



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

February 2025 Board Report

Transportation

After a mild start to winter, we began to experience some challenging weather conditions in the form of precipitation as well as low temperatures through January and what looks to continue into February. 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 the first week back from the winter break, even that careful planning can be undermined by mother nature and gel fuel.

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 & Alberto Mena for the plowing and our dedicated custodial day crew consisting of Dom Ringo, Ed Ruby, Charles Barys & David Liles for the hours of work inside and out of our building during the inclement weather.

Spring break planning is ongoing with current plans to continue flooring replacements at Lakeview with the IMC and associated offices and work rooms as well as continuing to prep network and electrical infrastructure for the new building automation systems being installed to support the new HVAC equipment this summer.