

SUPERINTENDENT'S UPDATE

FEBRUARY 2, 2024



Dear CPU Parents, Staff, and Community Members:

The weather has certainly done a number on us since we returned from Winter Break; not only did we just complete our first full week of school since 2023, we held classes on a Tuesday for the first time in 6 weeks! This edition of my newsletter has a focus of "Planning and Progress" so I'll just get right to it!

School Safety (District Goal 2: Safe & Caring Environment)

- In lieu of recent events in Iowa including the tragedy in Perry and the "swatting" incidents across the the state (that also affected CPU), in the never-ending endeavor to stay proactive, the district is working with **Linn County Sheriff's Office** for their **Emergency Response Plan**
- To keep parents informed of our efforts to ensure a safe and caring environment, **Linn County law enforcement agents** will soon be visiting the high, middle, and primary schools **to simply review and update** their Emergency Response Plans with our schools
- For the Intermediate school, last summer I also met with Urbana Chief of Police, Chief Baker; the district has also had similar ongoing conversations with him along with reaching out to Benton County Emergency Management

24-25 Academic Calendar (District Goal 1: Student Achievement)

- The 24-25 Calendar Survey had **482** total results (+128 from last year); thank you all who took the time to take the survey
 - **70%** were parents, **18%** were teachers, the rest were support staff, students, community, business, and administrators
 - The **ratings** were 1 = Dissatisfied and 4 = Highly Satisfied
 - **90%** gave a rating of "3" or "4" for being satisfied with current calendar
 - **56%** preferred **Wed. Late Start PD** while **44%** chose an **Early Out option**
 - **61%** prefer **12 days for Winter Break** while **39%** selected **13 total days**
- The district's Calendar Committee met last night to review and discuss the survey results; the next step is to create a draft with the goal of presenting it to the School Board on 2/19/24

Primary Playground Progress (District Goal 4: Finances & Facilities)

- Since last fall, the district, in collaboration with the PTO, has made great progress with the potential to get the Primary school a new playground.
- **Big shout out** to the **PTO** and especially **Heidi Goettsch** and **Jennifer Dunn** for leading the charge to help fundraise for this endeavor
- In **October**, the **CPU School Board approved** the recommendation to **engage with an engineer** and to have a **survey** done for the project.
- At the **January School Board meeting**, the **School Board approved** the recommendation to **seek bids for this project**
- Bids will be received on March 7th, 2024

Master Facilities Plan (District Goal 4: Finances & Facilities)

- On January 11, 2024, there was a **School Board Work Session** with INVISION Architecture to review, discuss, and plan for **CPU's Master Facilities Plan**; the bulk of this plan originally occurred during the 2021-22 school year
- The first (of two) **Community Task Force** meetings, consisting of stakeholders that were previously on the committee, just occurred this past week; the next meeting is planned in early March
- **In April** the plan is to engage with the **entire community** to gain insight, feedback, etc. on the **future of CPU's facilities**

While these are just some, not all, of the important areas the district is making strides on, I cannot be any more sincere when I say thank you for all of your support for our students, staff, and schools.

Regards,

John W. Elkin, Superintendent

#CPUNation