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TO: Board of Education  
FROM: Dr. Patrick McGill, Superintendent  
DATE: February 9, 2026  
RE: Superintendent Report

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## **BACKGROUND**

I provide the Board of Education with a brief report at each regular Board of Education meeting.

## **SUMMARY**

### **Strategic Planning Update**

The Strategic Planning Team met on January 22nd to finalize the SWOT Analysis and develop an updated Preferred Future Statement. This includes updating our mission, vision, and motto, as well as developing core values and a portrait of a graduate. The DRAFT Preferred Future Statement has been sent out with a survey to collect feedback from parents and community members, faculty and staff, and 7th and 8th grade students. This feedback will be used to finalize the draft at the Setting Direction Retreat on February 19th. All meeting agendas, presentations, handouts, and work products are uploaded to our [Strategic Planning Website](#).

### **Congratulations to the Benjamin Choir!**

The Benjamin Choir performed the National Anthem at the Chicago Steel hockey game on Saturday, January 31st. They sounded fantastic and did a wonderful job representing the musical programs at Benjamin!

### **Art Show and Star Bengals!**

Ms. Marisa Choate hosted our first Annual Benjamin Art Show on Friday, January 16th at Benjamin Middle School. The theme was "Every Hand Has a Voice." Many students participated in showcasing one or more of their art pieces for the show. The show was very well attended by family members and friends. The art show was judged by members of Gallery 200. Select pieces will be on display for a month at Gallery 200 Art Gallery starting with the Opening Reception on Friday, February 6th from 5:30-7:30pm. The Bengal Cafe Students have also been authorized to sell beverages during the opening reception. [Link to Art Show Exhibit](#)

### **SASED Board of Directors Meeting**

I attended the monthly SASED Board of Directors meeting on January 21st. [Here is a link to the agenda](#). There is just the usual business on the agenda. There has been some progress made with facility planning, but no official recommendations have been made yet.

### **Upcoming GPS Parent Series Events**

- Christine Crawford MD; You Are Not Alone: Navigating Your Child's Mental Health with Wisdom from Experts and Real Families, Tue Feb, 10 2026 @ Noon and 7pm CST

- Dr. Ellen Braaten; Bright Kids Who Can't Keep Up: Strategies to Improve Academic Performance and Processing, Thu Feb, 19 2026 @ Noon and 7pm CST

**Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) Request(s)**

The District received a request from CT Mills requesting copies of any existing records that describe purchasing or contracting approval authority within the District. Specifically, records, policies, schedules, or tables that identify:

- Dollar thresholds requiring approval by school administrators (e.g., principals)
- Dollar thresholds requiring approval by central office staff or department leadership
- Dollar thresholds requiring approval by the superintendent or designee
- Dollar thresholds requiring approval by the board of education

We responded to the request within the appropriate time frame.

**RECOMMENDATION(S)**

None at this time.