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To: Benjamin 25 Board of Education
Dr. Patrick McGill, Superintendent
From: Dr. Fitzgerald
Date: February 9th, 2026
Topic: Learning and Teaching Report

BACKGROUND

I provide the Board of Education, Superintendent, and the community with a report at each regular Board of Education meeting, highlighting District Learning and Teaching activities and information.

SUMMARY

Professional Development

We are all set for the DuPage County Wide Institute Day on 2-27-2026. Staff going out of district have been registered for their conferences and staff staying in district have approved learning agendas for the day. Our school district also registered and received approval for our learning activities from The DuPage ROE as a Professional Development Provider.

Assessment

Greg Martin will be going over Illinois Assessment of Readiness training with Evergreen staff on 2-18-2026 and Benjamin staff on 3-4-2026. As a reminder, the IAR testing will take place between March 16th through March 27th.

High School Articulation

8th grade, special education and our specials teachers all finished their high school articulation meetings. I have heard many positive comments from staff on the experience. I also sent an email to staff to get feedback on improving the process. I will be meeting with Limaris Pueyo, the Principal of West Chicago High School in March for follow up.

Illinois Comprehensive Numeracy Plan

The first draft of the Illinois Comprehensive Numeracy Plan serves as a guide to strengthen math instruction and improve student outcomes. Modeled after the state's literacy plan, it is designed as a guidance tool rather than a mandate, offering evidence-based strategies for districts to adapt to their local needs. One of the main goals of the ICNP is to redefine Numeracy as the capacity to reason, solve problems and make informed decisions with an emphasis on foundational skills, creating a mathematical identity and encouraging students to use a mathematical lens to interpret the world. A

second goal involves an instructional shift away from drilling facts and moving more towards student-centered learning, active engagement and real-world application.

The second draft of the plan will be released on February 19th.

The 5Essentials Survey

The 5Essentials Survey is running between February 3rd and March 13th. This is a survey school districts take annually. The 5Essentials is a research-based school improvement system that defines, measures, and utilizes the most important organizational conditions, including aspects of a school's culture and climate, to improve student outcomes. The areas focused on in the survey include: Effective Leaders, Collaborative Teachers, Involved Families, Supportive Environment, and Ambitious Instruction. Research shows that schools that are strong on at least three of the five essentials for school improvement were ten times more likely to show substantial gains in student learning than schools who are weak in three or more areas. Communication has been pushed out to parents for participation. All staff and students in 4th through 8th grade will take the survey.

Learning Walks

Dr. McGill, Mrs. Smith and myself have continued the second round of our Learning Walks, visiting 4th grade, Band, 7th grade, 8th grade, 3rd grade and 2nd grade over the last month.

RECOMMENDATION(S)

None at this time.