

Transcription details:

Date: 04-Feb-2026
Input sound file: 4.5 Lion Pride-Cast Unedited.mp4

Transcription results:

00:18 Hi, everybody, and welcome to the fifth episode of season four of the Lansing USD 469 Lion Pride-cast. 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. And we are glad that we got through that intro because we recorded it like seven times. Yes. Because apparently today, Sharon wanted to be from Boston. I was the director of communications and marketing, she was being wicked smart. So we'd like to start today by highlighting last week's Employee Spotlight, which featured Miss Sher in our early childhood building.

00:59 And I'm going to try to say her whole name. I think it's Sherleyne. Is that what you're saying? That's a very pretty name, by the way. Yes. But I like how she goes by Miss Sher. So she's one of our fantastic early childhood paraprofessionals over in the building and was nominated by Dr. Dalton. She works with the three and four-year-olds over in that building, supporting classroom needs and helping guide students socially and emotionally. What I really liked about it was how I'm going to quote this year. She described her work as healing in a way, building connections with students and experiencing meaningful, special moments with our youngest learners.

01:29 And I thought that was so sweet. I also love her advice to students was especially thoughtful. Reminding them to be kind to themselves that it's okay not to be able to do something yet, yet, and that practice and asking questions makes things easier over time. I think that's like the sweetest thing for like little kids. Perfect for our earliest learners. So I love that she's helping them and she has to be so caring over there. I know, yeah, we're so grateful to her and all of our early childhood staff for caring and supporting our youngest lions. Yes, yes, yeah. Special building over there. Yeah. So now we're going to shift gears.

01:59 So Miles recently led our district leadership team. Yes. Yeah, so for listeners who may not be familiar, what is the purpose of the DLT or district leadership team and who's represented in that group? Yeah, so the purpose is really what it sounds like. It's leaders from across the district. A lot of times we immediately think might think like superintendent, maybe executive members like you and I who are a part of the district leadership team. Ascendra Donald, the Director of Student Services, is also in there. Brian Burns, IT is also in their director of technology.

02:27 However, more than just us and principals, we actually have stakeholders from all the buildings, which include like counselors and principals, interventionists, our instructional coaches. It's really, really nice because it gets everybody to have a seat at the table that can hopefully take back information and make real systemic changes that we're trying to make. Yes. I also like that we just added our special ed coordinators to that group, LaKrystal McKnight and Tyler Ayers. What are some key topics or themes that came out of today's DLT?

- 02:56 Yeah, today was pretty focused. We had two major things that we wanted to take care of. One was, as everybody knows, like AI is the new buzzword in education, and we wanted to have a guidelines and usage policy for the district, so Dr. Dalton and I actually led the team and she had done some legwork already. Shout out to her about coming up with looking at other districts usage guidelines and policies and adapting it to be one for us. I don't think we need to reinvent the wheel, but we definitely need to look at it.
- 03:24 We also use it at time to talk AI just in general about how much our teachers should be using it, when our students should be using it, when should they not be using it. So it's all about appropriate usage and guidelines. And then the second thing that we focused on was another acronym, CFAs, which is a common formative assessment. It's a big implementation kind of just a really big initiative that Marty and I are pushing this year. Nothing new than what we already do. Common formative assessments are just check for understandings that you do with your PLC partner or grade level team.
- 03:54 And ultimately, we just want to make sure that we have a shared understanding and that we start making sure our staff has a shared understanding and that we're rolling it out the way that it needs to be, or at least perfecting it the way it needs to be. And that only helps get teachers check for understanding so that they can say, "Ooh, my kids didn't get it," or, "Wow, they really have it and I can move on." I'm excited. So how does the work with DLT connect to what staff and students experience in their buildings? Yeah, so I think with staff, you know a lot of things that we bring back are things that they're facing and dealing with every day.
- 04:23 Secondary level, probably more than elementary, is dealing with AI issues. You know I mean, kids trying to use it for what it doesn't need to be used for, things of that nature. So hopefully us coming up with a tool that parents and students can see about when you're allowed to use it, when you're not allowed to use it, kind of putting those guardrails on are going to definitely help teachers there. As far as how it's going to help students and staff alike with our CFAs, is staff can now think about creating those CFAs or if they already have them great, but really diving into the data to help kids.
- 04:52 And that's going to help kids the most because we can start doing better intervention, better reteaching, stretching, or extending thinking for kids who have already got it after we've done our common formative assessment. Overall, it's just going to be better for our system and our learners, K-12. Yeah, and you will be presenting at Monday night's meeting. Yes, we're going to be able to talk about that. Yeah, that's going to be provided because our community can watch that. Absolutely. And it won't be on those two topics, unfortunately, as much as I love talking about those. This will be, and we will talk a little bit about CFAs kind of on like a, I like to do a what, so what, now what kind of thing.
- 05:23 So what does our data say? So what? So what's it mean to us essentially? And then now, what are our next action steps? So one action step to improve our data is to really start doing regular, calm, and formative assessments and just informal check for understandings. But we are going to be presenting our winter fastbridge data, and we'll look at our fall fastbridge data and see the growth that we have, because we did have a lot of growth in a lot of buildings, and then talk about what we're going to do to continue that growth.
- 05:50 Or if we've dipped a little bit, and that happens a lot of times in the winter window, what are we going to do to try to rectify that and get them better for the spring fast bridge window, and then of course the spring state assessments. So yeah, I'm excited

about it. And like I said, it's really great for, that's a perfect thing to say. I mean, imagine you know 18-ish people in a room talking about what each of them are doing and sharing and learning from each other, taking it back to their buildings. It's cool work. Today was a good meeting. I'm proud of them. I'm really proud of them. So I'm going to ask you the final question on the DLT because you gave me all the questions. Yes.

- 06:19 Do you think that it's been worthwhile of your time to be on there? And I hope so. Because we wanted you to be in that you weren't on there before, but we thought it was important to have a director of communications and marketing on there. Have you felt it worthwhile? Absolutely, yes. Being in the room full of our rock stars, our top leaders and teachers, and like we said, instructional coaches. I've learned so much, which helps me be a better communicator. So really understanding the nuts and bolts of things helps me to be able to communicate what we're doing easier.
- 06:47 I'm able to take the transcripts from the meetings and be able to communicate that out, which we'll be doing for this meeting, sharing those talking points. Also, from a recruitment and retention standpoint, it helps, and being able to communicate that to the group. The work we're doing there to keep teachers and to recruit them here, that has helped. So yeah, for sure, it's been beneficial. And again, yeah, it's an honor to be a part of it. Yeah, we're lucky to have you on there. And you're absolutely right. It has helped us in our recruitment work because I think now you know so much about that side.
- 07:15 I don't think a lot of communications and marketing people can speak about the nuances or intricacies of the system you know that teachers actually care about you know when they come to a district where you're able to answer that for us. So thank you for being a part of that. And thank you for letting me talk about DLT. It was a great Oh, yes. Yeah. It's always a pleasure. So now we're going to shift again and we're going to do our weekly Bond update or just kind of James Bond? Oh goodness gracious. I can't believe you haven't done that yet. I've been waiting to do it. I decided it was a little too serious early on, but now Bond.
- 07:46 James Bond. Okay, go ahead. We just want to let everyone know that we've added another community presentation, which will take place at the library on Tuesday, February 17th. We want to give a special thank you to our city library and Terry Wojtalewicz, for hosting us. So again, that'll be February 17th at 6:00 PM at the library. And as we shared last week, we are already holding a community presentation at the high school, if I can talk, the Lansing High School Auditorium on Monday, February 23rd.
- 08:13 And that'll be Superintendent Kobza presenting at both of them, just giving the information behind the bonds. We're not telling anyone to vote yes or no. We are just giving them the information so they can make an informed decision. I've been fortunate enough to attend a couple of these with Marty, actually quite a few with Marty. And I really like how the presentations are simply designed just to share the information, answer questions, which I think is the best part is when people ask questions, give our community the opportunity to learn more about what's being proposed and really clear up a lot of misconceptions.
- 08:42 That's been a really great thing to hear somebody say this and Marty's able to, hey, come back to this slide here or come to the Bond website. Great job on the website and all the information that you see on there because it's a great place to go to get that information clarified. Right. And that website, our bond information page literally and Marty talked about this last night at one of our presentations, there are literally

thousands of pages within that website just of documents and things that we've done, some studies, our phone survey results, all of that.

- 09:10 So there is a massive amount of information on that page where if you want to know the information, it is there for you to dig in. But we also realize that that can be overwhelming. So we started a Bond Information Series last week. I love that. So every morning, we take a piece of that, what's on that page and just break it out a little bit. Anyone that wants to know more can go to that page, the main page, and then follow the district on Facebook because that's where all of those are coming out every morning. I love reading those.
- 09:40 I think those are really cool because even somebody who's I mean, I'm right here. I'm right in the middle of it and going to the presentations, there is a lot of stuff. And so it is really nice to get those little snippets of information. And you've got the QR code so I can jump to the website and read more. So yeah, those have been great. Yeah. And so each post includes a form where community members can submit questions or request information from Superintendent Kobza for one of his presentations or to just ask questions. So each Friday, we're going to start this week.
- 10:08 We'll be reviewing those questions and addressing common themes we hear at those community presentations. So we have heard a few questions and we tried to address them on that frequently asked questions page, but sometimes it's nice to hear, I think this week we are going to do a video where Superintendent Kobza can talk and speak to the questions and the themes. That's great. To clear it up. I think that's going to be awesome. Yeah. And then what's exciting is we'll also recap them on the podcast. So next week we'll have a recap of those questions. Yes, I think that'd be a good thing for us to do because you can't have too much information. And you know we keep talking about this.
- 10:39 It's our job as a district just to give the information and let people decide. It's time for us to wrap it up. Wrap it up. 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 free Lansing 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. Like snow days. Like snow days. Or I really honestly, Kansas is becoming cold days. Right? It's just like, I don't even know if the snow matters anymore, but I heard it's going to be a negative 17 wind chill.
- 11:11 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 five of season four. Woo. Thanks for listening. Thanks for listening. Bye.