



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

January 2026 Board Report

Transportation

During the Holiday break, our bus fleet received a well deserved break as well as necessary repairs & maintenance. The mild weather also allowed for some additional cleaning and sanitizing inside and out without the risk of freezing. Cold and snow looks to be in our future now, so we will remain vigilant on the mechanical maintenance of the fleet.

On Tuesday January 6th, we hosted the annual mandatory 2 hour bus driver refresher course for our drivers as well as drivers from Darien #61, Cass #63 & Gower #62. This is a mandated yearly training required for renewal of all school bus permits. Hosting this event allows us to work closely with our other local districts running their own bus service and save on costs of having drivers travel to multiple classes throughout the county.

Please welcome two new bus drivers who began after the holiday break; Mr. Douglas Murphy who is driving route #11 after the Mr. Fraticola retirement and Ms. Francisca Beltran, who began driving a special needs route that we were able to take back after having had to outsource the route to a third party contractor. Both drivers are doing great and are falling into the mix very easily and we are grateful for the additions to our strong team of drivers.

Buildings & Grounds

Unlike last year where we were doing flooring projects at Lakeview, this Holiday break was much tamer. Buildings received deep cleaning of flooring, surfaces and high touch areas as well as completed any lingering maintenance or repair projects. As noted in past board reports, I will be releasing bid specifications for a new floor in Gym #1 in which I will have a low bid recommendation for the Board to approve at the February meeting.

As a public school, we are permitted to secure alternative electricity suppliers in order to save on the normal consumer rate from the local utility, Com Ed in this instance. Our current 4 year electricity rate lock with the supplier "Engie" ends in March 2026. We have had a rate of \$.06877 per KWH for 4 years and unfortunately, but also expected, current rates are higher as well as the supplier forecasts. After shopping for bids on the supply market with our consultant, pro Energy consulting, the best bid for us right now is a rate of \$.09000 per KWH for an 18 month lock. If we did nothing, come March 2026, our supply would return to Com Ed where rates fluctuate and are currently \$.17000 per KWH and with colder months ahead, also expected to rise. For budgeting sake and reasonable expectation of those prices rising, we were able to lock in a shorter term of 18 months at \$.09000 per KWH with hopes that tariffs, green energy and the many other factors affecting those forecasts smooth out or become more predictable after that 18 month period which would put us re-bidding for supply around the start of the 27-28 school year.

As always, thank you to all of our custodians for their hard work during these tougher weather months.