



STATE OF THE DISTRICT

FALL 2017

Dear Lakewood Families:

I trust this communication finds you enjoying the startup of another school year at Lakewood Public Schools. I wanted to reach out and update our families on a few exciting things happening in our district, as well as provide other general details about operations. We have so much to be thankful for here at Lakewood Public Schools!

ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT

There are a number of exciting programming enhancements that have been ushered in with the start of this school year, helping us stay focused on every student, in every class, every day.

- ✓ **Lakewood Early Childhood Center** has developed a framework for **Positive Behavior Intervention and Supports (PBIS)** and will be launching it in January of 2018. The intent of PBIS is to provide a proactive approach to establishing behavior supports that foster appropriate social/behavioral results in order to maximize academic performance.
- ✓ **Lakewood Elementary School** is addressing the new **3rd grade reading law** through a variety of means this year. We have invested in **two certified interventionists** to support students in reading and math. This Tier II method of intervention allows for students needing extra help to quickly receive this support. For parent information on the new law, see our website resource page by [clicking on this link](#). Lakewood Elementary will also roll out the new PBIS plan in January, 2018.
- ✓ **Lakewood Middle School** added a 7th grade S.T.E.M. science class, joining our 8th grade offering of the same content. This is part of our district-wide K-12 S.T.E.M. initiative. We have invested in a **certified interventionist** to support students in reading and math. This Tier II method of intervention allows for students needing extra help to quickly receive this support.
- ✓ **Lakewood High School** expanded **skilled trade options** for students by adding a **construction technology class**. Lansing Community College is joined by **Davenport University** in partnering with our district for our **Early/Middle College Program**. This opportunity allows eligible students to **complete their Associate's degree at no cost to the student**. See the guidance department's home page on our website for more information by [clicking on this link](#).

M-STEP and SAT results are in for the 2016-2017 school year. We are proud of our teaching and support staff and our students. We are focusing on identifying specific areas to target for growth moving forward. You can view a variety of data at our website by [clicking on this link](#).

Lakewood High School was recognized and honored by the College Board by being placed on the **Advanced Placement (AP) Honor Roll**. This award was bestowed on only 433 high schools of all high schools in the United States and Canada. From the College Board: *"Districts on the AP Honor Roll have simultaneously increased access to Advanced Placement® coursework while maintaining or increasing the percentage of students earning scores of 3 or higher on AP Exams. Honor Roll Districts defy the expectation that expanding access automatically results in a decline in the percentage of exams earning scores of 3 or better. Congratulations to the high school staff and students for this achievement!"*

We are very proud of our AP teaching staff. They are: Mrs. Lydia Cobb, Mr. Doug Callaway, Mr. Randall Hagar, Mr. Jim Hassett, and Mr. Keith Kadwell. The board of education will be recognizing their achievement at an upcoming board meeting. Lakewood High School currently offers AP courses in biology, world history, language and composition, English and composition, calculus, and chemistry.

FISCAL STEWARDSHIP

Our 2016-2017 year-end audit, which was just completed, yielded a **clean report** (no adverse findings). The Board will be approving a budget revision in December, 2017 which will reflect balances of approximately \$16,964,000 in revenues and \$16,925,000 in expenses. This is the **second year in a row** that the district has achieved a **balanced budget**. The Lakewood Board remains committed to a conservative budget philosophy and a balanced budget.



LAKEWOOD PUBLIC SCHOOLS
223 West Broadway
Woodland, Michigan 48897
616.374.8043
www.lakewoodps.org

SUPERINTENDENT
Randall Fleenor

BOARD OF EDUCATION

Frank Pytlowany, President
Jeff Gibbs, Secretary
Steve St. Laurent, Trustee
Jamie Krenz-Brodbeck, Vice President

Lynn MacKenzie, Trustee
Melissa Schuiling, Treasurer
Gary Foltz, Trustee

As a reminder, fund balance is a snapshot of equity—or assets over liabilities—at a particular time. Fund equity is not all cash – in fact, the majority of fund equity is equipment, supplies, real-estate, buses, etc. Fund equity is an indicator of fiscal health; experts from the Michigan Schools Business Office (MSBO) recommend schools maintain fund equity between 15% and 20%. As of December, 2017, our **fund equity will be approximately 14.75% up from approximately 2% in July, 2015**. The current budget revision can be viewed next Tuesday [at this link](#).

OPERATIONS

Over the course of the last few months, we have moved to **locked campuses** in our buildings (high school due this winter), completing adding **HD cameras to our entire bus fleet**, and completed a detailed review and needs assessment of our **security camera** network within the entire district. Safety and security remains a top priority with the BOE and is clearly important to our parents (thank you for the feedback related to safety on our last survey). We will continue to invest in the safety structures in our district for the protection of our students, faculty and staff. Achievement

Over the last 3 years, the Board of Education authorized the **purchase of buses** to improve our fleet. We have also consistently maintained equipment and tools need to appropriately service our fleet. Additionally, we **invested in a second certified-mechanic** in order to increase efficiency in servicing our fleet.

This year's operational goals included plans to **upgrade our outdated surveillance system** and add cameras at all buildings, completing the locked campus initiate by finishing at the high school project. Additionally, we are investing in a **GPS system for our transportation fleet**, which will allow for a variety of wonderful tools for the district and parents regarding the transportation of our students and fleet maintenance. Most notable will be the ability **for parents to securely track the location of their child's bus** and receive up-to-date information regarding their ETA and route. This software will also allow for real-time boarding and deboarding information of individual students. The upgrade allows for dispatch to **monitor engine diagnostics remotely**, as well as look closely at fuel, route, and other parameters to ensure the most efficient use of our fleet. You can view the details of this initiative at our website by [clicking on this link](#). This purchase is, in part, a response to parental feedback and aligns directly with district strategic plan safety targets. The system will be installed and tested during the 2017-2018 school year and deployed at the start of the 2018-2019 school year.

We are in the process of conducting a thorough review of our parking lots, entry, and exit lanes at all our campuses. These expenses will be some of the largest investments the BOE will make in infrastructure over the next 5 years out of our general fund. The top priority for this year is **reconfiguring Lakewood Elementary parking lots** to increase safety and improve the parking lots and traffic flow at this school. We are working to have this job completed by the start of the 18-19 school year. This will be a very necessary step forward in our safety initiative.

BOARD RELATIONS AND GOVERNANCE

Your Board of Education has been very busy the last 12 months. In this time, the BOE has crafted a newly updated **3-5 Year Strategic Plan** outlining a clear path to 2021 and beyond. The plan focuses on **6 key areas of growth**: 1) academic growth, 2) fiscal stewardship, 3) facilities and operations, 4) personnel, 5) communications, and 6) Board governance. The district strategic plan can be seen in its entirety [at this link](#). While I would consider this a very aggressive plan, I do believe it is absolutely attainable with everyone working together. I would encourage you to spend some time reviewing the District's Strategic Plan.

The BOE has also increased its frequency of **professional development** by attending more conferences together, as well as training with area district Boards on superintendent evaluation. This month, in fact, members participated is at the annual MASB conference receiving 3 days of training.

At our annual board retreat in January, we will be reviewing our strategic plan and focusing our discussions on how to improve our academic opportunities for our students.

Wishing you a restful Christmas Season and all the best as we head into a new year,

Very Truly Yours,



Randall J. Fleenor
Superintendent