



Discussed at the Jan. 27 Chippewa Valley Schools Board of Education meeting was how the districtwide staff professional development day went on Jan. 20 at Dakota High School, called “Datapalooza.”
Photo by Alex Szwarc

Report provided on CVS professional development day

By: [Alex Szwarc](#) | C&G Newspapers | Published February 5, 2020

CLINTON TOWNSHIP/MACOMB TOWNSHIP — Plenty of positive feedback was received from a recent staff development day.

At the Jan. 27 Chippewa Valley Schools Board of Education meeting, Donald Brosky, the district’s assistant superintendent for educational services, provided the board with a curriculum update on how the district-wide staff professional development day went on Jan. 20 at Dakota High School, titled “Datapalooza.”

“The initial presentations in the auditorium set the stage for the day for all participants,” he said. “Mr. Roberts stressed the importance of the role teachers play to affect the lives of their students, both academically and personally.”

That was followed by Brosky introducing the new reorganized education services department and its vision for future learning and teaching in the district, specifically in the area of data informed decision making.

He said Walt Kozlowski, Chippewa’s executive director for innovation and learning, took staff through a journey that began last year.

“The journey includes the following department goals — to deliver and support a clear and consistent curriculum among all schools at all levels and to focus on literacy as the foundation for learning.”

Brosky said the purpose of Datapalooza was to make data informed decisions, and guide curriculum and learning for all students.

Priorities and initiatives included at the development day at the elementary level were reading and curriculum refinement; review enhancement classes for middle schools; argumentative writing across the curriculum for high schools; and utilization of data to inform instruction at all school levels.

The day included an opening session, breakout sessions and two hours of staff time.

Over 60 breakout sessions were offered for staff, with each member attending three. Breakout areas included reading, math, progress monitoring and student learning assessment.

Kozlowski said that as a district, K-12 teachers don’t frequently all get together, except for the beginning of the year.

“This was unique and provided opportunity for some good conversations across all levels,” Kozlowski said.

He added that the purpose of staff time was for principals and assistant principals to work with staff on how the district is changing the way it’s utilizing data.

Chippewa Valley Schools Superintendent Ron Roberts said the professional development day was an excellent way to explain to staff what they're doing and why they do it.

Also at the meeting, since January was School Board of Education Appreciation Month, second-graders from Cherokee Elementary sang a couple songs for the board. Gina Hunter, a Cherokee music teacher, led the students.

"The responsibilities of a school board member are immense," Roberts said. "Students count on board members to ensure they have resources to help them learn, keep buildings safe and ensure they have excellent teachers."

The board's next meeting is scheduled for Feb. 10.