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00:18	Hi everybody and welcome to the sixth episode of season four of the Lansing USD 469 Lion broadcast. I'm Miles Azzeh, your Director of Teaching and Learning. And I'm Sharon Burns, Director of Communications and Marketing.
00:28	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 are glad you're here. Yes, we are. We're excited to pull over our employee spotlight from two weeks ago, which was Samuel Carba Hall. Good job. You got the name right. I did. I got to call and double check to make sure we print out at the elementary school. Sam is our Lansing Elementary School nurse, and this is Sam's first year with Lansing USD 469. He started in August of 2025. And I'm hoping… he may actually go by Samuel.
00:59	I apologize. Well, I guess we'll have to see if he sends us a mean email. Something tells me he's not the type of meeting. No, no. So in addition to serving as our elementary nurse, he also works part-time as a home health registered nurse. And in the school setting, he provides initial health assessments, basic medical care, administers scheduled medications, and offers age-appropriate health education whenever the opportunity arises. He really does all of that. And one thing I can tell about him is that he is always busy with something.
01:29	Like every time I walk in there, whether it be for a tour, if I'm going to go do a walkthrough, go meet with one of the ICs, whatever it may be, he seems like he always has his hands full and he's always so busy, which I guess makes sense for him. And he's always very friendly and kind. He never always stressed. Yes, that is one thing about him that I think about. He doesn't. And you know one thing I really liked about the spotlight was when he talked about describing elementary students as being incredibly authentic, that no two interactions are ever the same.
01:57	And that he also talked about sharing the values and that he values the opportunity to grow his knowledge of pediatric care, learn more about how a school district operates and how every staff member supports students. I thought that was really powerful. It is wonderful. Yes. He has been recognized by several staff members through our Board of Education recognitions. I had somebody email that you know I'm hoping to do a story about it from him stepping in and helping just even with staff members. You know We always think of nurses, school nurses being for students, but no, he's done several things for our staff that's been wonderful.
02:28	So you know as we always do, we ask for what piece of advice our employee spotlight will give, and his was simple and meaningful. He said, "To try new things and see where it takes you. Every new experience helps you grow and connect with others in ways you may not expect." Love that. I do too. Love it. Yeah. Sam, congrats. You're awesome. We're lucky to have you. Or Samuel. Samuel, congrats. We're lucky to have you. Got his last name right, carpet. So we're ready to switch? Yeah, yeah. So the next one is we're pivoting.

02:58 Sorry, I shouldn't say switching. We're pivoting to what we just finished the other day on Monday, February 16th. We had our build your own PD Day for a district, which is Build Your Own Professional Development Day. This is something that it seems like the high school was doing it, and then the last couple years, we've made it that the entire district does it on a certain day. And this gives teachers an opportunity to pick, as the title is, build your own, pick your own type of PD. It can be a variety of things. What's something you want to learn more about?

03:25 We allow districts if they like to, excuse me, teachers to go and visit other districts, see what's going on. And then Admin does a great job of circling back and asking, what are you learning? What did you learn? And share it with your colleagues and peers. And that's been one of the most powerful things. Right. I think this is one of the most meaningful PD days yeah because you get to have it tailored. So you actually led one of the sessions at the middle school. I did. I did. So can you share a little bit about that experience? Yes. So I threw out there.

03:53 So they were using, we've got that CRE grant that we have Magic School AI at the middle school. And so they were doing a PD on that one. But in the spirit of Build Your Own, Brooks Jenkins, the principal, gave the option to teachers if they wanted to do anything else. And one of the things was my session, which was about building background knowledge for students by reading something called the Article of the Week, which is a very simplistic idea, which is students learn more and students are more obviously knowledgeable when they have more background knowledge and there'll be better readers.

04:26 So why not give them a really engaging article every week that could be somewhat tied to what they're learning in class, or it could just be something that's really good information to know in the hopes that they can take that information and then parlay it when they read other things. So yeah, it was really, really good. And I had a great session with the teachers that chose to do it with me. Yeah. Now, are you going to be following up to see how that plays out? Yes, I asked all three of the teachers. Is it okay if I say the teacher's names? The ones that chose it? Yeah. I had quite a wait list, three teachers.

04:55 They were doing the magic school thing, so I really appreciate Brandy Hamilton, these are all middle school teachers, Brandy Hamilton, Samantha Dale, and Lilly Webster. And they came and we talked about, we actually did the Article of the Week together, and the articles were all about why it's important to do Article of the Week and then having background knowledge. And I gave them 10 different facilitator discussion protocols they can use with the students. So the students are doing more than just reading.

05:19 They're actually going to read with a peer or a couple of peers could be a triad and then they are going to answer questions and have cool discussion prompts and even write about it. So it's kind of hitting all that authentic literacy that I talk about. And the next follow-up what I asked them to do is to tell me when this is going on, Brooks and I actually, and when they're planning on launching this so that we can pop in and not really just the watch, but I thought I could come in and help facilitate. A lot of times what students need is just really good questions and almost prodding sometimes to get them to start talking.

05:52 And there's a saying in education, which is the person doing the talking is usually the one doing the learning. So we're hoping the students will read and then discuss the prompts with each other and become smarter at the end of the day. That is so cool. Yeah, so we'll be popping in there and an article about that as well. We probably will do a spotlight on those. Yep. Take some pictures. All right, you can come along and

we'll do that. Like I said, I'm really proud of them. They were super positive. I gave them a bunch of resources to find the articles, engaging articles once again. And then, like I said, all the protocols.

06:21 My goal was give them that bit of knowledge, but then also let them leave with practical strategies and resources that they could launch this ASAP. That's cool. So it's fun. Students like it. They really do. And it's good for our kids. It's the kind of things that we talk about wanting to do with our own students, excuse me, our own children. So I'm proud of them. Yeah. So why do you think professional development days like this matter long term for our district's growth and improvement? You know I say it all the time. I started in the Kansas City, Kansas School District, and I wouldn't be the teacher I am or the educator or the person that just loves instruction and pedagogy.

06:53 I wouldn't be here and who I was if I wasn't in a district that really dedicated every week we had half-day PDs on Wednesday. It was early release. Like kids went home at like 12:15 and we had PD till three. And you know there was times myself, a lot of teachers are like, "Oh, PD Day." I'm just naturally kind of a positive person. I'm not really a skeptic or a cynic. So I used to go in and there were times where I left. It was like, well, that was always the two and a half hours, but there were lots of times that it wasn't.

07:20 And I was able to once again parlay that into my classroom, use it as a springboard to different things. Really, honestly, it's exactly what I talked about with the teachers yesterday. I even just got background knowledge. So when I went and learned something else or I was doing my doctorate program, whatever it was, all of a sudden I was getting, I was making those connections. And that really, really helped me. So I think it's great for our staff to have that opportunity because if we don't do that, they're not able to access the cutting edge new resources or innovations or whatever it may be, even just new ways of teaching, because students aren't the same now as they were before.

07:56 So I think it's really important for them not only to have PD, but then to have choice in it. Yeah. And we use this on our recruitment tours to tell potential teachers that may be coming here about it. So it's cool that seeing teachers excited about learning themselves. Yeah. You know And with the district's done a great job, one of the things I wanted to work on when we got here in the PDC has been wonderful in helping me with this is making PD as, oh, sorry, another acronym. Professional Development Committee. Committee Council. I think it's committee.

08:25 But they are instrumental in something I really pushed for, which was let's make PD as worthwhile as possible. Because there is times that we're going to have to give a PD that is building-based, district-based, whatever it is, but let's make it that almost every teacher walks away and says, "That was really, really good." And then, of course, you've got your personalized PD days, which I think are really good. So ultimately, I'm huge and I think one of the major parts of retention, you do a great job of bringing this up on our recruitment tours is talking to them about how they'll be supported.`

08:56 And sometimes when we think support, we think our first teacher cadre, we think the mentor, we think all that. But I actually think professional development is support because you might learn something that you can put in your class the next day to help a struggling student or maybe yourself struggling with classroom management, whatever it is. So I'm proud of us that we have PD days for our staff. That's how we grow. That's right. I like that. So I'm going to pivot now. Okay. And we are going to

talk about the Bond update. Kind of a theme in every one of our episodes leading up to March 3rd.

09:25 And we want to remind our listeners and our community that we have one more public presentation scheduled before the March 3rd vote. That will be at Lansing High School on Monday, February 23rd at 6:00 PM. It'll be in the auditorium. And as always, Superintendent Cobs will lead that. I'll be there as well. And he will present about an hour and then answer any questions. You know So if you're hearing things out in the community, you can come to this. You can ask them. You can also fill out the form online. We've talked about with questions.

09:55 We strongly encourage our community to attend if you're able. These presentations are designed to share factual information, answer questions, and ensure everyone has a clear understanding of what's happening. Yeah. I love it. I got to tell you, I'm learning so much. Just being a part of it, the bond information series that you release every single day has been amazing. I just think it really helps out of answering specific questions. You know I've talked about this before. It's a confusing topic.

10:23 It's not just a very you know such a massive amount of information in it. So that bond information series is a nice thing to follow because it does break it up to where it's not so much information. Break it up and have it just clear, factual, and not all at once. Right. Yep. And Marty, as I've got to come with you to a lot of the presentations, especially the ones in the buildings with teachers. And it's been really powerful. It's been really, he does a good job of explaining and taking tough questions.

10:53 Yeah. So most importantly, we encourage everyone to participate in the process and vote on March 3rd. All right. So, yeah. Well, you bring up all the time. Transparency and clarity. You've done a great job of that. So keep it up. Yep. I think that's a great time to wrap. Oh, nope. I have something else I want to bring up. So I figured out why I'm not the biggest Rocky 3 fan. Okay. So here's how it works with Rocky movies. What would you say you know the most important part of every movie besides the fight is probably the what.

11:23 What's the part that everybody goes to, the music's playing in the background? It's the what. What, like the working out, prepping, the training montage, right? Yep. Exactly. Right. Have you seen Rocky 3's training montage? It's awesome. Rocky one, he wakes up, the really popular part where he puts the eggs in the cup and downs it in the glass. And then he goes running and he's not even able to get up the steps. And by the end of it, he's able to get up the steps.

11:51 Rocky 2, oh man, that's when Mick trains him up to get more speed so he can fight Apollo. In Rocky III, he goes running and everyone's like, "Yeah, Rock, get him rock." That's right. And then all of a sudden, this huge caravan of children are running with him through the streets. That sounds amazing. And they're like, yeah, Rock, yeah. And then he runs up the stairs with the kids and he's jumping up and down. And that's Rocky 3.

12:22 I think one of the reasons why it is one of the best. It's one of the reasons why I constantly mock it. And then thank God they came back Rocky Four has got a training montage in Russia. That's the way to do it. Anyway, so I just thought for people out there, I do. I do. I had to do a little bit of a research, aka watch the movies again, which will be happy. And that is the, that's it. That's it. Okay. I stand by my choice. I didn't expect to change it. I did expect to change it, but I'm glad that I at least put it out there so that we can mock you as much as possible.

12:52	And yeah, for more updates and stories on Lansing USD 469, you can visit us at www.usd469.net. If you don't already have it, download the free Lansing USD 469 mobile app on Apple and Android. The app allows you to be the first to know all the fantastic things happening in our district. And 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 six of season four. Wow. Yeah.
13:22	Ooh. Thanks for listening. Bye, everybody!