

District approved for accreditation

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By Thomas Franz 



(Photo by Thomas Franz)

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CLINTON TOWNSHIP — Chippewa Valley Schools announced during the week of July 27 that it has been approved for systemwide accreditation by AdvancED, a global accreditation service.

AdvancED visited the district in late February and conducted more than 400 interviews and visited more than 100 classrooms to gain a complete picture of the school system.

Chippewa Valley previously went through an accreditation process for each building individually, but desired systemwide approval for this cycle, which takes place every five years.

“It’s very important because it gives us an indication from someone outside our school district of what we do well and what we can improve upon,” Superintendent Ron Roberts said.

AdvancEd’s exit report from its visit shows that one of the district’s “powerful practices” is a commitment to a culture connecting students, families, staff and community systemwide.

“To me, that was the most important one. That’s what I was most interested in, in how they viewed our culture,” Roberts said. “To me, that came through loud and clear, that what they saw in our district was a strong culture that really was student-focused. They found that whether they were in a small elementary school in the south end of our district, or whether they were at Dakota.”

Other positive notes for the district were the school system and its leadership’s ability to communicate effectively with all groups throughout the district, a commitment to a quality education for all students, and the expansion of a powerful curriculum process to impact the classroom instruction in all grades and subject areas.

The accreditation service also listed three areas in which the district must improve upon in two years.

The top area is to implement an evaluation system for teachers and administrators to utilize a research-based tool to promote a culture of professional learning and distinguish high-quality educational practices.

Roberts said the district has already begun work in that area due to a state mandate regarding staff evaluation.

“By law, by next year, we need to have a teacher evaluation system in place that’s state approved,” Roberts said. “When AdvancED was here, we were really in the transition to doing that. We’ve been having training for administrators this summer on teacher evaluation, so we’re well on our way to improving that.”

AdvancED would also like to see the district develop and implement a sensitivity and diversity plan that will ensure respect and understanding among students, staff, families and the community.

The last improvement priority will be to structure the distribution of financial supports to allocate consolidated resources to create equitable opportunities for all students.

Roberts said the areas of improvement did not come as a surprise to him or the Board of Education.

“They told us the things that we had been working on to improve anyways,” Roberts said. “To me, that’s just as important, because it kind of validates our thinking. If someone came in and said to us all of the things we can do better and we didn’t know that, that would worry me, but that isn’t what happened.”



ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Staff Writer Thomas Franz covers Macomb Township, Chippewa Valley Schools and the Macomb County Board of Commissioners for the Macomb Township Chronicle. He also covers sports primarily for the Shelby-Utica News. He has worked for C & G Newspapers since 2013 and attended Michigan State University.
