



Tom Tiede- Director of Transportation/Buildings & Grounds

October 2025 Board Report

Buildings & Grounds

Building activities have settled nicely into routine and systems are operating well. The busy fall season is always amazing as we see a vast array of student and community activities, sports, concerts, meetings etc bringing many people to our buildings & grounds on a daily basis including the weekends. The ability to have all of these positive things happening is no doubt a product of our community's support of the recent referendum and it is a refreshing reminder to see and for us to be able to provide a place for such positive community engagement.

Thursday 10/2 was Custodian Appreciation Day. At District #66, we have a fantastic group of dedicated, hard working and caring custodians, including; Mr. Alberto (PV/Dist), Ms. Gloria (PV), Ms. Alicia (PV), Ms. Maria (PV), Ms. Francisca (IDE/PV), Ms. Eugenia (IDE), Mr. Ruby (LV), Ms. Leticia (LV), Ms. Shirley (LV), Mr. Charlie (IDE), Jack McDaniel (Grounds). Please join me in thanking and celebrating the hard work and dedication of these fine individuals.

Dr. Wise and I, along with the rest of the Admin Team and architect continue to plan facility improvements over the next 1-5 years and beyond in continuation of our Health Life Safety work, large scale roofing projects at LV, parking lot and traffic pattern updates and other miscellaneous building & grounds improvements. We will be looking to have the board approve the bidding process for the Lakeview Roofing in November for a project date in Summer 2026 and are getting closer and closer to a much improved parking/traffic flow for the PV/LV campus.

Transportation

Although the school year just began, we are within the timing window to solidify our anticipated bus fleet needs for the 26-27 school year. Despite raising driver pay, we, like most contractors or district run systems, are still having very little interest from new driver candidates. This reality, along with the rising costs of fleets and maintaining them, presents the opportunity for conversations regarding what the future of bus transportation looks like. The state of Illinois has long established max mileage parameters for students requiring bus transportation, whereas we offer bus service to all D66 students regardless of their distance from their respective school. As we learned in the past couple of years, we also retain options on our leased fleet to pay the final balloon payment instead of being returned, and owning the asset ourselves instead of or in addition to new leases. If we are planning to lease/purchase new buses, the board will be asked to take action on one or both at either the November or December meeting to ensure any new vehicles are delivered in time for the 26-27 school year.

The week of October 20th is National School Bus Safety Week. During the week, facets of school bus safety are retaught and advancements celebrated throughout the industry. Traditionally, TEAM66/PTO as well as the District team up to spoil our drivers with treats and meals throughout the week as well. In addition, we will dedicate Thursday 10/23 to be our official District #66 "Driver Appreciation Day." Photos and a recap to come to the Board at the November meeting!