



# CENTER CASS SCHOOL DISTRICT 66

*Challenge. Inspire. Empower.*

LAKEVIEW JR HIGH SCHOOL

PRAIRIEVIEW ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

ELIZABETH IDE SCHOOL

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## Tom Tiede- Director of Transportation/Buildings & Grounds

February 2026 Board Report

### **Transportation**

As we are deep into what looks to be a longer stretch of cold(er) winter weather, I wanted to highlight some of the work that goes into making buses run successfully in this weather. During periods of low temperatures (below about 15 degrees), there is quite a bit of preparation required in order to keep the buses not only running well but providing sufficient heat for our students to and from school. There are certain additive blends that are necessary to add to normal diesel fuel to prevent it from coagulating at temperatures below freezing and prevent any water in the fuel from freezing. Weekly, I work with our fuel delivery supplier on how to blend for the expected temperatures for that upcoming week. Traditionally this has proven to be successful, however when temperatures dip well below zero like we experienced more than a handful of times already this winter, even that careful planning can be undermined by mother nature and result in gelled diesel fuel. Typically, as emissions/epa standards rise, diesel fuel is far more susceptible to these types of negative impacts which keeps us on our toes.

To preheat engine coolant, buses are plugged into electrical engine heaters each evening which not only aid with easier starting but also get a jump on creating heat for the passengers. Often, behind the scenes, drivers and cold start crews are at school prepping these buses to run as early as 5:00 A.M. on extreme cold days which allows time for warming up as well as for us to address any issues before school pickups begin. Thank you as always to our dedicated drivers for braving the elements and their safe winter driving throughout the season.

### **Buildings & Grounds**

Just as the winter weather provides challenges for transportation and drivers, the needs in and out of buildings increase significantly as well. District #66 does not outsource any snowplowing/salting/shoveling services for both the parking lots and building sidewalks and entry/exit landings. By doing this work in house, the district not only saves money on the cost of those services compared to any outsource option, but also retains the control to do what is needed, when it is needed as opposed to being in a queue with other customers. That said, a very big shout out and thank you to our crews who work during those challenging times in tough conditions to prepare our buildings for occupancy. Thank you Paul Jonauskas for assisting in the plowing and our dedicated custodial day crew consisting of Alberto Mena, Dom Ringo, Ed Ruby & Charles Barys for the hours of work inside and out of our building during the inclement weather.

Gym 1 flooring at bid will be recommended for approval tonight for a June installation. February 17th, bids are due for Phase 1 of the parking lot and driveway renovations taking place this summer as well, for a March Board approval. Here's to thoughts of warmth and another summer of upgrades for the district!