



# 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**

December 2025 Board Report

### **Buildings & Grounds**

Our buildings are buzzing with activities both before and after school and on most weekends with both school sponsored activities, sports, music, as well as outside rentals. Examples of these activities include; DYC basketball & Volleyball, Cub, Boy & Girl Scouts, Taekwondo, Tsu Chi School, and of course our own LV sports teams, PV and IDE intramural activities and our bands and choirs with upcoming holiday concerts and activities galore. I want to thank all of our custodians for going the extra mile to accommodate all of these groups and teams.

Over the upcoming Holiday break, buildings receive deep cleaning of flooring and work surfaces, air filter changes, warranty software upgrades to control systems and lingering work ticket repair items.

As we have had our first couple of snows for the season, I want to highlight the efforts that go into preparing buildings and lots for occupancy during or after a snow event. District #66 does all snow removal in-house, both plowing and snowblowing, shoveling, salting etc. For a snow event prior to the morning of school, traditionally plowing will begin taking place as early as 2:00 AM and custodians will begin sidewalk preparation as early as 5:00 AM with the goal of having safe passage by 6:30 AM at the latest for our earliest staff members and students for early band or intramurals. By doing this work completely self-sufficient, the district is able to control all of the variables and set our own timeframe based on building needs, day of the week, staffing etc as opposed to a contracted service which may not align to the desired timeframe or quality of work. Thank you again to our custodial and maintenance staff for these extra hours during inclement days.

### **Transportation**

As I looked back at last year's report and events, It was hard to not chuckle at mentioning how fortunate the weather was that we were experiencing at the time. Fast forward one year and we have had a very large dose of winter in both precipitation and temperatures earlier than recent memory. The drivers have done a great job navigating the challenging road conditions, extra traffic, frigid temperatures and the occasional bus mechanical issue. Thanks to our great dedicated team for navigating any and all conditions to get our children where they need to be safely.

The upcoming Holiday Break serves as an opportunity to re-certify some of the buses for their semi annual safety certification and complete any scheduled maintenance on others that are due. Often, the Holiday break timeframe and weeks following prove to be some of the coldest for the season, often proving difficult to run a fleet of diesel buses. Behind the scenes, I have been working with our fuel supplier on additive blending both on the supply end and on our end to do all we can to ensure that the diesel fuel does not gel and cause rough or non running conditions. Buses will also be run during the break 2-3 times to ensure proper charges and lubrication.

We have wrapped up transportation for the girls basketball team and have a busy schedule upcoming with boys basketball and chess team games in December and January as well as the annual all Prairieview Holiday Field trip to see a Christmas Movie at the Tivoli Theatre.