



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

September 2025 Board Report

Buildings & Grounds

In the time between the August BOE meeting and now, many projects and hard work by many came together to allow for a very successful start of the 25-26 school year, on time and in full capacity. By open house at Lakeview, all 7 air handling units were cooling, flooring was completed, paint refreshed throughout and a general positive aura welcomed staff, students and families back into the building after a very busy summer. At Prairieview and IDE similarly, the HVAC systems came to life on their new automation network and the buildings shined for all who entered. Now that school is underway, there are a few remaining items being completed behind the scenes in relation to the Building automation as well as unit balancing and product commissioning to ensure completeness. A huge shout out to our custodial staff throughout the district for stepping up and working tirelessly down to the wire to prepare our buildings for our staff and families to welcome in the 25-26 school year better than ever.

Although we are still wrapping up a project, planning for the next does not wait. Dr. Wise, the administrators, Goal 3 Sub Committee members and the architect firm are working on developing plans for the next summer's work which will likely include finishing replacing roofing at Lakeview and the beginning of parking lot and concrete replacements and improvements revolving around traffic flow and safe travel on school grounds for staff, students and parents. The Board can expect to have continued updates throughout the fall into the early winter season as we finalize these plans.

Transportation

As we are now in our 4th week of school, our bus routes have gotten themselves into a consistent routine for our children and the department is working on fine tuning the timing of two routes to better ensure on time arrivals. Based on the most current data of students signed up for busing and who have rode the bus at least once thus far, we are bussing more than 800 students between the 3 schools on 7 large bus routes and pieces of 4 smaller & Special Needs routes. The current numbers remain consistent year over year, remaining higher than pre-pandemic level, which speaks highly to the confidence of our families in our system and the efficiency of the system as it stands. Hiring drivers and general interest in joining the field remains stagnant at best, which is both frustrating but also a reminder of how appreciative we are for our small yet dedicated group of drivers that serve our community. We will continue to try to find new ways to interest new drivers and be as efficient as we can with what we do have, but it remains a tough climate in terms of attracting new drivers.

We also jumped right into our first extracurriculars of the year with our baseball, softball & cross country teams all participating in away games thus far. Our marching Spartans also performed in the German Day Parade in Chicago last weekend and will participate in the DGS Homecoming Parade at the end of September. Thank you to our drivers for picking up these extra hours when able.