



December 19, 2018 Superintendent Report

Mission: To provide a safe, comfortable, clean and caring environment where community and staff work together to provide an education that will maximize each individual's potential, instill a sense of self-worth, and prepare them for life-long learning.

Mission: To provide educational opportunities for all students to reach their potential as responsible, productive, world citizens by challenging them with appropriate curriculum and instruction in a positive, caring environment.

1. IASB Convention

Thanks to Dale Slaymaker for attending the IASB Delegate Assembly on November 14. I attended the IASB Convention on November 15. Highlights from the sessions I attended were:

- Keynote speaker, Matt Beaudreau, spoke about on generational diversity in the workplace. He focused on highlighting the positive qualities of each generational group to make the workplace emotionally strong, progressive, and sustainable.
- “A Balancing Act: The Board’s Role in Maintaining Transparency While Protecting Confidential Information.”
- Kevin Honeycutt, a technology integrationist, highlighted how leadership empowers and energizes organizations. “Becoming the Headlights for the Drive to Bright Futures” was the title of his discussion at the noon luncheon.
- Nicole Proesch, legal counsel for the DE, spoke on key elements for school safety plans.
- The DE spoke on the new state assessment called ISASP

2. GWAEA Supt. Meeting

Here were the core beliefs from the presentation made by the Center for Educational Leadership (CEL) of the instructional leadership framework at the December 5 GWAEA Superintendent’s meeting:

- Provide learner-focused leadership which will provide academic success for every student
- Organize a team of leaders
- Implement practices that will nurture continuous improvement such as reflection, innovation, and monitoring
- Address cultural, socioeconomic, and diversity in the school community
- Develop a plan for the effective management of human and capital resources in a time of change

The four dimensions of this plan are:

- Vision, Mission, and Culture Building- embrace a vision of academic success for every student, foster a culture of learning, and create results-focused learning environments
- Improvement of Instructional Practice- use data to analyze student learning, use research-based frameworks to make changes, and inform teachers of data feedback for improvement
- Allocation of Resources- provide efficient allocations of time, facilities, technology, etc.
- Management of People and Processes- organize working environments to support professional development, time, space, and curriculum for increased student improvement

3. ITS

Tony Amsler and the ITS team began work in our district on December 1. They have learned more about our computers, network, Walsh fob and camera system, and cooling/heating systems. Teachers were in-serviced on December 12 from Tony about how to use the help desk and ticket system. ITS will be a great addition to our technology supports.

4. Annual Legislative Dinner

This year's annual legislative dinner will be held on January 31, 2018 at 6:00 PM in Brooklyn. Please let me know soon if you will be attending this informative session at the Manatt's Community Center.

5. Volunteerism: Giving to Others

At some point in time, we have volunteered for our neighbors, community, scouting group, school, civic/service organization, or something similar. More than one billion volunteers can be found globally. Everyone has a different reason why they volunteer their time and talents. For some, they might volunteer to help the needy or those living in poverty. Other reasons might be to improve environmental issues, reduce social exclusion, improve the well being of a community, or to improve the quality of life for others. Mahatma Gandhi said, "The best way to find yourself is to lose yourself in the service others." How true his words are. When one gives, he/she receives.

"Volunteering is the ultimate exercise in democracy. You vote in elections once a year, but when you volunteer, you vote everyday about the kind of community you want to live in." (author unknown) We live in Iowa where there are countless volunteers because they want their communities to be a place where others feel safe, valued, cared for, and are forward thinking. Taking care of each other is just second nature to most Iowans.

A couple of weeks ago, my husband experienced the work of our North English QRS volunteers, magical medical help from spectators in the stands, and the Iowa County EMS service. Being about 30 minutes from the nearest hospital, we are eternally grateful to their care and expertise in our moment of crisis. Think of the thousands of other people they have helped in years past. The QRS team, Steve Hester, Ruby Pierce, Katelin Yoder, Amy Westphal, Stacy McMann, and the Iowa County EMS team are pillars of giving, kindness, and caring. Thanks to every volunteer in our area for making our communities a better place to live, work, and enjoy!



Happy Holidays!