



Dear Dansville Families and Community Members,

Since joining our Mustang Family a few short months ago, together, we've accomplished a lot in an effort to keep Dansville moving ahead. As we approach Thanksgiving, a season that focuses on gratitude, I feel truly grateful to have been entrusted with the leadership of our amazing school district. We have the talent and necessary skills to lead Dansville on a continuous path of growth at all levels throughout our district: administrators, faculty, staff, families, and students in every building and every department. I have witnessed this reflected in classrooms, meetings, school, and community events. As a district, we are grateful to be a part of a greater community that believes in us, celebrates in our successes, and comes together for those in need.

Throughout this fall, we have been engaged in comprehensive strategic planning to move "Dansville Forward." This started with a community-wide Thought Exchange, resulting in feedback from over 800 participants. Results were reviewed by close to 40 stakeholders representing teachers, staff, parents, students, district leaders, and community members. Priorities that have emerged surround three main areas: 1) Engaging and Enriching Student Experiences, 2) Collaborative and Supportive Staff Experiences, and 3) District Operations and Budgeting. We're currently in the final stages of comprehensive planning that will culminate in a renewed vision, mission, priorities, and goals for our district to take us into the future. Our community can look forward to a finalized plan in the coming weeks that will serve to anchor our work in all areas.

We have also started the work of budget planning for the 2025-2026 school year and have committed to doing so with transparency and frequent communication. Our Board of Education recently approved a budget planning calendar with the addition of a series of Board Budget Workshops that the public is welcome to join and view in person. We've started the early stages of examining anticipated expenditures and sources of revenue and have been sharing details regarding this process with our faculty and staff already. Please consider joining us at our public budget workshops and Board meetings as we move ahead this year.

Finally, I feel that it's important to always remember our purpose – and that's to do what is best for our children. I continue to visit our classrooms and school events where I am continually inspired by our collective creativity, drive, focus on student performance, and engagement. Our staff continues to put our students first and their love of learning is evident here.

Thank you for your continued support of our schools. I hope you all enjoy the coming holiday season, in every way that you choose to celebrate with friends and family.

Sincerely,
Kelly M. Zimmerman,
Superintendent of Schools