



OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

September 3, 2019

Lakewood Families & Community,

We are off to another school year and I can honestly say, "It's a great day to be a Viking!" There are a number of exciting things going this year; I'd like to brief you on them.

- The board approved a 2.1 million dollar, non-voter, improvement bond; the work started and includes: a new, district-wide phone system, all new LED lighting in the district (interior and exterior), all new building automation systems for increased efficiencies, a new boiler, and office HVAC at the middle school, stadium lighting, and new, high-tech security cameras in our buildings. NOTE: This bond is not a tax on the community; the district is paying for it with general fund monies from energy savings.
- We received a \$126,000 grant from the Michigan State Police for safety upgrades. This work started this past summer and will continue this year. Projects include safety film at all buildings, safety bollards, and other items. All buildings have received safety film to date.
- The board of education is launching a strategic plan rewrite this year. Almost four years have passed since our last plan's revisions. Goal completion, changing demands, and new courses of action require the plan to be updated. We have accomplished many goals and are excited to update this plan. We will be gathering input from the community in the coming days.
- Final plans for the LES parking lot renovation are complete. The bid will go out this fall. Construction will begin in June 2020. This project will expand the parking for parents and buses at Lakewood Elementary School. This project will be paid for by the proceeds from the sale of Clarksville and Sunfield schools.
- The district completed a three-building downsize over the past few years with the sale of Clarksville being recently finalized (Sunfield and East buildings were sold previously). While challenging to work through, the disposition of unused properties will save the district money, which can be applied for current programming and student needs. It also allows these properties to be utilized by the community/businesses in the future.
- The district added five new gasoline buses to its fleet this year (and disposed of five old buses). Through a recently board-approved renovation plan, we will have new metal on the ground each year over the next three years; this continues to make our fleet younger, reduce maintenance expenses, and fill the district with that "new bus" smell.
- We've completed a full district PBIS (Positive Behavioral Interventions & Supports) implementation, which is a set of ideas, guidelines, and tools that schools use to improve the behavior of students, thus increasing engagement in learning.
- An additional school social worker will be added to our K-12 staff to assist with student/family support.
- Lastly, and most importantly, we welcomed 15 new staff to the Viking family. They are joining the best team around, dedicated to making this year the best for you and your family.

I wish you a successful and happy school year!

All the best,

Randy
#GoVikes!