

## Superintendent Report

While we continue to feel the impact of the Covid years, we strive to return to the rituals, routines, and rhythms of previous years. Our students and their families require a level of care and compassion that previously was not needed, but now our teachers, Social Emotional Coaches, staff, administrators, and district leaders work hard to listen to their needs and address their concerns. This culture of empathy and belonging is pervasive in our school communities.

Five years ago a District Strategic Plan was crafted by parents, community members, Board representatives, students, teachers, and administrators. This year we have begun the process of creating our next five year MVSU Strategic Plan. The current Design Team, that includes all of these stakeholders, reviewed the current Portrait of a Graduate and provided feedback to make the wording more accessible and inclusive of current work and policies. The Design Team has also provided school leaders with guidance on Priority Areas and Goals. By February 2024, a draft will be presented to the Board of the Priority Areas, Goals, and Strategies for the next five years with a finalized document to share in May.

Professional growth has always been a priority for the District. Educators in the Elementary, Middle and High Schools are continuing to develop the skills necessary to meet the Literacy and Math goals for proficiency. The Unified Arts Team is looking to create integrated learning experiences that link their coursework with those of content area teachers. A group of secondary teachers created rubrics and scaffolding to embed greater creativity in assessments. Principals and Directors have attended national conferences as participants and presenters.

On World Teachers Day, each teacher and staff member who has served 10, 20, or 30 years in this district received a marble or brass apple. Inscribed on the apple was a recognition of their years of work, and in the case of 20-plus year employees, the award also included their name and years of service. We have six team members who have been with us for more than 30 years. They are Jamie Gidney (BA), Jenny Hewitt (BA), Sharon Groblicki (BA), Lisa Kaija (RES), Tim Brennan (WUHS) and William Chamberlain (WUHS/MS). It was great to celebrate with the students these amazing teachers and staff members, and to finally formally recognize their contributions.