



CHELSEA

SCHOOL DISTRICT

SPECIAL EDUCATION

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To: Board of Education

From: Lisa Nickel

Re: November Board Report

Date: 11/11/25

- We should be close to filling the gaps we have at the elementary level and high school for our paraprofessionals. The teams at all of the buildings have done a great job with filling in the gaps!
- I had an opportunity to lead our K-5 special ed teams through professional development on November 3rd. We took the opportunity to outline our current programs and services and the students receiving services and take a deep dive into where we see some possible opportunities to strengthen how we provide services to our students with IEP's. We are seeing a wide range of needs and an expansion of students on the autism spectrum and those needing social emotional or behavioral support.
- The WISD and Eastern Michigan University will again be offering a new cohort to begin in the fall of 2026 for the [paraprofessional to teacher certification program](#). I anticipate that information will come out in March for this amazing opportunity. Chelsea has graduated 4 of our paraprofessionals from this program with 4 currently enrolled. We are allocated 2 slots for each cohort.
- Marie Larson and I were pleased with the turnout for the second annual Chelsea District Wellness Expo which was held at Washington Street Educational Center. This event was open to families as well as the community. There were activities, snacks as well as many representatives from our community featuring a wide range of offerings that support personal and family wellness. We had over 60 people in attendance and 19 community partners.
- As we transition the leadership of the GSRP program to Erin Martin, we have collaborated on completing the budget which was submitted to the WISD on November 5th. What a difference a full class makes for the bottom line!

Respectfully,

Lisa Nickel, Director of Special Education and Early Childhood
Chelsea School District