about our kindergarten numbers to get a better idea about our status.

Kindergarten/Begindergarten Round Up is coming on Wednesday, February 28 from 4:30-6:30 pm. To be eligible for Kindergarten your child must turn five by September 1, 2018. To be eligible for Begindergarten, your child must turn five before December 1, 2018. Please encourage anyone with eligible young children to consider enrolling or at least checking out Dansville Schools.

The Dansville Schools' Education Foundation has donated \$25,000 to the school this year. This is more than we anticipated and will help pay for Go Math!, Project Lead the Way and also most likely our new math intervention program. We are so very grateful for the hard work of the amazing members of this foundation. Their contributions and their partnership are both invaluable. We are also working with the foundation as partners with the online auction that will take place at some point this summer. All garage sale funds and auction funds will be given to the Foundation. The first investment of these funds will be made in restoring the class composites and then after that we will work with the foundation through our normal process to determine how the remaining funds, if any, will be used.

Communication:

We have been posting the biweekly bulletins created by Miller-Davis that highlight project updates. We appreciate these visual updates to share with the community. We also appreciate the periodic aerial footage provided by Mr. Hamlin of the project that we have been able to share with the community.

We are still working on putting together the district's winter newsletter. We have waited to get more project updates to be able to share as much as possible with the community.

The Mission Statement/Aggie Family Definition Core Group met this week that includes a support person, three teachers, an administrator, a board member and two other representative community members. It was great to get feedback and work with this productive team!

We are in the process of revamping the district website and have received support from the ISD to move our current content to the new platform, which will support our calendar and other vital information. We hope to be migrated by spring break and then will work to revise content.

Community Outreach/Partnerships:

We have collaborated with 530 Project Productions to help develop a video production-type class for next year that will be taught by Mr. Brusseau and will involve creation of videos that will be broadcast on our new Scorevision board. This is very exciting and the possibilities are endless!

We are also thankful for the availability of Josh Tkaczyk's "Barn" for our student-athletes as we are working with a much-depleted weight room in this transition year. He has very generously provided both time and the facility to help our students be successful.

Curriculum/Training:

We are very excited that one of our HS teachers, Mr. Braman, has volunteered to be trained to be able to teach AP Computer Science next year at the HS. In addition, Mr. Jorgensen has offered to be trained by Project Lead the Way to teach a new class for next year as well that we are trying to finalize at this time.

These courses align with our commitment to prepare our students in STEAM courses to best prepare those who are interested in these areas to be successful after high school. These are the fields that currently have the highest demand in the job market.

Data:

A new parent dashboard has been rolled out by MDE to try to provide a different look at school district data. We are learning more about it and are frustrated by some of the lack of information related to how different comparisons are made. For example, if a parent does a search comparison of schools in one view, an elementary may be compared to a surrounding school that has similar demographics, but is in fact a high school.

More info will be shared at the upcoming board meeting.

Facilities:

The completion of the roof trusses in the new building happened over the past week. We are anticipating work on the roof in the next few weeks, as well as the start of the renovation of two different current HS classrooms.

We continue to greatly appreciate the partnership we have established with ISD Facilities Director Steve Rusnock. He has helped with roof concerns and PA system concerns we have had recently. The HS roof project is actually not complete as was thought previously. The HS Gym roof will be completed in the spring when conditions improve.

Personnel Update:

We hired one of our classroom paraprofessionals, Courtanie House, to be the office paraprofessional in the middle school. We are in the process of finding a new classroom paraprofessional.

Katie Reilly, Varsity Volleyball coach, submitted her resignation this week due to new conflicts with her work schedule that cannot be resolved. We are very sad to see her go and have received a lot of positive feedback about her coaching in light of her resignation.

We are getting ready to interview for the Varsity Football coaching position in the next few weeks.

Melody Wieferich, long-time food service employee, has shared that she will be retiring at the end of the school year. We greatly appreciate her long and faithful service to Dansville Schools.

Safety:

A safety update was shared with our parents after the tragic shooting in Florida recently. We are watching the reports coming from that event and continue to evaluate all of our safety protocols accordingly.

Teaching and Learning:

The elementary teachers recently completed another round of TLTs, observing one another and giving each other feedback. This is a very high-yield strategy to improve teaching. We also have some teachers who are working to improve by videotaping themselves teaching and reflecting on their practice- another effective improvement strategy. Several teachers have also surveyed their students to get mid-year feedback regarding what is working best and what needs to be re-evaluated. These are all ways we are working towards continuous growth and improvement in our practice.

Technology:

The technology bids came in last week and were rigorously evaluated by ISD personnel, leading to their recommendation for the award of the bids that will take place this evening. The bids came in better than expected, which will help the overall project.

Upcoming Dates of Note:

-Kindergarten Round Up- Feb 28 from 4:30- 6:30 pm

-Secondary Parent-Teacher Conferences: February 28 and March 1 from 4-7 PM.