COOPERSVILLE AREA PUBLIC SCHOOLS

STATE OF OUR STUDENTS AND SCHOOLS

2020

A Word from **Ron Veldman** Superintendent

Dear Friends:

Please take a few minutes to read our 2020 State of our Students and Schools Report highlighting a few areas of our District. We are blessed with an excellent staff and loyal community. We so appreciate the many ways in which they and volunteers work to support our students.

For this report in year 2020, we are looking back at the past decade as well as looking forward to our future! As our Strategic Plan is designed to help support continuous improvement in our school system, our hope is to continue to provide higher levels of success and opportunities for our students. We ask for your continued partnership as we seek the support of our politicians, community, staff, parents, and our students to work collaboratively to enhance our effort in preparing CAPS' students for their future!

Thank you for your continued encouragement to help make Coopersville Area Public Schools an excellent school system. Please feel free to stop in or call if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Ron Veldman

Superintendent

2020 - Moving Forward Into A New Decade

With its crisp, black lines against a stark white backdrop, the giant letter "E" at the top of the eye chart is a visible symbol of our ability to see what is directly in front of us. Scroll down a few lines, however, and the rows of letters may start to blur, like a fading memory. By looking through a certain lens, however, the fuzzy shapes can be brought back into perfect focus. This offers a new perspective on what is before us, just as the passage of time can help bring order and understanding to earlier actions and events. The ancient Chinese philosopher Confucius urged, "Study the past, if you would define the future". As the Coopersville Area Public School District prepares to embark on a new decade, the year 2020 offers an ideal opportunity to look back at the last ten years to remember the challenges faced and all that was accomplished.

People associated with Coopersville Schools have always been its strength. While faces have changed over the years, the staff and teachers at CAPS have continued to demonstrate their passion, skill, and desire to build strong relationships. Engaging our students in this way has been instrumental in opening their eyes to future career possibilities and pursuits. Additionally, we have revised and implemented new curriculum in all four core content areas, coupled with increased STEM activities, clubs, gifted/talented options, and an expanded array of academic/elective offerings. These changes reflect the District's focus on students and the value the community places on education. Our student academic achievement varies, but in several areas over the last few years, it has reached the highest levels of performance in our history. The success of our students has proven that they have benefited from personal relationships, meaningful educational opportunities, and dedicated staff who serve this community.

The previous decade began with the opening of our Middle School and the completion of several elementary projects, capping an extraordinary period of campus-wide construction and renovation. With no new bonds since 2006, or a sinking fund to pay for additional capital projects, the District has worked to maintain the campus facilities, while also looking for effective ways to fund necessary upgrades and repairs. Using a combination of District funds, user fees, volunteer labor, and community donations, we were able to breathe new life into the vacant Community Services Building.

The District also addressed a variety of other areas of replacement and upgrades. Finally, with refinancing, refunding and other investment strategies, officials managed to save Coopersville taxpayers more than $28 million and cut four years off the District's bond repayment schedule. Responsible fiscal stewardship and a comprehensive facilities maintenance plan helped effectively manage costly priorities despite challenging economic times.

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2020 - Moving Forward Into A New Decade (Continued from Page 1)

During the past decade, the network of support for CAPS students expanded throughout our buildings and beyond the borders of our campus. The District worked diligently to do a better job of matching those who had a desire to help with areas needing support, and as a result, our volunteer ranks swelled in classrooms and at school events and activities. A number of key partnerships enabled Coopersville to more effectively meet students' diverse social and emotional needs through endeavors like our successful NEOForum Program. The more recent Ottawa Community Schools Network works to ensure that students' physical and other needs are also being met. Thanks to the support of dedicated volunteers and the generous contributions of churches and community groups, countless student

needs are met. Various academic partnerships have also begun to play a more significant role in connecting students with potential careers. CAPS embraced these and other business, church, and volunteer partnerships because they offered ways to make a significant impact on our students.

As the District moves forward with our ongoing emphasis on continuous improvement, we will work to ensure all students have an opportunity to succeed. Just as we have done in the past, we will rely on our updated Strategic Plan to guide our efforts and direct our resources. Finally, in all of our endeavors, we will focus on encouraging a growth mindset, in which students and staff constantly seek ways to improve, at school and in life. As President Franklin D. Roosevelt once observed, "We cannot always build the future for our youth, but we can build our youth for the future." It doesn't take perfect 20/20 vision to see that CAPS students have benefited from the opportunities the District has offered in the past, or to recognize that new and inspiring possibilities are just beyond our view.

LOOKING BACK . . .

CAPS Strategic Plans 2010-2020 Drive Focused Decisions and Continuous Improvement

Focus areas **determined by stakeholders** toward the best ways to **benefit our students**

School Safety

- Ongoing education, collaboration, and training through the Ottawa County Safe Schools Network
- Follow best practices concerning building access and procedures
- Updated Emergency Operations Plan and policies
- A.E.D.'s in every school building with dedicated teams trained in C.P.R.

Staff Training

- Relationship focus through Capturing Kids' Hearts
- Fostering Growth Mindset
- Social emotional learning and brain research
- School-wide literacy (H.I.L. grant at 3-5)
- Host site for regional literacy conference
- Professional Learning Communities (P.L.C.) provides structure for learning and continuous improvement
- Variety of technology training

Academics

- Implemented new curriculum in all four core content areas including purchase, implementation, and training
- Purchased curricular materials in enrichment/elective areas
- Ongoing professional development to provide additional instructional strategies in K-5 math/literacy
- Increasing S.T.E.M. and robotics opportunities
- Enhanced interventions and extension/gifted opportunities
- Expanded K-12 academic offerings
- Atlas software to house grade level, course level, and curriculum maps
- Increased preschool participation and inclusion
- Community Based Instruction (CBI) for students with special needs
- Kids Read Now Program providing books to all K-3 students for summer reading
- Private and PTO donations provided expanded 4-5 summer reading program
- Graduation Portfolio: Seeking knowledge, setting goals, serving others

Technology

- K-4 classroom devices to support learning
- Utilized Trig grant to support 1 to 1 devices grades 5-12
- Implemented and maintained classroom teaching technology
- New Phone system and wireless infrastructure throughout campus utilizing E-Rate funding
- Expanding technology tools to support student learning

Processes/Procedures

- Complete rewrite/revision of Board Policy Manual as well as Administrative Procedures and Employee Handbook
- Electronic application and document implementation for HR system

Service Projects

Teachers, athletic teams, student groups, staff, and buildings engage in creating compassionate citizens who contribute to the global community by: Food and Penny Drives for Coopersville Cares, Toys for Tots, visits to Fountain View, Dodgeball for Heart, Holiday Giving to Families, Blankets for Helen DeVos, Gifts for families in need, and Chemo bags for Lacks Cancer Center. Thousands of hours of service projects by individuals and groups are completed to support area needs.

Facilities/Capital Projects

- The most recent construction bond was approved in 2006.
- The District does not have a sinking fund to pay for capital repairs/replacements.
- The District has worked to maintain the facility investments by taxpayers as well as make enhancements where possible.
  - The District has repaired/replaced asphalt/concrete, updated painting, replaced boilers and air conditioning.
  - LED exterior lighting installed with five-year payback.
  - The District used volunteer efforts to update the stadium press box and many volunteer hours to help build/replace and enhance the outdoor learning center by the school pond.

  - The District has saved for expenses to replace the District stadium turf/track, tennis courts, update technology, and maintain a safe bus fleet.
  - The District saved and utilized facility use fees to replace the Centerstage Performing Arts Center sound system, lighting controls, and curtains which failed fire resistance testing.

  - The District used a combination of District funds, volunteer labor, and community financial donations to pay for updates and use the community services (1936) building which had been vacant. The use of this facility has provided valuable programming for the District and community while moving the facility to cost neutral rather than an expense to the District each year.
    - Current uses include eight Muskegon Community College Classes each semester which provide our students opportunities to earn college credit while in high school.
    - Numerous non-profit use including the OK Seniors Program, Coopersville Cares, a local church, Chamber of Commerce, and the Coopersville Area Community Foundation.

Partnership Connections

The District continues to be blessed with exceptional partners as the community supports our students in many ongoing efforts, a few of which include:

- Pack It Up Program – Volunteers donate and pack meals for over 140 students each weekday night.
- Hand 2 Hand – Volunteers donate and pack weekend meals for students.
- Kids Hope USA – Ongoing partnership connecting a mentor with a student for weekly meetings as well as connections with the student and family.
- Parent Teacher Organization – Regularly make many donations to support our students and staff.
- Connecting with the local clergy and church leaders in our community.

- Booster and parent support groups in a number of areas including athletics, fine arts, etc.
- Numerous business/industry partners from our community and throughout West Michigan which enhance our educational partnerships benefiting our students.
- Manufacturing Engineering Partnership Program MEPP places accepted students into a business to learn workplace skills with the potential to receive college tuition assistance from the business partner.
- Parent workshops on a variety of topics.
- Ottawa Community Schools Network providing additional support to our K-5 students and families.

Other Special Programs and Supports

Early Childhood – Provide a variety of preschool offerings including daycare.

be nice. – Program to help support mental health awareness throughout the District and community.

Peer-to-Peer – Program pairing preschool – 12th grade general education students with special education students as part of an inclusive atmosphere throughout the District.

Victory Day – Provides special needs students the opportunity for enjoyable experiences with our students.

NeoForum – Program combining a social worker with a police officer to provide proactive education and interventions for our students. Funding through a variety of sources including the Coopersville Rotary Car Show.

Wall of Honor – Recognizing the members of our military who graduated from Coopersville High School.

Fine Arts Programs – Shows, concerts, and experiences which showcase our students.

Extra-Curricular and Co-Curricular Programs – Opportunities which provide learning experiences in a variety of areas beyond the classroom.

Students Against Destructive Decisions SADD – Student led substance abuse education.

CAPS Academy – Program for supporting at-risk students in earning their diploma.

Clubs – Various middle school club activities including cursive, art, sewing, robotics, gardening, and FFA.

CHS GRADUATION RATES

CHS **4-year graduation rate** has averaged **over 96% over the last 10 years**, one of the **highest in West Michigan.**

Variety of Programming for Connecting with Careers

- Junior Achievement
- Ottawa Area Tech Center
- Variety of A.P. Courses
- Early College Program
- Dual Enrollment
- Articulation agreements with various post-secondary programs
- M.E.P.P. Manufacturing Engineering Partnership Program
- Community Based Instruction
- Internship experiences
- Specialty programs

CAPS - By The Numbers

	2010	VS	2020
Students (Full Time Equivalent)	**2,600** STUDENTS		**2,665** STUDENTS
Certified Teachers	**137** TEACHERS		**147** TEACHERS
Para Professionals	**36** PARA PROFESSIONALS		**54** PARA PROFESSIONALS
State Funding Foundation Allowance	**$7,316**	**1.1%** AVE INCREASE PER YEAR	**$8,111**
District Fund Balance (Savings)	**22.48%** JUNE 2009 AUDIT		**16.99%** JUNE 2019 AUDIT

Construction Bonds

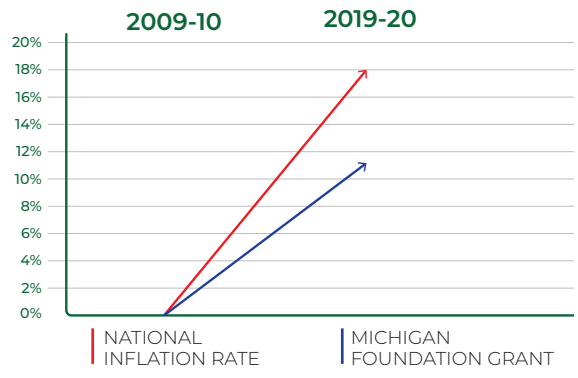
Construction Bond Debt – 8.99 mills

In 2015 and 2019, the CAPS School Board refunded the bond debt which along with the investment strategies are projected to save our taxpayers over $28 million in interest costs and moves the expected payoff date for the District from 2040 to 2036.

Recent CAPS Construction Bonds

Year	Amount
1999	$37,540,000
2004	$3,575,000
2006	$29,960,000

10-Year Revenue vs Inflation



Graph shows that the **national inflation rate far exceeded** the increase received from Michigan's foundation allowance.

COOPERSVILLE
Area Public Schools

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A Message from Lynn VanSickle

Board of Education President

For several decades, our Strategic Plan has helped focus our efforts at CAPS. As we enter a new decade, we reflect back on the past. Learning from our experiences, we appreciate what has been the ongoing efforts of our staff, community partners, and everyone who has supported our students.

As we eagerly anticipate the future and where we are headed, we continue our focus on the District mission We work to inspire all students to embrace a life-long love of learning, to achieve their goals, and to be compassionate citizens who contribute to the global community. We look forward to the collective efforts of all to help support our students and their future.

Continuing the Tradition Forward

"I like the dreams of the future better than the history of the past."
—Thomas Jefferson

Our school system has made excellent progress in the past, but the future appears even brighter! As we look to the future, the opportunities are many and building the foundation of learning for our students is our primary work. Our mission is focused on inspiring our students to embrace a life-long love of learning, to achieve their goals, and to be compassionate citizens who contribute to a global community.

As we plan for the future, it is necessary to look at options for providing resources for the maintenance of our facilities and other capital needs. We were thankful to have had a significant amount of support between 1999 and 2006 when taxpayers approved several construction bond issues. Since then, we have been working to maintain our facilities at a high level while continuing to pay down our construction bonds. Considering the costs of replacement and other needs in the future, including space needs, we will look at strategies to obtain additional funds for maintenance and expansion of facilities which will allow us to continue the excellent education our community has come to expect.

There will be ongoing opportunities ahead which will require attention and focus. Fortunately, the District is positioned to provide an excellent future of continued success and, by staying focused on our mission, we will continue to thrive. With a strong staff and supportive community who believe in the success of our students, the best days for our School District are yet to come! Our goal is to continue to prepare young adults who will make positive contributions to the global community!