

Superintendent Report: August Board Meeting
Submitted on August 25, 2019

Administrative work:

We had our Administrative Orientation meeting on August 8th and 12th during which time we revisited the District Improvement Plan that is based on the work we did over the course of last year. We then had our first a DSIT (District School Improvement Team) meeting where we finalize PD for teachers, Meet the Aggies and New Teacher Orientation prior to the start of school. We have met throughout the summer to work on a number of key items, including working on the building and staffing schedules as new information or changes have come up.

The district staff are serving on one of three K-12 Aggie Improvement Teams to work on our goals for the 2019-20 school year. Our teams look different this year as our plan continues to focus around our weaknesses and includes staff feedback, with improvement strategies based on research. The teams are: Rigor, Relevance/Relationships and Mathematics. The details of this work will be shared at the Board Meeting, where the entire District Improvement Plan will be distributed. Administrative team goals will be finalized this week and then Superintendent Goals will be shared at the September Board meeting.

Quite a bit has happened to kick off the new school year. The Welcome Back/Staff Recognition Breakfast took place on Monday, August 19th followed by teacher professional development. Several artifacts from the Welcome Back Breakfast will be shared with the board at the meeting. A second half day of PD took after the first half day of school on Tuesday, August 20th. The Elementary Back to School Bash took place the Sunday afternoon before school started and the Grand Opening of the Soccer field took place last Friday, August 23rd.

Athletics:

We are finalizing anticipated openings middle school basketball for boys and girls. We may also need to hire a freshman boys' basketball coach, pending final numbers. The first Athletic Department Golf Outing Fundraiser that took place in July brought in nearly \$4000. Thank you again to Christy for her hard work to make this happen to benefit all of our programs after we complete the asset management plan.

Budget Info:

We are still trying to determine final enrollment numbers, but we think we will end up with over 740 students. The area with the most notable growth is in kindergarten, where we currently have 80 Begindergarten and Kindergarten students. We are still facing a lot of budget uncertainty since the state hasn't established a budget for schools for this school year.

We were very happy this week to hear positive preliminary information about the upcoming audit report, which will be shared with the Board in September.

Communication:

I received specific email and other communication from community members about the print version of the newsletter that they received since my last report. Special thank you again to Becky

for all the work she does to produce such a high quality publication for our community! The next newsletter will go out after Homecoming in early October.

Community Outreach/Partnerships:

The Class of 1969 sent a very kind note about the tour they had for their 50th reunion over the summer as well as the current state of the school. They are planning to donate a bench for the new baseball/softball area, which was a very kind gesture on their part.

Thank you to the DCAA for their generous donation of two drinking fountain adapters for the middle school to allow for water bottle filling. We are excited to get these ordered and installed as we work to instill healthy habits in our students.

Curriculum/Training:

We held a day for teachers to work on developing NGSX appropriate 3D assessments in early August that was led by Rob Stephenson. Eight of our teachers from across the district attended this important training that aligns with our school improvement plan.

Data

Unfortunately, there is still an embargo on the MSTEP data, so I will share out our data with the Board in September. The teachers have been looking at the data, however, to work on improving our outcomes. I will share summer school data in September as well.

Facilities:

We are closing in on the completion of all of the work related to the bond. We are still missing some additional signage and await completion of the outdoor concessions stand. We continue to get positive feedback from parents and students about the new and renovated areas. Steve and Alex from Ingham ISD have made significant progress on our overall HVAC situation throughout the district.

The district held a Retirement Celebration on Tuesday, August 20 to honor LaValle Lamphere. He was presented with his 15 years of service pin and celebrated by the entire teaching staff and several community members with cards, stories, cake and refreshments. We are partnering with the ISD for this school year, collecting data and at the end of the year we will determine our next steps.

Personnel Update:

We are very excited to share we were able to hire a first grade teacher just in time for her to join us for several important training dates, including New Teacher Orientation. Jennifer Dowdy, who taught for ten years in Illinois and recently moved back to Michigan, was hired to join our first grade team, allowing us to keep class size below twenty for each first grade classroom.

Policy Update:

The Board will act on the policy committee's recommendations at the meeting on Monday night.

Safety:

We established dates for all of our safety drills, including an evacuation drill. We have recorded each building principal's voice through the new PA system to announce all emergency messages to their respective students and have published a new EOP that will at some point be shared with the Board as well.

Our entire district will be trained in how to handle active shooters and other potential lockdown situations using a technique with the acronym ALICE. Steve Rusnock is a certified ALICE trainer and he, along with others, will be leading the 6-hour training on September 25th.

Teaching and Learning:

Our staff was challenged to: Maintain their Own Cups, Be 100% on Team Aggie and to Be Pizza. This will be explained more to the Board at the meeting on Monday night. Several of our Aggie Improvement Teams are also already digging deep into research around engagement and homework.

Technology:

Thanks to the action of the Board during a special meeting on Monday, August 12th, the district is using donated and other non-general fund monies to purchase Promethean Boards for every core classroom in the elementary. We are excited for these Boards to arrive and to continue the training for teachers that began during PD.

Upcoming Dates of Note:

*Homecoming- September 27

Check out the Aggie App Calendar to find upcoming school events!