

FIRST OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

No community members spoke at this time.

ADMINISTRATIVE & BOARD UPDATES

Early Elementary Literacy Visit with Senator Lana Theis & NWEA Representatives

Executive Director of Instruction Ryan Bruder reported on the morning's early literacy visit that included Michigan State Senator Lana Theis, a few of her team members and several representatives from the NWEA staff. Sen. Theis is chairing bills on which she would like District input, and asked to see our Y5-2nd grade literacy work and gather feedback from our staff. DCS has 741 Y5-2nd grade students (71 Y5's, 235 Kindergartners, 224 1st graders, 211 2nd graders) who use literacy platforms/tools including Lucy Calkins Units of Study Reading and Writing, Reading Horizons (Orton-Gillingham-based) and Heggerty Phonemic Awareness (Y5 and Kindergarten). Dexter has purchased hundreds of decodable books for our youngest readers, provided phonics training for staff, and completed data rounds with our instructional coaches and interventionists to inform instructional practice.

25% of the Dexter Early Elementary Complex (DEEC) staff are currently taking (or are enrolled for fall) LETRS Training, which is considered the "gold-standard" for literacy training. This training has been cost-prohibitive in the past, but the state has recently covered the cost for interested Michigan teachers to take advantage of this training.

Bruder shared DEEC's assessment schedule, which involves giving the NWEA MAP 3 times per year, both reading and math. In addition, this is the first year DEEC is giving the NWEA Fluency Assessment, and staff shared both positives and areas for improvement with the assessment itself NWEA representatives.

Both NWEA and Sen. Theis were impressed with Dexter's thorough screening process to provide support for dyslexia and reading intervention. DEEC staff is continuously doing formative assessment in addition to the NWEA MAP tests and fluency screener. If a student is flagged, they are then assessed with Acadience (Dibels-based). Using these screening tools together helps triangulate the data to help staff determine how to best support students.

The DEEC has 3 full-time reading interventionists who see 60-75 students regularly with positive gains. Using the Acadience tool, students' progress is monitored each week to see if the plan is working for each child.

The NWEA has been administered twice this school year; in the first reading assessment, students scored in the 95th (K), 97th (1st), 78th (2nd) percentiles respectively. Giving the same assessment later in the year, these students scored in the 96th, 92nd and 80th percentiles,

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which are in line with national percentiles. While DCS likes to see this assessment data, they also need the bigger picture of student growth. Each student is given a number as a point of growth, and in Kindergarten through 2nd grade, 59% (K), 47% (1st), and 61% (2nd) have met or surpassed their growth measure. The District is doing a great job getting students back on track after COVID thanks to the support of the Board and the administration putting emphasis on reading literacy.

Superintendent Chris Timmis commented that recent legislation specifically lists exact teaching strategies to utilize, and the challenge is that brain research continues to evolve so those strategies might later prove ineffective. Once the wording is law, it is difficult to change.

Bond Update

Principal of Operations Craig McCalla updated Trustees on recent bond activity, reporting that the 1st round of bidding for asphalt is due Wednesday, March 9th and the District is looking at potentially 7 bids. In addition, a mechanical bid is out for equipment such as boilers, chillers, etc. Construction bids for a bathroom and storage building at the Twin Turf fields are due tomorrow. At Mill Creek, the District ordered an air compressor for the Tech Ed room. Ovens and microwaves are still being researched for the DHS Life Skills room, but the supply chain is backed up and companies are predicting long lag times.

Superintendent Update

Dr. Timmis reported the District held a Kindergarten Informational Meeting via Zoom last week, and an in-person tour of the DEEC for new Kindergarten families is scheduled for tomorrow, March 8th.

The first window for School of Choice opens this week, and an info night for Dexter Early Middle College and Dual Enrollment will be held March 15th.

Board President Update

None.

Student Representatives Update

Griffin Patel shared that March is Reading Month activities are underway at the DEEC and Wylie Elementary. At DHS, the annual Band Extravaganza has been changed to a 5th and 6th grade band concert on March 20th due to the large numbers usually in attendance at Extravaganza. At the District MSBOA Festival, all Dexter bands and orchestras received straight 1 ratings (highest possible rating).

CONSENT ITEMS

None.

ACTION ITEMS

Summer Enrichment

At the February 28th meeting, Dr. Timmis recommended that the BOE approve up to \$100,000 in funding for summer recreation and arts camps for all ages. This student summer funding cost the District \$91,000 last year. Trustee Jennifer Kangas asked that academic support be included as well. Dr. Timmis shared that a separate proposal would address this. In addition, the District already runs reading and math support for younger students every summer. Trustees unanimously approved the funding.

Approval of Superintendent 2021 Evaluation

At its February 7, 2022 regular meeting, the Board approved the Superintendent's annual evaluation. Trustee Kangas read the evaluation summary statement aloud (included in the [Board Packet](#), pg. 13); Superintendent Timmis was given the overall rating of HIGHLY EFFECTIVE, the highest rating possible, based upon the Board's assessment of his performance in the following areas: governance and board relations, community relations, staff relations, business and finance, instructional leadership, student growth, and progress towards district-wide goals. Trustees unanimously approved the evaluation summary statement.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

2021-2026 Strategic Plan

The adoption of the 2021-2026 plan was delayed due to the pandemic but is now ready to be formally adopted by the Dexter Community Schools Board of Education. The plan includes five strategic initiatives that will lead the expansion in support of programming for our students in our community for years to come:

- The Dexter Schools community will work together to DEVELOP, EDUCATE, and INSPIRE students for an ever-changing world. (THE HELM)
- We will foster a culture of connectedness by focusing on social-emotional needs and building trusting relationships throughout all levels of the learning community.
- We will transform instructional practices to support SEL, life skills and content that provide our students with flexible pathways for learning.
- We will enhance the learning environment for all students by providing educational experiences within and beyond the classroom.
- We will stand for justice and equity by promoting meaningful and sustainable actions to create an inclusive learning and working environment that embraces diversity of ideas, experiences and voices.

Dr. Timmis began by thanking the Board for their support and giving some background on the strategic planning process as far back as 2014. He detailed all the ways in which the District has met the goals from the 2015-2020 strategic plan, and how the goals have evolved with feedback from key stakeholder groups into the 2021-2026 plan. Dr. Timmis said this plan sets a direction for

DCS to further our collaborative community work to support all Dexter students as we prepare them for the future.

Trustee Melanie Szawara commended the District for continuing to move forward with the strategic planning during the pandemic. Board Treasurer Dick Lundy remarked that strategic planning is an ongoing process school boards must embrace. Secretary Brian Arnold shared he is excited about Extended Learning Opportunities, especially in the technology field where there are many opportunities for which students don't need a college degree. Many jobs are now based on certificates and short training, Arnold said, and maybe the school should consider offering certificates in the future.

Trustee Kangas expressed appreciation for all the work that has gone into the plan. She advocated for maintaining different types of learning (Pinnacle, Apex, Summit), in order to ensure families can still opt for a traditional learning environment. She also spoke to the value of 1:1 conversations, eye contact, social skills, etc., citing the downsides of students being too much on devices.

Vice President Elise Bruderly said she is also excited about this plan, and the fact that we have one is important and notable. She has been considering what is the purpose of school (to prepare students for real life), and loves thinking about what students would gain after going through school under this framework. She expressed her hope that parents can see at all the intentionality behind the framework's concepts. Our goals are strong, Bruderly stated, and the District should be proud of the work it has done.

Dr. Timmis's strategic plan presentation can be found in the [Board Packet](#), pages 15-27.

Washtenaw County Schools Fiber Consortium Service Agreement

The Washtenaw Intermediate School District (WISD) fiber network is owned and operated by WISD on behalf of all constituent districts. This is a shared governance and cost agreement to maintain this resource for the educational endeavors of the county. This agreement covers the actual fiber optic cable, equipment to manage the network, and a portion of staff costs. The network is also connected to the Statewide Educational Network (SEN) which is a statewide private network that allows the reduction of Internet costs in addition to transport for other statewide services.

Dr. Timmis shared this document is an update to the current agreement and will cost the District approximately \$3-4 more per student, but we cannot function without it. This county-wide technology consortium houses PowerSchool, finance software and most of the big software programs used by the District. All districts in the county will have to approve this same Master Service Agreement document.

SECOND OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

No one spoke at this time.

BOARD COMMENTS

Vice President Bruderly thanked Griffin Patel for his update, and offered her congratulations to the bands and orchestras on their Festival performances.

Representative Patel shared that the DHS Symphonic Band actually brought a Festival judge to tears.

President Greateorex agreed they were all amazing performances.

INFORMATION ITEMS

1. [Nice Job Notes January 2022](#) (pg. 43)

After sharing the Information Items, the Board moved into closed session for continuing negotiations.

CALENDAR

- *March 7-March 18 - Schools of Choice First Application Window - online
- *Monday, March 14 – Facilities Committee - 8:10 a.m.
- *Monday, March 21 – Board Meeting 7:00 p.m. - Bates