Tom Tiede- Director of Transportation/Buildings & Grounds
November 2026 Board Report

Buildings & Grounds

As the final two months of the year approach rapidly, so does a barrage of building activities day and night. It is hard to believe that the words "Holidays" and "break" are beginning to be used to describe the upcoming season. With that comes band & choir concerts, the beginning of basketball season and the beginning of many indoor building rentals which keep our buildings buzzing with activity. Many thanks to our custodial crews to staff these events and kudos to Jessica Sage for the organizational piece that is so vital to making all of these things co-exist.

Dr. Wise, WOLD and I continue to work through final preparations for being able to present the summer 2027 campus traffic flow & parking lot improvements as a bid package as well as continuing conversations around district office renovations and the possibility of an addition to Lakeview. Also signs point towards a busy, yet rewarding upcoming summer of continued improvements in District #66.

Final punch list items are also wrapping up from the first phase of the traffic and parking lot improvements centered around the Lakeview Parking Lot and associated field to the west. Grass is beginning to grow and the improved areas are looking and functioning well.

Transportation

During the week of October 19th, we took part in **National School Bus Safety Week** in which drivers took time to re-teach facets of school bus safety and where we capped off Friday 10/23 as our "Driver Appreciation Day." The drivers are thankful for the countless cards, pictures, letters and other tokens of appreciation given throughout the week. In addition, we are thankful as always to TEAM66 as they are preparing a breakfast celebration for the drivers on 11/6. Thank you to all who participated in making it a very special week and thank you to our dedicated group of drivers for continuing to transport our precious cargo safely.

I am still examining the fleet size and make up as I forecast next school year's needs as it relates to needing to replace or add any bus equipment. Since there is only 1 bus up for lease trade in this year, it is looking like I will recommend that we purchase this bus out of its remaining lease and add it to our owned fleet. Undoubtedly in the next year or two, we will need to refresh some of our oldest owned fleet, which will be approaching 9-10 years old. The current model allows us to save money on beginning new leases and while spending more on supplies/repair & maintenance, make out money ahead while still safely transporting our students at a high level. Official recommendation on fleet to come at the December BOE meeting.

While we have been blessed with unseasonably warm temperatures for much of October, we still will begin preparing our fleet for the inevitable winter that approaches. This involves beginning to introduce additives into the diesel fuel and begin changing out summer filtration systems. These steps help us avoid much disruption when temperatures dip near or below about 20 degrees.