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TO: Board of Education
FROM: Dr. Patrick McGill, Superintendent
DATE: June 8, 2026
RE: Superintendent Report

BACKGROUND

I provide the Board of Education with a brief report at each regular Board of Education meeting.

SUMMARY

Strategic Planning Update

We hosted our initial Strategic Plan Leader training on May 26th. Dr. Fitzgerald and Mrs. Smith did a fantastic job leading the training and answering questions. I also brought one of my favorite educational leadership books for each of them called, "Learning to Improve: How America's Schools Can Get Better at Getting Better." The admin liaisons for each of the 4 core committees will set up meetings with the leaders over the summer to plan for the first committee meeting during the opening institute.

SASED Board of Directors Update

After our recent Board of Directors meeting, SASED issued a summary document that describes the reasons behind this change and where they are currently at. [Here is a link to that summary document for your review.](#) In June, the Board of Directors will vote on the new Joint Articles of Agreement and By-Laws. After that, it will go to each school district's BOE for approval as well. The updates were necessary due to new Illinois law, but there is an additional element added that will allow for some districts to withdraw membership from SASED if they do not want to be a part of this facility work. I do not recommend that we consider withdrawing, since the proposed facility planning is cost-neutral and we will have partial ownership of the new property as an asset. We will discuss more about this at our August BOE meeting.

Benjamin and Evergreen Spring Band and Choir Concert

I got a chance to attend the annual Spring Band and Choir concert and it was fantastic! There were a large variety of songs, great collaboration between Benjamin and Evergreen, solo opportunities, and some of the alumni even came back to perform with the group. The new sound system sounded great as well!

8th Grade Debates

It was great to attend three 8th grade debates. The topics I saw were "Homework should be banned," "Museums should be free to everyone," and "Tiktok and YouTube are bad influences." The debates were really phenomenal and a great example of a high-level performance task that we want our students to experience. Thank you to Mrs. Davis and Mrs. Claude!

MiniMemoir Presentation and Defense

I had the chance to attend Megan Peterson's 7th grade multigenre paper presentations. I was really impressed with our student papers and their explanation of their writing journey this year!

4th Grade Springfield Trip

Our fourth grade students traveled to Springfield, Illinois in May for a full day of learning and exploration. While there, they took a visit to the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Museum, a stop at the Illinois State Museum, and a visit to Lincoln's Tomb at Oak Ridge Cemetery. It was a rewarding day as students deepened their understanding of our state's rich history and the legacy of Abraham Lincoln. An experience like this requires a lot of planning and coordination. I would like to extend my sincere appreciation to Mrs. Keoborakot and our entire fourth grade team for their leadership in making this opportunity possible.

Evergreen Field Day

Evergreen's Field Day was held on Friday, May 29, and it was a tremendous success! A special thank you goes to Mr. Tylk for his outstanding organization, planning, and leadership in creating such a fun and engaging day for our students. Throughout the event, students rotated through a variety of activity stations based on their interests and preferences. Each child carried a lanyard that helped them track their progress as they worked toward bronze, silver, and gold levels at the different stations. We are grateful to the many parent and caregiver volunteers who generously gave their time to run the stations, as well as to our staff members who helped support students throughout the day.

Congratulations to the Class of 2026!

Congratulations to our Class of 2026, who graduated last Tuesday on June 2nd. We are all proud of you and know you are going to do remarkable things in this world!

Mir Umar Abdul Wasay	Kalisi Francis	Evangeline Marzalek	Aarav Sahni	Ellis Wanshek
Saron Abegaz	Lucas Frigo	Isabella Mashal	Daniel Salabai	Drew Wojnowiak
Devin Ahlgard	Luca Garcia	Summer McCombs	Joseph Santelli	Ismail Zahr
Yousif Albadry	Mia Gottberg	Aubrey Merkel	Kacper Shepard	Natalie Ziajor
Camden Amodeo	Sarah Grage	Safia Mirza	Raegan Shimek	
Xavier Ayala	Lidia Grimaldo	Joshua Moore	Dylan Silanskis	
Benjamin Ballard	Sophie Hart	Kyan Mosher	Giovanni Sisson	
Jacob Barnes	Vivian Higgins	Jacob Murphy	John Stary	
Eloise Blomquist	Aubrie Holben	Hashim Nasib	Gianna Szajda	
Ava Brown	Liliana Jankowska	Callie Nitz	Jakob Thang	
Janiah Burnett	Rogan Koeune	Paxton Ohlinger	Julianna Tripp	
Ally Dombroski	Warner Lee	Tredway Payton	Vincnet Troia	
Pillip Dzwiniel	Ella Loftus	Isaak Perez	Daniel Valenzuela	
Arianna Fosness	Sofia Manzanares	Simrin Rawalji	Aim'ee Vock	
	Paisley Martin	Sakina Razvi	Aaron Wanshek	

Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) Request(s)

We received a FOIA request from Mike Powers, Director of Organizing for SMART Local 265 requesting records related to construction, renovation, maintenance, and service work planned, in progress, or completed during the current calendar year for any building owned, operated, or leased by Benjamin. The District responded to the request within the required timeframe.

RECOMMENDATION(S)

None at this time.