



September 20, 2017 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.

Off to a Great Start!

The 2017-2018 is off to a great start with August in-service work completed and fall activities underway. Notes from my Kick-off on August 18 are attached.

GWAEA Supt. Meeting

Our first GWAEA superintendent's meeting was held on September 6. Mike Meechin was our keynote learning speaker with his presentation entitled "Wake Up Call: Break Down Barriers to High Impact Instruction." This was followed by business meeting presenters Linda Fandel from the governor's special assistant for education and Jan Walker, coordinator for Iowa's SAM program.

SICL Supt. Meeting

Our first SICL superintendent's meeting was held on September 11. We will meet the second Monday of every month and discuss timely topics. This year we have three new SICL superintendents and I will lead this group. We are also forming a team through the SAI (School Administrator's of Iowa) for CatchLife. CatchLife is designed to promote a more healthy life-work balance. We are excited to begin this new adventure together.

New Addition Almost Completed

There is excitement in the air for the opening of the new addition at the Elementary. We are anxiously waiting to announce our Ribbon Cutting/Tour date so stay tuned. Here are a few sneak peek pictures. Moving forward with Tiger pride!



New Gym



Restroom



Fitness Room

New Financial Year Begins July 1 for School Districts

Even though the start of the new school year began on August 23, 2017, the district's fiscal year began on July 1. The school district must adopt its annual, certified budget by April 15; this determines the amount of supplies that can be ordered, salaries/benefits, new hires, etc. There have been some years; however, when the legislatures have not determined what the SSA (Supplemental State Aid) will be before our budgets are due to the State of Iowa. This is similar to determining how much a family might spend throughout a year for groceries, electricity, food, clothing, gas, etc. without knowing what one's salary will be. When the budget is around \$6 million, it is extremely important to know what the SSA amount will be before the budget is finalized and, if not, this adds to the frustration of an already-complex issue. A well thought-out and prepared budget helps a school district remain viable and efficient.

Here is a listing of the types of funds a school district has:

- General fund or sometimes called the operating fund
- Special revenue funds which includes management, PERL (public education and recreation levy), library, and student activity
- Capital projects which includes PPEL (physical plant and equipment levy) and SAVE funds (Secure an Advanced Vision for Education)
- Debt service funds
- Enterprise funds which includes nutrition and child day care
- Internal service funds
- Trust funds

These funds, for the most part, cannot be transferred from one fund to another. HF 564 is one exception that now allows funds for the purchase of safety and protective equipment to be transferred from the general fund to the student activity fund. However, this practice may not be encouraged if the General Fund is low to begin with. More financial information will be shared throughout the school year in these newsletters to help you better understand our district's financial health. Our district's collective efforts are putting us in a healthier financial state. Go Tigers!

