

**Superintendent Report: October Board Meeting**  
**Submitted on October 20, 2020**

**Administrative work:**

We have been working to communicate with all parents who have questions and concerns as we plan for second semester, which has included several phone calls, emails and meetings. We have been continuing to work to get all students screened for FastBridge and SpringMath as well as proctoring PSAT and SAT testing for our HS students.

We have also continued exploring what we can possibly do to try to bring 7<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> grade students back face-to-face, something we haven't stopped working on since this past summer. There are so many factors that make this much more complicated than it may seem. Our team has been meeting weekly and will meet all day and into the evening on Tuesday of this week to further dissect and plan using the second semester survey data we have collected.

As it is principal appreciation month, our district should not take for granted how blessed we are to have three committed, outstanding administrators in Andy, Erin and Tania in their respective principal roles. It is because of the hours they have worked since the school closure last March that we were able to open on time and that our teachers were so much better prepared than last spring. The leadership of this team is so inspiring. The sacrifices they have continued to make to ensure we are doing everything we can for our Aggie Family so our students have the best experience possible during this pandemic has been remarkable. It is my sincere hope that the Board, our staff members and this community realizes the impact it makes for our district to have had the same administrative team for the past eight years, with three of the four of us entering our tenth year together. Each one of our principals is a world-changing member of our Aggie Family who make more unseen personal sacrifices to support our staff and students than anyone could begin to know. Honoring this team tonight is fitting and important as our district celebrates Principal Appreciation Month.

Worked with Board President Mike Kapp to follow Board Bylaws to handle the filling of the board vacancy created when Mr. Bolles moved out of the district on October 1. We posted the vacancy, accepted applications until October 9, the Board held an interview on October 15 and appointed Shelby Cremer to the Board of Education. She will serve for two years, until the next board election occurs, when she will run to fill the remaining two years of Mr. Bolles' term.

Mr. Kapp and I met with Mrs. Cremer on Wednesday, October 21 for a brief orientation and also for her to take her oath of office. She will take the oath of office again publically on Monday night and engage in her first meeting with the board. We are very fortunate to have such an actively involved community member in this role.

**Athletics:**

We posted the Varsity Boys' Basketball position on FaceBook, extended the posting an extra two weeks and then included a school board member on the committee. Our committee

interviewed and then eventually hired Cal Hodgson for this role. He has served as the JV coach for the past three years and brings many other years of experience as well.

Raj Nelson, who served as the assistant JV Girls' basketball coach last year, was hired to be the JV Girls' basketball coach this year. Bill Sherwood was hired to coach the 7<sup>th</sup> grade boys' basketball team. We still have openings for middle school track and JV boys' basketball.

Middle school boys' basketball is underway and the rest of the winter sports are slated to begin in November.

The cross country team has experienced perhaps the most successful season yet this year, winning or placing second in several of their meets this year. Of significant note, it is believed that our team is the only CMAC opponent to ever beat PW's cross country team in CMAC action, which happened earlier this season. They will be competing in the state competitions next.

Our football team also had a successful season, ending the regular season 4-2 and will host their first playoff game this Friday, October 30 against Morenci.

Our soccer team also hosted district play this year. We have already hosted more district competition over the past few years than we ever have because of our upgraded athletic facilities that comply with MHSAA guidelines. We get many compliments from fans, coaches and players from other schools about our school and athletic facilities.

One of our community members donated a whirlpool to the district that their workplace was replacing. We prepped to someday be able to add a whirlpool, but weren't able to purchase the actual whirlpool as part of the bond project, so this was a wonderful surprise and will provide an additional option to support for our injured athletes.

### **Budget Info:**

Raelynn and I have been working on Revision I of the 20-21 budget, but there are still several factors to be figured out before this will come before the Board, including the open negotiations with all groups. This will be presented in November and then be considered for approval in December.

We based our current budget on a student enrollment of 724, but our unaudited enrollment is 739.8 students, which is very close to what we had last year. The last major factor for the budget moving forward is that the district has the renewal of the operational millage on the ballot in November. The outcome of this vote will be critical to the funding of our school, as we collect nearly \$1 million via this millage.

### **Communication:**

Our teachers and admin team continue to send School Messenger emails, post videos, call and meet with families to talk about how school is going and to problem solve what we can do better. We are posting information on FaceBook and on our website as well.

I have started sending a weekly email called Aggie Family Updates that I try to get out by 7 AM on Saturday mornings. This is meant to provide district-wide updates and reminders for our families in an attempt to provide increased connection and communication during this tough year.

We sent the fall newsletter to the printer last week and it will be sent soon to the entire community.

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

The Dansville Schools Education Foundation is working on several different projects in lieu of the traditional dinner/auction event that had to be canceled this year.

The Lady Bugs are hard at work for their first ever virtual auction event that will run for the first few weeks of November. Please consider getting involved to support this event to show your appreciation for this group of women who have contributed so much to our school and community! This group has already reached out to share that they would like to donate some of their earnings to the school.

There will also be no PTO craft show this year due to COVID-19. All of these cancelations impact our school's funding, as these groups support school projects and often host events for our families.

**The following two topics are being shared in a slightly modified version, as they were originally written for the fall newsletter/Aggie Updates email:**

**PARKING LOT INTERNET BOOSTERS:** We are doing our best to be a good partner with our community, as every member of our community is also a valued member of our Aggie Family. In that spirit, we have been working with our technology advisors to be able to open up our internet parking lot boosters to make **access to our robust school internet free and available to be accessed by anyone in our community on any device.** This service is expected to be up and running this week! You can just drive into the elementary or secondary parking lot and the "Dansville Guest" option should be fired up and ready for you to use. Please note that we have been working on this for a long time, but there was a delay, as we also wanted this access to be safe. We wanted to ensure that this internet access was compliant with the Children's Internet Protection Act (CIPA), which requires that the internet be filtered and we now have this in place as well. We do ask that you remain in your vehicle and parked away from the school as much as is feasible if you are here to use the internet. We hope this will be a helpful option, even if you just need to drive up to more quickly download content.

**REOPENING FITNESS CENTER/TRACK WITH EXPANDED HOURS:** In that same spirit, we are also working hard to get the Community Fitness Center and Track back open for our community members. We have now created an online system for our Fitness Center and Track members to use that will allow a limited number of participants to sign up for time slots via Sign Up Genius. All fitness memberships will be restarted when we officially open back up.

**GUIDELINES:** In order to follow the current guidelines, we need to limit the number of participants to ten at one time in the Fitness Center and ten for track use. If you plan to use both areas during your allotted work out time, please sign up for both spaces. We ask that you leave at the end of your one-hour timeframe to allow us to adhere to these limits and ensure the safe use of these areas by all.

**SAFETY MEASURES:** All participants will need to complete a screening, including taking and recording your temperature, upon entrance to the Fitness Center and Track. All members must also wear a mask while using either area. Participants are asked to sanitize every piece of equipment following use, as has been the expectation previously. We will have hand sanitizer available in both areas for use. Participants are also expected to physically distance while exercising. We will also work with Clean Team to ensure both areas are cleaned regularly.

**MEMBERSHIPS:** All fitness memberships will be restarted when we officially open back up on Monday, October 26, 2020. All memberships will be automatically extended by 8 months. If you have any questions about your membership expiration dates, please contact Becky Ames.

**EXPANDED HOURS:** We had been planning to expand the hours the fitness center is open for the community prior to the pandemic, so we would like to try to put these new hours into place upon reopening. Starting on Monday, October 26, 2020, the Community Fitness Center and Track will be open for community members as follows: Monday- Friday: 5 AM – 7 AM and 7 PM – 10 PM; Saturday and Sunday: 8 AM – 8 PM.

**CLOSURE PERIODS/ACCESS LIMITS:** Please also watch for notifications via your email for dates/times when the facility will be closed because of scheduled school events. It is very important to note that members are not allowed to be on the gym floor or in the gym locker rooms at any time for any reason. In addition, we will not be able to keep the fitness center open when there are events happening in the gym, as we need to calculate capacity numbers based solely upon participants in those scheduled events.

**THANK YOU!** We want to thank everyone in advance for your cooperation in adhering to these guidelines in order to allow the Fitness Center and Track to remain open safely for our students, staff and community members. If you have any questions about these guidelines, please contact Amy Hodgson.

### **Curriculum/Training:**

We held a special two-hour mentor-mentee meeting for all first and second year teachers in October to allow teacher leaders to walk through the Teaching and Assessment Expectation Guide that was created by our Rigor Aggie Improvement Team over the past few years to ensure clear expectations are communicated, appropriate scaffolding exists between buildings and to ensure consistency between teachers.

We had a half day of professional development at the end of September during which we discussed our District Improvement Plan and launched our Aggie Improvement Teams. We rounded out our time with three different EdCamp sessions related to best practice.

Our October PD will provide time for the Aggie Improvement Teams to work and for teachers to collaborate in EdCamps. The EdCamps are designed to help teachers brainstorm how to solve current instructional challenges they are facing. All of this PD is planned with the District School Improvement Team (DSIT) that includes teacher leaders from each building. We begin every planning session by reviewing the survey data provided from the prior PD, which helps ensure we are meeting the needs of the teachers with the training provided.

### **Data**

We are very excited to bring Elizabeth Troia before the Board this month, as she is our first National Merit Finalist since 2004. More information will be shared when she is honored at the meeting, but we couldn't be more proud of her.

Additional updated data regarding student engagement will be shared with the Board tomorrow night, in accordance with the legislative requirement.

### **Facilities:**

A great deal of time has been spent reviewing the district's asset management plan as the construction project draws closer to its completion. There have also been many construction meetings lately to bring the construction project to an official close.

### **Personnel Update:**

We hired Aggie Alumna Kelsey Parsons as a math interventionist and Aggie Alumna Beth Carter to serve as a long-term substitute for Andrea Hartman while she undergoes treatment for cancer.

### **Policy Work:**

The Policy Committee will need to schedule a meeting, preferably before the next board meeting, as I met with Dr. Halik last week. Proposed dates include: Mon. 11/9, Tues. 11/10 or Thurs. 11/12 would be possibilities.

### **Safety:**

We continue to monitor every aspect of what we have rolled out with a lens of safety first. We are also still attending to safety in terms of intruders and fire, tornado, etc.

All emergency protocols have been placed on rings by the door of every classroom/office.

We have been adding protocols as we add events such as athletic events and opening of the fitness center.

## **Teaching and Learning:**

### **Also shared in the newsletter re: Aggie Achievers Recognition:**

It is during the most difficult times when people feel like they are getting squeezed- sometimes from every direction. When we get squeezed, what's inside comes out... and our staff has been so impressed with the grit, perseverance and positivity of so many of our Aggie students during this pandemic learning year!

The staff have been on the lookout for students who are helpful to classmates, turn in their formative work, are responsive to emails/other communication from staff, demonstrate positive leadership skills, work hard, ask questions, engage in their learning, attend class regularly and volunteer when needed. These are the traits of Aggie Achievers!

Sometimes our Aggie Achievers are surprised with a "goodie bag" and personal notes delivered to their homes while others receive an Aggie Achiever yard sign, but every student who has been recognized is making us all proud for their commitment to excellence this school year!

### **Reconfirmation of Learning Plan/Other Legislative Requirements:**

- **Create a dashboard related to positive COVID cases for the website that is located on the transparency page:** Our dashboard has been created and is posted accordingly.
- **Create a document to publicly share our weekly interaction rates:** Our document with this data will be shared at the Board meeting for each building.
- **Reconfirm how instruction is delivered:** Our district will be continuing with the current offerings for instruction through the end of 2020. We are currently examining survey data, requirements, staff health as well as several factors related to COVID-19 to see if we are able to offer in-person instruction for grades 7-12 for second semester.

We just recently surveyed our families regarding online or face-to-face learning and transportation preferences for the second semester. We will review current Kindergartener thru Grade 6 students' preferences and will also work on using this data, again, to continue to do our best to build a schedule with a full-time in-person option for students in Grades 7-12. We would hope to start any new schedules for the second semester which begins on Monday, January 4, with plans to continue through the end of the school year on Friday, May 28.

- **Develop guidelines concerning appropriate methods of delivering instruction, in coordination with the health department:** I communicate regularly with the Ingham County Health Department and will continue to take guidance from them regarding our ability to offer in-person instruction. We discuss county data, but also local community data and building data, if applicable.

### **Key metrics that are considered in collaboration with the health department:**

- COVID cases or positive COVID tests
- Hospitalizations

- # of COVID-related deaths over a 14-day period
- COVID cases for each day for each million people
- The percentage of positive COVID tests over a 4-week period
- Health capacity strength
- Testing, tracing and containment infrastructure with regard to COVID

### **Technology:**

As shared earlier, the parking lot boosters are also now able to be accessed free by our students and the community with CIPA- approved filtering.

We are working with CADL to restart the Student Success Initiative where every student has a library card and can access their resources remotely.

We are working to make our own library system cloud-based to better provide reading options for all students.

We hope to be receiving the Chromebooks we ordered over the summer sometime soon.

### **Upcoming Dates of Note:**

- \*November 3: Election, including local school board election and non-homestead renewal
- \*November 23: Board Meeting
- \*November 25- November 27: Thanksgiving Break
- \*December 14: Board Meeting
- \*December 18: End of first semester/Winter Break begins
- \*January 4: Second semester begins