Transcription details:

Date:	15-Jan-2026
Input sound file:	4.2 Lion Pride-Cast 1-15-26.m4a

Transcription results:

00:19	Hi, everybody. Welcome to the second episode of season four of the Lansing USD 469 Lion Podcast. I'm Miles Azzeh, your Director of Teaching and Learning. And I'm Sharon Burns, the Director of Communications and Marketing.
00:29	We're here to bring you the latest news updates and highlights from across Lansing USD 469. Yep. Whether you're a student, a parent, or part of our incredible Lansing USD 469 team, we're glad you're here. Yes, we are. And we are so happy to start this episode on a positive note with our Employee Spotlight series. Unlike starting on a negative note, which is our MO. Yeah, that's us. Yeah, Mr. and Mrs. Negativity here. That's us. Each Friday, we feature a standout employee on our website, Facebook, and in our staff newsletter that goes out on Fridays. And last week's was the one and only Penny Lingenfelter.
00:59	I'm really glad that you on a script here for anytime I'm supposed to talk about it just as Penny, because that's a tough last name. And I hope I pronounced her last name right. I think I did, but Looks like it's right. I don't know. Penny is amazing. And she works at our high school as the kitchen manager and head cook. I wish her name was Penny Lingonberry because she's a cook. And she could make Lingonberry crepes and waffles and stuff. Penny has been with Lansing for nearly 17 years and has served as a kitchen manager for 11 of those years.
01:28	She's also a Lansing alum from a long line of lions, and she takes incredible pride in feeding our students. Yes. Yes. Her son actually graduated with my son, Merrick. Hey, nice. So yes. So she is Lansing through and through. Did you say her husband was also? Yes, yes. An alum as well. Yeah, that's pretty cool. I know. Lansing family. And what stood out to me in our spotlight was just how much she values that connection with students. You felt that. And she lets her kids help with the menu. And kids, I mean, her students at the high school, not her actual kids. But how cool is that?
01:58	Too cool. I'm actually pretty jealous because I would have liked to have had some input to my menu in high school because I didn't get any input. Lots of ketchup and PBJs. I don't want PBJs, but I'm cool to, you know, yes, fruit juices, Capri Suns. I love this line. Her advice to students really sums it up to me. Never let someone steal your shine. Only you can make your future. I love that. Yeah. Penny was also one of our educational support professionals of the year a couple of years ago.
02:27	Very well deserving. Absolutely. Yeah. So now we're going to shift a little bit to bond discussion, which you're going to hear us talk a lot about over the next couple of weeks. We do have a bond election on March 3rd. And this past Monday, January 12th, Superintendent Kobza gave a presentation to the board during the board meeting. So right now, we're in that information sharing phase. Our focus is transparency, you know making sure our community has clear and accurate information before they go to you know make that vote.

02:55 So as we move towards the end of the month, you're going to see a lot more posts come out. And it's just informational. We just want everybody to know exactly why we're doing it, what happens if we don't, just so that everyone can make an informed decision when they hit the polls on March 3rd. Absolutely. Making an informed decision is important. You know We teach our students that always go and do your research, go and do your homework before you know making a decision or saying something outlandish. So I believe you mentioned last month, but if you're a community member who wants to know more, Superintendent Kobza that will be speaking to various groups between now and March 3rd.

03:27 If you have a group of people you'd like to know more, whether it's an HOA, a community organization, or just a group of friends who want to meet for coffee, please call the Lansing District Office at 913-727-1100. Yes, and of course you can always email me at Sharon.burns@usd469.net. I'm going to encourage our community to go to the website too just to get all the information that they want. It's all on there. There's more information than you probably want to know about. We have all of our you know phone survey that we pushed out last year.

03:55 We have a facility study with every building and the grade level that the organization gave us for the level of our facilities in each one. I did not word that well, but I hope everybody knows what I just know how much work each building needs. Yeah I think it's got to have that information out there. And you know I kind of like Marty, I watched him do one of the presentations, and he said, you know it's not our job to tell you how to vote. You know It is our job just to explain what the bond looks like and the reasons.

04:24 But yeah, take the information that way and do what you need to do with it. Yeah. I'm going to shift it back to you with some MTSS discussion. Yes. First tell everybody what the MTS. There's so many acronyms. Yeah. No, MTSS stands for multi-tiered system of supports. It's pretty much our intervention system. So you look at tier one and that is typically the teacher, the classroom teacher teaching something. And then there's tier two that can happen with a group of small students that need extra work or a teacher can say, hey, I'm going to shift that I need to reteach something.

04:55 And then tier three are for our students that need that little bit of extra that there's those learning gaps. We have meetings three times a year. Our first one's in August. Kind of to kick off the year, the things that we're going to focus on. We have protocols that we follow, resources, effective research and techniques for strategies. Then we have a second one in January, which is the one that we had yesterday. That one's mainly focused on our winner scores. But what I really liked about yesterday is we had a lot of learning. We had a lot of learning on what good intervention looks like for when things, when it comes to fluency, allocating minutes.

05:26 I've talked a lot about something called the spacing effect, which is spaced learning over time, which is the idea of coming and circling and spiraling back to things. Sorry, I'm nerding out here, but we had a really great meeting that finished with not only looking at our data, but then applying our new learning to how are we going to attack some of our weaknesses and how are we going to keep our strengths strong because we don't want to go backwards on anything. A lot of feedback that it was a great meeting and that makes me happy.

05:54 I kind of lead and facilitate the meeting. So whenever I hear the participants found it beneficial and worthwhile, I'm really happy about that. Yeah. So how would you say this meeting is different than other district-level meetings, such as our PLCs,

professional learning communities, DLT, district leadership team? Yeah Again, lots of acronyms. Lots of meetings. How is the MTSS meeting differently? That's a good question. DLT is specific to kind of overarching systems of like, how are we handling this and what is our protocol on this? And are we improving this resource?

06:25 Things with accreditation and re-accreditation happen in there. A lot of meetings like that. And we do look at data, like overall data. MTSS is a little bit more focused on intervention and it's focused on specifically what are we doing in the classroom and then how is it spilling over to our intervention groups? And let's look at data about how we can improve. Interventionists come to that meeting. DLT typically doesn't have too many. We have a couple that come, but it's a little bit different in that way. PLCs are usually smaller in the sense of those are those teacher teams that come together and look at things.

06:54 However, our admin team, I like what Marty's done since we went to the PLC Institute, is that he's focused or he's kind of made our admin meetings almost like mini PLCs, if you will, where we come in, we bring data, whether it be an initiative that we're working on and seeing where we are and then having discussions on how to improve and how to get better for our staff like there are students. And that's been really cool. So it's a little bit different. I also am very heavy on learning on that one. So yesterday, my two instructional coaches did a great job of presenting new learning over fluency.

07:25 And then an interventionist at the middle school also shared great information on prioritizing standards and allocation of minutes. And that was Jenny Nickelson and Caroline Reynolds in my ICs, and Dee Wiley is the interventionist. He was just about to give them shout outs. Yeah, they deserve it. They deserve it. Yeah. That's excellent. Again, we're student-focused, student-centered here in Lansing, and you really feel that in those meetings. Absolutely. Yeah. So next, I think I'll take it back over. Back to you. Yeah.

07:52 One thing I'd like to highlight today is our Community Connect program, which we're excited to be bringing back this year. We did this a couple of years ago. This program allows parents, grandparents, community members to come in and spend the day in one of our schools and get a behind-the-scenes look at how the school is run. Yeah, and I love that because I remember when I was talking to a couple of them and then the principals talking about it, that the volunteers were just blown away with how much our staff does. Yeah. I think that, you know, if you even have a kid in the school, you know and you think to yourself like, oh, car pickup.

08:23 And then of course they get fed at some point. And there's this, but they don't realize how much that goes into all that till you're in there, you know, kind of watching how the kitchen works, walking around and seeing how all our support staff that helps students. So I thought that was really cool. Yeah, at the end of the day, these people are exhausted. Yeah, they are. We do pull that curtain back and let them see what it's like. You know Like you just said in the front office, taking attendance every day, making sure the kids get where they need to be at the elementary and intermediate school levels, helping with recess, getting those lunches passed out.

08:54 And then car pickup. That's always fun. We could have an old episode on its own on that. Yeah. So if you are interested in doing that and being part of it, you can go to our website. We just shared it on the website this week. There's a Google form to fill out. We're using a lottery system to choose the parents who get to go. We have a preference that you can put in of what building. I highly encourage you to pick more

than one because it's just with our schedules. It's a lot of work for our admin to make this happen, so we can't do it every single day.

09:24 So again, sign up if you're interested. And then we're excited to get people in the buildings. Yes, we are. Yeah And I think talking about getting community in the buildings and volunteers and caring so much about our students is a great way to wrap up the episode. I think you're right. Okay. So for more updates and stories on Lansing USD 469, you can visit us at www.usd469.net. And if you don't already have it, download the freelancing USD 469 mobile app on Apple and Android. That app allows you to be the first to know of all the fantastic things happening in our district.

09:55 Like snow days. It's January, so I'm alive. It is. Yeah, even though we haven't had a lot of snow. If you like our content and want to stay up to date on the latest episodes, please follow us wherever you're listening and leave a review to help others find us and learn more about our great district. And that is a wrap on episode two of season four. Woo! Thanks for listening, everybody. Thank you. Bye.