

**Superintendent Report: January Board Meeting**  
**Submitted on January 27, 2019**

**Administrative work:**

We have been meeting with staff for mid-year goal check meetings. This is an opportunity to check in with individual staff members and to both give and receive feedback. These are valuable meetings that are documented and provide accountability for staff regarding their progress towards achieving their goals.

Students in grades K-8 have been taking winter benchmark assessments with a screening tool called FastBridge for literacy and with Spring Math for mathematics. The winter screening allows staff to assess student mid-year progress and use the data to make programmatic changes or instructional changes as dictated by the data.

The principals have been visiting classrooms to provide feedback during both formal and informal observations. Teachers also have a formal evaluation every three years and those visits have been occurring as well. This year, we also have math and literacy coaches who are visiting classes along with ISD personnel who are visiting elementary classrooms to provide feedback regarding small group instruction in the reading block.

**Athletics:**

The winter sports seasons are at approximately the halfway point. All teams are experiencing various levels of success as they strive to improve throughout their seasons. The intentionality to partner our HS teams with our DCAA teams has been very successful and we have received a lot of great feedback. Thank you to Candy Sherwood for her leadership and hard work to coordinate these partnerships.

We are working with some local experts to see what we can do to try to get the baseball and softball fields ready to play on this spring using sod. We will have more information at the next board meeting.

**Budget Info:**

Raelynn and I worked very hard on every detail in preparation for Revision I of the 2018-19 budget, which will be presented at the meeting. We tried hard to anticipate increases in every area and budget conservatively as we always have.

Our kindergarten numbers are crucial as we plan for next year. Kindergarten/Begindergarten Round Up is going to be held on Tuesday, February 26<sup>th</sup>. To be eligible for Kindergarten your child must turn five by September 1, 2019. To be eligible for Begindergarten, a child must turn five before December 1, 2019. Please encourage anyone with eligible young children to consider enrolling or at least checking out Dansville Schools.

I am working with Josh Tkaczyk on some promotional videos to be used as we gear up for Round Up and as families consider their plans for next school year. Our February count is coming up next

week, which is also an important budget piece. Our enrollment numbers will be shared after the February reporting is complete.

We will be applying for another round of School Safety Grants that was recently released. We are seeking safety film for new and remodeled areas with new doors and windows to supplement the work we did with the first grant.

As was discussed at the last meeting, our sinking fund expires after the 2019-20 school year. It is recommended that we put this on the May 2019 ballot. We will be taking advantage of the newest law that allows us to use the funds for school security and technology in addition to building needs. We have an asset plan that drives the use of these funds, but we would prioritize school safety, elementary air conditioning and continued work to take care of our buildings, including the parking lots and the bus garage roof. We are seeking a renewal of the same millage rate, which is 1.0 mills. The sinking fund is extremely critical to the district. Upon approval of the language at the meeting, we will be sharing information with the community in the winter newsletter.

### **Communication:**

We are working on the winter newsletter, which will be going out sometime in the next few weeks.

We rolled out our Aggie App to the staff last week and are encouraging all Aggies to download it to get notifications and information about the district! Just go to the app store and search for Dansville Schools. Special thanks to Tania Dupuis for all of the work she did to make this a reality!

The District Advisory Committee will be meeting again next week to receive feedback about all aspects of the district from a representative group of parents.

### **Community Outreach/Partnerships:**

The Dansville Schools Education Foundation is making a record-breaking \$30,000 donation to the school district this year! We are so thankful for their leadership, vision and hard work to seek new sponsors, try new ideas and in doing so, to open so many doors for our students! We will continue to pay for our math curriculum, fund our Project Lead the Way courses and work with the Foundation to invest this generous donation in our school. The Foundation also made grants available to the teachers and they funded books for Mrs. Provencal's adult-student book club and a color printer for Mrs. Hekman's digital media/photography class.

We held a Grand Opening Homecoming event on Friday, January 11<sup>th</sup> to encourage the community to come tour all of our buildings! We had a great turnout and received many positive comments about each aspect of the project. It was very exciting to give folks a preview of the simulator (the spaceship room ☺) in the elementary. We look forward to students experiencing their first mission very soon!

### **Curriculum/Training:**

Our Assessment AIT is planning a workday in early February to learn about a report card writing program that will produce a standards-based report card. We will also get training regarding a pilot of a standards-based grading program and make progress towards our other goals.

We are sending Heather Lloyd to regional training through a grant that will enable her to train the staff in providing first aid for mental health concerns. We look forward to learning from her in upcoming professional training as we seek to create a trauma-sensitive school and address mental health as best we can.

One of our middle school math classes tested out of needing Spring Math intervention all year long! It was wonderful to join their recent celebration and make sure students understood how proud we are of their math proficiency! Thank you to all of our teachers as they continue to work hard to help all of our students progress in Spring Math!

Our HS hosted a training for students to help them prepare to take the SAT this past Saturday. Several students attended and will benefit from the insights and practice opportunities that were shared in the daylong training.

**Data:**

The county has now done a collaborative purchase of Eidex, the program our district purchased last fall. We will get increased log in access for the district and cost savings because of this collaboration! We look forward to getting more training and using the system to understand how to improve our outcomes.

**Facilities:**

We continue to work with the contractors to complete the press boxes, the concessions stand and the FFA building. Other ongoing work continues as we work through the punchlist, but all indoor spaces are now occupied. LaValle was able to finish the simulator and pass the inspection to allow that big project to start rolling as well.

We are working hard to get all of our rooms secured, to get the security system up and running, to get equipment and protocols in place that will allow us to open the fitness room and indoor track. There is a lot more involved in this than one might think and the work we have done to get all of the other spaces finished and operable has taken precedence. We have done quite a bit, however, and realize how important it is to get these spaces ready for our students and the community.

We are appreciative of the committee that chose our new gym's name. After seeking suggestions and receiving several from both students and the community, the committee (Lindsay Bowen, Adam Jones, Sandy Hunt, Shawn Walter & Cole Feldpausch) chose to call the HS gym The Big Barn at the DAC (Dansville Athletic Center). The MS gym will be called The Little Barn. As we name other aspects of the DAC (wrestling room, weight room, etc. ) those will be called \_\_\_\_ at the DAC as well. When Adam and Lindsay played here, the HS Gym was called The Barn.

We still have work to do to establish a naming protocol for memorializing individuals as well as how we will handle other memorials.

### **Personnel Update:**

We posted the position to hire a new speech pathologist when we learned that Andrea Loomis would be leaving, but didn't receive any viable applicants, so the district has entered into a contract again with Nancy Gatesy, the person who held the role for the 2017-18 school year when Andrea was on a childcare leave. Nancy has a contract for the remainder of the school year and we will be posting the position again in the spring in hopes of filling it for next fall.

We have had some changes in assignments for our DESPA staff and some movement of personnel to meet the needs of kindergarten and to hire an instructional interventionist. To meet the needs of students who require individual math intervention, we have hired Melissa Chelf to administer these interventions for our students using Spring Math. We are doing this in lieu of Power Hour in hopes of maximizing the school day hours for our students with additional needs and focusing our interventions.

This has led to other shuffling of assignments including Linda McGrath moving into an aide position from her food service position. We will now be looking to hire a new recess aide because of this movement as well.

### **Policy Update:**

I met with Dr. Halik from NEOLA to get the latest policy updates, so we need to schedule a policy committee meeting. We will also look at a slight change to the wellness policy and consider whether we want to change anything related to the bylaws and organizational meetings as discussed at the meeting.

### **Safety:**

We are hoping to get training regarding the security cameras in the next few weeks and have continued to implement more of the security provisions that were part of the bond. The secured vestibules are close to completion and we are working on keys and door programming.

Our buses earned a 100% pass rate on the MSP school bus safety inspections in the fall and we received a certificate recognizing this accomplishment recently.

### **Teaching and Learning:**

Our secondary teachers have been working on developing ways to provide individual instruction for students who need more help as well as double dose of instruction for those who just need to hear things one more time for it to "stick". This is all part of the work we have done over the past year to shore up our MTSS model and incorporate best practice based on our learning.

One project that has resulted is the blending of two HS math classes. The two classes will meet in one large area and be taught by two teachers who will then be able to address like needs in smaller groupings after and during large-group instruction. We are proud of our teachers for seeking ways to collaborate and increase math outcomes for our students. We look forward to examining the data see if this method is more effective.

### **Technology:**

Students are increasingly using new technology throughout the district. We are excited that the new elementary computer lab is now open and students in grades K-8 have been using the new

Chromebooks that were purchased as part of the bond. HS students continue to use iPads and the staff is using SmartBoards and Promethean boards to help make learning easier and more interactive.

We are working on training our staff to create content for the new display panels that were installed the week of the Grand Opening. We will use them to display information as well as to load class composite pictures starting from the Year 2000 when they stopped producing physical prints.

We are also working on rolling out advertising opportunities associated with the new Scorevision boards. We already have a lot of sponsorship interest and we are working with Josh Tkaczyk to brainstorm several advertising possibilities.

**Upcoming Dates of Note:**

Parent-Teacher Conferences- Feb. 20 and 21

Kindergarten Roundup- Feb. 26

Check out the upcoming events on the district website homepage. Just click the CALENDAR button for these and all other school events!