



CENTER CASS SCHOOL DISTRICT 66

Challenge. Inspire. Empower.

LAKEVIEW JR HIGH SCHOOL

PRAIRIEVIEW ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

ELIZABETH IDE SCHOOL

Tom Tiede- Director of Transportation/Buildings & Grounds November 2024 Board Report

Transportation

During the week of October 21st, 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 10/25 as our “Driver Appreciation Day.” We are so thankful for TEAM66 & Building PTO’s that teamed up to spoil our drivers with 2 breakfasts during the week as well as the countless cards, pictures, letters and other tokens of appreciation given throughout the week from students, teachers and parents alike. Thank you to all who participated in making it a very special week.

Required by ISBE and as part of an extension or prelude to School Bus Safety Week, I ensure that every school building has a chance to have gone through a School Bus Evacuation Drill. Although the requirement is to simply go through a drill motion of evacuating the bus with any other method than the normal service door, I am grateful for our PE teachers in each building to allow me to come in and spend between 20-30 minutes with small groups of students to really dive into the Why, How, Why not, What if’s of the process. I am passionate about ensuring that students really understand the importance of the safety of the school bus and as they grow older, the certain decision making rationale and processes lead into making certain decisions, all of which ultimately revolve around ensuring the safest place for our students in different hypothetical situations. See below for a couple pictures of IDE students in action with myself and Mr. Kukulski.



In tonight's agenda, I am presenting the updated transportation fleet plan and associated bus lease recommendations for our fleet entering the 2025-26 school year. It is hard to believe that planning for next school year is happening already, but in order to guarantee equipment, we must look at these leases in November to ensure delivery in time for the 25-26 school year. Thank you for your attention to the fleet plan and recommendations associated.

Buildings & Grounds

Buildings and Grounds are buzzing with activities and the people associated with them from 7:00 AM until 9:00 PM some nights. Outdoor activities on fields are beginning to wrap up and transition to gymnasiums and learning centers and we are grateful to partner with our community groups as well as our own school organizations to allow all of these great things to happen on our school grounds.

Dr. Wise and I had our first meeting with the HVAC and BAS contractor for the summer HVAC and automation work primarily at LV but with pieces in all three buildings. We are in a good spot in the timeline where all equipment has been ordered, contractor subs and other trades are being finalized to where we will soon be able to build up a construction schedule for the summer. The immediate HVAC contractor is anxious to begin and able to begin some of the behind the scenes work with wiring, running cable and installing new valving which they will be able to complete while taking advantage of our two upcoming Breaks in November and December. Any work that can be completed before June really helps ease the timing tension as the summer days inevitably wind down.

Aside from the major work listed above, we will also be completing a few smaller projects over the Thanksgiving/Fall break and into the Winter break that we cannot complete with students in the buildings easily. There are some fire pump improvements at PV, Domestic hot water mixing system at PV, HVAC tuning and balancing at IDE, some door replacements at both LV and IDE as well as the beginning of the flooring work at Lakeview that was approved at the October meeting.

Big thanks as always to our small and mighty custodial and maintenance staff for keeping up with the day to day activities.