

Superintendent Report: June Board Meeting

Submitted on June 14, 2019

Administrative work:

The administrators completed end-of-year meetings that include a discussion of evaluations, maintenance concerns, tech requests and other feedback, for DEA and DESPA members. The Marzano School Leader evaluation tool will be used to evaluate the three administrators. Two of the administrative directors have been evaluated as well as building office managers. The executive assistant will also be evaluated before June 30. The principals have also been completing other end-of-year reports and planning for summer school.

We have been working on school improvement by analyzing our data and examining best practice, but we will formalize our plans for next year when we lock ourselves in to complete state reporting during the last week of June. We will kick off this work by reviewing MSTEP data with a professor from MSU.

Athletics:

Our baseball team had a great run at the end of the season, making it to the Regional Finals for only the third time in school history.

Next year, the building principals will handle the eligibility checks next year. In addition, the principals will help cover some athletic events to help make the AD hours more manageable. Christy is planning a summer golf outing fundraiser that has been well-received.

Construction progress continues and the ballfields, press boxes, bleachers, concessions stand and site work/paving are all still moving forward.

Andy and I met with David Harns, Ingham Township trustee who was representing the township as it relates to the Freer Park project. We will explore removal of the barbed wire fencing that borders the future Freer Park on its northern border that meets the school property line. The district has a representative on the Freer Park planning committee and has asked that the committee explore if there might be a way to create a cross country course so we could have a home course for our teams.

We are also planning to make our MS club cross country team part of our existing HS cross country team. Our coach, JD Pepper is willing to expand their role to encompass these younger runners and they are able to join in the same meets, so there is no additional cost to the district.

After one of our students expressed interest in gymnastics, Christy reached out to see if we could create a cooperative with other neighboring schools. After getting more information including understanding that we do not have a financial obligation if our student participates, the district is asking the Board to consider entering into this Gymnastics Cooperative. Making this

an action item would be very helpful, as it would give our student more time to fundraise with her new team to offset the fees and expenses associated with this sport.

Budget Info:

The ISD business service staff will share an update regarding Revision 2 of the 2018-19 budget as well as a proposed budget for 19-20. We are anticipating approximately 12% fund balance for this year and project a fund balance of approximately 9.5% for next year, based on student enrollment of 715. This would be a reduction of 8 students from this year's fall count. Enrollment data is being updated regularly when we receive updated information. While this is a crucial factor for next year's budget, the fact that the state hasn't established a budget for schools is also very significant. The third major factor for the budget moving forward is that the district isn't certain about what will happen with the sinking fund vote in November.

We will again not change any of our lunch or breakfast prices for next year based on the federal financial calculator outcomes. We will most likely need to raise breakfast prices by 25 cents next year, however.

The Board should also note that the non-homestead levy will take place for the last time in December of 2020 (2020-21 school year) and will then have to be voted on at some point to be levied again after this.

A tentative agreement with the DEA and DESPA will be presented to the board in closed session tonight for approval. The details will be shared in closed session. We are very thankful for the cooperative relationships we have with both bargaining units.

We will also discuss the non-bargaining unit in closed session.

Communication:

We are working on finalizing the Spring/Summer district newsletter. We will highlight Honors Night, graduation, the DC trip, give info about the sinking fund and preview Registration Day among many other highlights.

Community Outreach/Partnerships:

Student school board representatives for next year will be Olivia Calderone (fall), Dylan Staffeld (winter) and Kevin Every (spring).

Curriculum/Training:

We are so excited to share that twenty-four teachers have signed up to attend a paid workshop tomorrow, June 14th. Teachers will be able to access support, feedback and resources as they work to implement the expectations rolled out by the Aggie Assessment Team regarding best practices for teaching and assessment.

We are also sending our kindergarten teachers to training this summer to learn how to administer the new kindergarten assessment the state has mandated for this fall.

Data:

We have received some of the preliminary data from spring testing, but we haven't been able to examine it closely yet. The best news so far is that our ninth grade students exceeded the state average in math and in their overall score on the PSAT.

We will share more as soon as we have more complete information.

Facilities:

Progress continues to be made in completion of the punch lists, as well as completion of the outdoor work. We continue to meet with the construction team and architects regularly to ensure the project progresses.

I hope to bring the Board a proposal regarding increasing the fees associated with renting the facilities in July. Based on the schools we have received pricing from so far, our prices are significantly lower.

Based on the discussion of the Board last month as well as feedback from the community, the district is moving forward with putting the sinking fund proposal back on the ballot in November. The DEA has committed to sending out information to the community in the fall.

Personnel Update:

The staff very much appreciated the luncheon the Board provided at the end of the school year.

Policy Update:

The policy committee is meeting on June 26 to evaluate the Spring NEOLA updates as well as technology policies that need to be updated.

Safety:

The district is planning to update our emergency operations plan and do more work with the new PA system as it relates to emergency drill scripts as well over the summer.

Teaching and Learning:

It has been so impressive to see the work the staff has engaged in at the end of the school year as it relates to ensuring they have full understanding of the expectations for next year related to the teaching and assessment expectations guide that was developed and shared in May.

Aggie Improvement Teams have accomplished much throughout the school year and will present their final work and implementation of their goals at the Board meeting. All teams will share the impact of their work at the June board meeting. Our admin team will consider all of these presentations as we develop our goals and plans for next year.

Technology:

Andy and I are continuing to try to find funding outside of the general fund to replace the aging Smartboards in the elementary. We are hoping to start with Kindergarten and then will replace others based on a needs assessment of the current Smartboards.

Other:

Thank you for your participation in our first graduation to be held in the Big Barn. We have received much positive feedback and met afterwards to brainstorm what we can do better next year.

Upcoming Dates of Note:

Registration Day- August 13

Opening Day for staff- August 19

First Day of School- August 20

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