

Superintendent Report: January Board Meeting
Submitted on January 20, 2021

Administrative work:

We have been meeting over the past month or so with staff members 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 very valuable meetings that are documented and also provide accountability for staff regarding their progress towards achieving their goals.

Each principal will discuss their progress on their goals for this school year. It has been difficult to move forward on individual goals, as we have all remained focused on figuring out our staffing from one day to the next and working towards providing more in-person instruction for secondary students. The principals have also remained focused on providing support for the teachers and making improvements that would directly impact students.

I am continuing to work with the DEA to finalize the plan for the teacher evaluation and student growth plan for the current school year. The principals will discuss this with each teacher at their mid-year goal meeting.

We continue to have students and staff quarantining due to exposure to positive cases of COVID-19 and it continues to make staffing a challenge each day. We are very fortunate to have a true team in every sense of the word, where each of us is willing to do whatever is needed to help make school happen each day. This includes going to pick up a student from home because of a bus issue, serving as paraprofessionals with students with special needs, serving as recess paraprofessionals, etc.

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. We will be creating a new report for the website, as per current law, that shows our mid-year progress on these benchmark assessments. We always break this data down and analyze it to help create individualized plans for each student, so that process will continue as well.

Athletics:

The newest order by MDHHS has delayed most competition and contact for winter sports until at least January 31st. After getting an update from MDHSS, we will await further direction from MHSSA and then the CMAC will take it up for final decision-making. Our basketball teams and wrestling team have started non-contact workouts, bowling will begin this week, and we didn't have enough students to have a cheer team this winter.

We hired Candace Filonczuk as the new Varsity Girls' Soccer coach. Candace played soccer when she was a student at Dansville High School and has other experiences in the school setting teaching drama that will help make her successful in this position.

Budget Info:

Raelynn and I have started working on the 2021-22 budget. The administrators and I have not been able to start working on the schedules for next year due to our ongoing work on the current schedule. The schedule and enrollment determines our staffing needs, so they are critical pieces of the budget projection. We have started working on our enrollment projection process. Our next student count day is coming up in February.

Beginndergarten/Kindergarten Round Up is here! It will take place over four dates in February by appointment to allow for an in-person experience for our new Aggies and their parents. To be eligible for Kindergarten, the child must turn five by September 1, 2021. To be eligible for Beginndergarten, a child must turn five before December 1, 2021. Please encourage anyone with eligible young children to consider enrolling or at least checking out Dansville Schools.

Communication:

I have continued meeting with other superintendents and curriculum directors from our county and from nearby counties/all of our region as we talk through different protocols and procedures and share and learn from each other.

The winter newsletter material is due right now at the end of February. It takes about three weeks from this date to get into the mailboxes of our families.

At least once weekly communications continue to be sent to the entire district as well as to individual buildings for MS and HS families in an effort to be as helpful and transparent as possible given all we are experiencing with school.

Parent-Teacher conferences will again be held via Zoom this spring by individual appointment.

Our new student liaison to the board is Hugh Service. Hugh is a junior at DHS who is involved in a number of different activities and represents a new student perspective. Hugh is scheduled to be the student representative for the next three months. As it is his first meeting, we have assured him that the Board will listen to his report and refrain from peppering him with questions. If you have any questions, feel free to email Tania in advance and she can see if he's comfortable answering any of them in the meeting or maybe via another mode.

Community Outreach/Partnerships:

It was really encouraging to learn that the community volunteers who help purchase food for our weekend survival backpacks were recently at Aldi buying a large amount of food when the person behind them asked why they were buying so much food and upon hearing it was to help our students, that person paid for their entire order. We have received many generous

donations for the Many Hands account, but we have also had more need than in the past, so this was a huge help to our Aggie Family.

Our Aggie Family also generously gave to one of our families who experienced the devastating loss of one of their young children just before Christmas. There were donations as well as meals delivered to the family in the weeks following their tragic loss.

Curriculum/Training:

We are delaying our ELA Curricular exploration at the county level with IISD, as we have worked with an expert in reading from MSU and we are going in a different direction. We have all of next year to get this finalized.

County Instructional Leaders meetings continue monthly and we have been attending monthly. The last meeting involved an introduction to the new MICIP reporting process that will be in place starting in June. It actually turns out to be very similar to the process we have already created, since we took the state process and tried to implement it in a useful way and with fidelity.

Our District School Improvement Team (DSIT) met this month to finalize our professional development plan for next week. There will be Aggie Improvement Team work, staff mental health will be addressed and the bulk of the time will be spent working on mapping curriculum plans for the remainder of the year in grade level and department teams.

Data

Updated data regarding student engagement was shared in the Board packet, in accordance with the legislative requirement.

Next month we will have midyear benchmark data for students in Grades K-8 in math and ELA.

Facilities:

Rick and I have continued to work through a list of needs as it relates to the facility. We have finalized a choice for adding an access ladder, gutters were installed on the outbuildings and he has made a lot of progress on organizing and managing our assets, including a lot of attic stock from the bond project, as well as his work spaces.

Personnel Update:

Because we are one of the schools that has offered the most in-person instruction, we were in the first group of educators in the county to be allowed to sign up for the vaccination. Many of our staff received the vaccine starting the week of January 11, 2021. We are very thankful that our staff have been so receptive to receiving it and hope it will help each of us be part of the solution as we work to reach an end to this pandemic.

Policy Work:

I will be working with Chris Salmon to update the wellness policy and then will combine that with the spring NEOLA update to present the Board later this year.

Safety:

We have been working with the fire department via Rick Miller, to ensure they are aware of the ALICE protocols.

Teaching and Learning:

Please see the Extended COVID-19 Learning Plan on the website for more information about our current structure and plans.

We will host another Mentor-Mentee meeting this week as part of our induction program for teachers in their first and second year of teaching at Dansville. We created a very unique experience for our mentors and mentees and focused our time around the latest ASCD magazine filled with articles about educator mental health.

Please refer to the reconfirmation plan that was sent in the Board packet. We held our first “Super Wednesday” today and are very pleased with the day overall. We are always looking for ways to improve and students were surveyed for their input as well. Tweaks will be made for next week as all students have a half day of school.

We have already posted for our Summer Intervention Month positions. We plan to use the month of June for our most intense intervention, strive to take the month of July off and then will bring students back in August for the new school year. High school students who are doing credit recovery will have more time beyond June to help them reach their goals. This model reflects research and was adopted after consultation with national experts re: best practice for summer school.

We are very excited to have been able to work with the ISD to send out our first batch of electronic report cards! We have added an encryption module to School Messenger that communicates with Power School and allows us to send private messages to each individual student. We sent the new bus routes that started this week using this new system also. This will eliminate even more paper and postage costs as well as reduce parent trips to the distribution line for pick up.

Technology:

We have been working on updating our asset plan and will explore rounding out the remaining classrooms in the district that currently do not have interactive teaching boards. We hope to be able to use some of the one-time funding we are scheduled to receive to purchase this type of equipment that will have long-term benefits for our students.

Upcoming Dates of Note:

*February 9, 10, 16, 17- BK/Kindergarten Round Up