Superintendent’s Reflections

November 7 can be the beginning of a new era in the education of our precious Center Line students. I grieve for our kids every time I drive by a school where renovations and/or new builds are happening. Our kids are awesome! They are creative, intelligent, and full of hope for their future, and they deserve updated learning environments where the lighting is soft, the sounds of the heating and cooling system nonexistent, and where they have the ability to use technology anywhere in the district.

Our staff is great. The Board of Education, Craig Anderson (our Maintenance Executive), and I were walking through the buildings over the past few evenings, and we saw teachers operating in groups, working on their classrooms, and doing their best to create the best environment with the space they have. I am so proud of them! School ends around 4pm, but they were working well past 5pm or 6pm.

Our staff cares about the success of our students. We constantly work to find the best ways to reach all of our kids. We follow their progress and work to encourage them to participate in their own learning.

Our parents and community has an opportunity to grant our students a bright and healthy educational future. On November 7th, the polls will be open from 7am until 6pm, and we need you there!

PLEASE take time to exercise your right to vote. Our students are counting on you!

Mill language is confusing, and seeing the ballot wording that says not only 4.90 mills but also that the total needed to retire the bond series is 8.10 mills annually is scary. Don’t be scared! The mills number might change, but the amount of money needed to pay off the debt each year is a fixed amount and does not change the overall tax bill each year. It’s the taxable value that goes up and down, and so the mills number adjusts accordingly.

Check out this video Mr. Roman made to help explain the relationship:

If you still have questions, contact our Chief Financial Officer, Charlie Roddis, at 586-510-2027 or email him at roddisc@clps.org.
I know everyone is aware of the upcoming bond election on November 7th and how critical it will be to get every employee, parent, and student eligible to vote. It is important that each and every one of us pushes this mantra. I would like to tell you what will happen if the bond does not pass.

In the next 3 years, we have over $24 million in critical repairs needed and almost another $38 million required over the next 10 years. In our current financial situation where we have a fund balance under $1.7 million, it would take drastic cuts to meet the demands of our deteriorating buildings.

I think everyone knows the impact of huge cuts to employee pay (15-20%) and what this would do to the quality of our education. In the districts that took large pay cuts such as East Detroit and Detroit Public Schools, the teachers and support staff left en masse, leaving the academics to suffer. Once the academics suffer and parents take their kids elsewhere, the district would fail to continue.

I worked in a district where many employees and students came from Inkster when that district closed, and I saw first-hand the impact of what happens when a city loses its school district and part of its identity. Inkster was divided into four other districts. If Center Line Schools was folded into other districts, those districts (likely Van Dyke, Fitzgerald, and Warren Con) would not be interested in taking on our buildings since they are in poor shape. Our schools would likely be closed and boarded up.

The amount of money the bond would cost per week (for the average homeowner, less than $4 per week) is what a parent would spend to drive their kids to another district if this one closed.

We have so many great things going on in this district and so many unique opportunities that our neighboring school districts do not have! As part of the executive team, I get inside knowledge on new programs/initiatives, and I am excited for innovations this district is planning over the next few years.

This district is also very important to me because both my parents retired as teachers from CLPS. I have so many fond memories of going to Au Sable with the high school science club as a kid or Gatlinburg with my parents and other teachers over spring break. My 14 years of coaching swimming, working with our middle school and high school kids, has given me the privilege of helping to them to grow and then watching them succeed in life. The ability to help fix the district financially, to always put kids first, and to preserve this incredible district is why I am here.

Don’t just listen and agree; it will take more than that. Get engaged! Put your enthusiasm into this election, and get your friends and neighbors passionate about Center Line Schools!
In the District

CBL Training
Nationally recognized, competency-based learning expert Rose Colby worked with administration and teachers to enhance our understanding of how we can get students to incorporate the success skills of communication, collaboration, creativity, and self-directedness into real-world, project-based learning experiences to prepare them for life beyond school.

Walk the Path to Our Future
Did you know that CLPS has a walking path around the main high school/middle school/admin building campus? We do! It is about a mile around the perimeter of the buildings and is marked with paint/chalk. There are signs about the proposed improvements at each building along the way. We invite you to get healthy - walk a mile with us every day, and envision the possibilities for our school district.

Staff Tennis Tourney
Tennis, anyone? A few of our multi-talented staff members got together this week for a mini tennis tournament. It was a gorgeous day, and after some round robin, the big matchup was between Principal Szabo and CFO Roddis. Principal Szabo emerged as top dog of the afternoon!

CLAS Happenings

Parents of Seniors:
Plans for our Senior All Night Party are underway, and we need your help!

The next meeting is scheduled for Monday, October 9th at 6:30pm in the media center at the high school.
Sports Shorts!

Panther football had a tough loss in the final minute to Lakeview 32-26 last Friday night.

Gabe Ohngren ran in the Marysville Jamboree for Center Line Cross Country.

We ♥ CLPS day on Fridays at the high school.
Connecting with the Community

This morning CLHS Outreach hosted Breakfast Bingo, open to the community!

Did You Drive One?

Yesterday CLHS hosted Ford’s Drive One for UR School. Ford donated $20 to the high school for every licensed, insured adult driver who test drove a vehicle. We got a few snapshots of three of our ECC teachers (Taylor Tomei, Frances Clynick, and Amelia Keel) who tooled around a bit as well as AD Rich Varney and JROTC students Cole Mockbee and Gaige Schienle who helped out!

What’s Up at Wolfe

Warriors starting us off on the right note with student-led morning announcements.

Roose Roundup

Roose kids and staff playing “watch your back tag” during recess.
Peck’s 1st and 5th grade buddies display habit #6 and synergize!

ECC Notes

The ECC has all its preschool programs up and running. Our Tuition Based Preschool (TBPS) with Ms. Shannon and Ms. Faiza has been reviewing classroom behavior and the various components of the classroom. Genevieve was the “Wish You Well Helper.” Kamdyn demonstrated how we use the Safe Spot to manage Big Emotions!

Our Great Start Readiness Program (GSRP) began the week with a meet-and-greet. Ms. Cilia and Ms. Tina welcomed parents and students with a smile. Children were able to explore their classrooms and parents were given information about this wonderful state-funded program.

Classes officially began Tuesday. Students in Ms. Clynick and Ms. Tomei’s class checked out their library with Olaf in their reading nook, tried out the multicultural clothing, and cooked up a tasty meal in the kitchen!

Openings are still available in both the TBPS and GSRP programs. Please call (586) 510-2800 for more information.

Watch the video clip of Peck’s Leaders of the Week on our Facebook page!
Center Line Public Schools is the authorizer for Rising Stars Academy, an incredible farm-to-plate culinary arts school for students ages 18-26 with special needs, located 23855 Lawrence (the old Miller Elementary building).

Co-founders Mark and Debbie Prentiss have done amazing things with this gem of a program, and it is our privilege to share some of their successes and opportunities with you. Just this week RSA was named Best Nonprofit by Edible Wow magazine.

Additionally, there are two upcoming opportunities to support Rising Stars - see the flyers below!
The *Week in Review* is published every Friday during the school year. Submissions are welcome and encouraged; email your pictures and news to Sue Pauling at paulings@clps.org by Thursday noon to guarantee inclusion in that week's edition.