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Benjamin SCHOOL DISTRICT 25

TO: Board of Education
FROM: Dr. Patrick McGill, Superintendent
DATE: October 19, 2026
RE: Superintendent Report

BACKGROUND

The superintendent will provide the Board of Education with a brief report at each regular Board of Education meeting.

SUMMARY

Securly Launch Update

Last month, we introduced Securly Home, a service designed to give parents and guardians greater visibility into and control over their child's school-issued computer while it is being used away from school. Through Securly Home, families have access to tools that can help them better understand and manage their child's use of their school computer.

These tools include:

- **View online activity** – See information about your child's activity on their school-issued computer, helping you stay informed about how the device is being used.
- **Add additional filtering at home** – Parents can make the district's internet filtering more restrictive when the computer is away from school. District-blocked websites cannot be unblocked by parents.
- **Pause internet access** – Temporarily pause internet access on the school computer when it is time to step away from the device.
- **Create offline schedules** – Establish times when internet access is unavailable, such as bedtime, family time, or other times that work for your household.
- **Receive activity information** – Use activity information and reports to better understand how your child is using their school computer.

To date, we have 104 families who have signed up for this free service!

Joint Finance and Facilities Committee Meeting

On September 24th, we held a joint Finance and Facilities Committee meeting where Dr. Filas gave an overview of the Health Life Safety (HLS) process and the work Arcon initially identified for safety remediation. The required HLS work and the Gym and Lobby renovations are projected to cost roughly $5 million, after adding contingency and architectural fees. Bob Lewis from PMA was present at the meeting to discuss potential ways to fund this work while keeping our current Bond and Interest Tax Rate at the current level. We also had a Finance committee meeting on October 15th to continue these

discussions. Overall, I am proud of the work that Dr. Filas is coordinating. It will result in more secure school entrances, a state-of-the-art emergency notification system, and a refreshed middle school gym and lobby area. We continue to be good stewards of taxpayer dollars through regular facility improvements.

LEND Update
LEND met this month. The main topic centered on making sure MCATs are fully funded. Districts spoke about how the transportation reimbursements have gone down over the years and how that is having a compounding effect combined with increase in actual costs. We also met with different legislators to talk about a variety of issues. A prominent topic that came up was FOIA reform. There are businesses that have been created that do district data mining via FOIA and then sell the data, which takes time away from employees, and is not the original intent of FOIA.

Celebrating our Principals!
The State of Illinois has declared October 18-24, 2026 as Principals Week and October 23, 2026 as Principals Day in Illinois, to recognize principals for all that they do to help our children learn and succeed. A big thank you to Dr. Fitzgerald and Mrs. Smith for their time, talent, and dedication to the students and families of Benjamin SD25!

Student Achievements
Congratulations to the Cross Country teams! JV girls placed second; Varsity girls, Varsity boys, and JV boys placed third. The team finished third overall, with three varsity runners in the top ten. Thanks to Mr. Hauser for his hard work with the Cross Country team.

Congratulations to Benjamin Middle School students Joey Delort (8th grade, bass clarinet), Elena Dzwiniel (6th grade, clarinet), and Ava Kimme (8th grade, vocal performance), selected from thousands of auditions for the competitive District 9 ILMEA music festival. District 9 spans DuPage, Kane, and Will counties and is known for its strong band and choir programs. Congratulations also to Mr. Lewis and Mrs. Klobuchar for helping prepare our students!

Upcoming GPS Parent Series Events (gpsparentseries.org)

- Dr. Katie Hurley; The New Bully: Confronting Online Conflict, Rumors, and Social Exclusion, Tuesday, October 20, 2026 @ Noon and 7pm CST.
- Dr. Connie Law - Glenbard Alum; Having It All: What Data Tells Us About Women's Lives and Getting the Most Out of Yours, Wednesday, October 28, 2026 @ Noon (Zoom/In Person COD) and 7pm (Zoom) CST.
- Ana Homayoun and Panel; Purposeful Paths: Connecting College Opportunity and Career Discovery, Thursday, November 5, 2026 @ Noon and 7PM CST.

Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) Request(s)
None

RECOMMENDATION(S)
None at this time.