

The turn of the year has been fast and furious, and it is hard to believe that February is already drawing to a close. Progress headlines what has transpired the last few months of this year. That progress includes academics, staffing, and construction. All of that progress equates into excitement.

I would like to praise both students and staff on their winter MAPS/NWEA testing results. Our students have shown steady and consistent growth in all core academic areas and have scored at a record level this past winter. The District met its goal in 28 of 29 categories, and this success can be contributed to consistency, stability, updated reading and math programs, and hard work by both staff and students. We ALL should be extremely proud of our improved student performance.

February is always a month that marks the beginning of staffing decisions. A district our size will annually have six to ten staff openings through retirement or life decisions. This year is no different, as Joyce Rodriguez, Gary Maresh, Dawnell Glunz, and Shawn McDiffett have announced their retirements. They have positively impacted thousands of lives, and we wish them well in their future endeavors. Life also happens in regards to marriage, babies, and other life changing situations that result in staff changes. Our District has become extremely marketable when it comes to hiring. It is exciting to see a number of quality applicants, including veteran teachers, that seek our open positions.

The biggest staffing change for 2020-2021 will come with our administration. Upon the announcement of Mr. McDiffett's retirement, the process of replacement began. This included several meetings with staff and the Board of Education. The biggest thing that staff desired was stability and consistency, and staff stressed their appreciation for the current direction of the District. Central City Public Schools is currently heavier with administration than like-sized districts, but the District also has the uniqueness of having a third building. The District also desired to have more meaningful, adult conversations with students to help provide additional support, guidance, and a voice. All the above has led to a structural change of our administration for our District. Mrs. Hanke will expand her role and will now be the 7-12 Principal. I will take on the additional responsibilities of being the 5/6 Intermediate Principal. Mrs. Moser will continue her duties as Elementary Principal. Mr. Anderson will take on the new responsibility of being an Assistant Principal for the 7th-12th grade. Zach Springer will be a part-time 7th-12th grade Dean of Students, and will serve as an extension to the guidance and principal offices. Students will not see a change in support, but improved interactions, resulting in \$92,733.93 in District savings.

Construction definitely tests your patience as nothing ever moves as you would like it to, but at this time, we are on schedule for an August completion. The turn of the year saw some inside work begin on some internal classrooms to attempt to get ahead of the summer slam. That work has led to a bit of noise and maybe some inconveniences, but in reality, those inconveniences have been pretty minimal and have allowed work to get ahead of schedule in an attempt to avoid any delays.

The science addition has been closed-in, and demolition of the current offices is scheduled to begin early March (3 weeks ahead of schedule). As demolition begins, the high school offices will be temporarily located across the hall in the guidance office. The Industrial Technology addition has also been closed-in. This will allow for work to take place away from the elements, and the remaining structure will be gutted as April arrives. The addition to the west is closer to being closed-in by the day. Dirt work will start on the middle school entrance in late March. At that time, the Performing Arts Center entrance will be utilized temporarily to access that building. The inconveniences of today will hopefully create the opportunity for the final product to be completed by the start of the 2020-2021 school year. That final product will be extremely exciting and beneficial to kids.

A lot has gone on and continues to go on at our school district. Some of this includes changes, but all these changes are done with a systematic approach to improve the education of our students. This is an exciting time for not only the school, but the community as well. Great things continue to happen here in Central City, as the community continues to make the choice to grow and prosper. Go Bison!!!