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To: Benjamin 25 Board of Education
Dr. Patrick McGill, Superintendent
From: Dr. Fitzgerald
Date: May 11th, 2026
Topic: Teaching and Learning 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

Student Assessment & Testing

During the month of April, students completed several key state and district assessments:

- Illinois Science Assessment (ISA): Administered to fifth and eighth-grade students from April 14th–16th.
- CogAT Testing: Fifth-grade students successfully completed CogAT assessments during the week of April 20th.

Internal Staff Transition & Alignment

On Friday, May 1st, staff participated in a student-centered articulation session. The primary objective was to ensure vertical alignment and continuity for the upcoming school year.

- **Cross-Grade Collaboration:** Teachers met with colleagues from both preceding and succeeding grade levels to review students. Discussions focused on required services, accommodations, instructional strategies, and unique student circumstances to facilitate a seamless transition.
- **Specials Department Alignment:** PE, Music, Art, and STEAM teachers from Benjamin Middle and Evergreen Elementary collaborated to share best practices across the special departments.

West Chicago High School Articulation

I participated in a principal articulation with West Chicago High School on April 17th. The focus of the articulation was a presentation from the World Language Department about their program and services. Following the presentation there was a discussion on the ability of our students to receive high school credit for taking high school Spanish at BMS. This conversation is coming from the fact that starting with the 2028-2029 school year, Illinois requires students to complete two years of a world language (including Spanish or American Sign Language) to graduate high school. We are advocating for our students to receive the credit as our students are taught by a high school certified teacher and Benjamin students have always been well prepared and excelled in Spanish 2 at the high school.

Strategic Planning Committee Structure

The administrative team is currently finalizing the 2026–2027 Committee Structure. This framework is designed to foster staff collaboration and ensure all professional efforts are directly aligned with the goals of our new Strategic Plan. Further details on this structure have been added to your board packet for your convenience. .

Learning Walks

Dr. McGill and myself have continued the second round of our Learning Walks, visiting Benjamin Specials and Special education classrooms.

Graduation Ceremony

The Benjamin Graduation Ceremony will be Tuesday June 2nd at 7PM. All Benjamin School Board members are welcome to attend and sit on stage for the ceremony. The ceremony usually runs 70 to 90 minutes. This year, graduation will be held at the BMS large gym. Please arrive by 6:45pm. Please let me know by May 26th if you can attend. Let me know

RECOMMENDATION(S)

None at this time.