MEXICO SCHOOL DISTRICT #59

SUPERINTENDENTS' REPORT

DR. TROY LENTZ, SUPERINTENDENT
JULIE (LOWER) WELCH, ASST SUPERINTENDENT

December 2025

Community Engagement

The highlight of community engagement this month was hosting the retired teachers association luncheon at central office. The district has also been represented at Kiwanis, Rotary, Chamber of Commerce, and Bright Futures. Mrs. Lentz and I also had a very merry time at McMillan's Christmas open house.

Finance

The 2024-2025 audit has been returned from Graves and Associates. The audit states the district financial information reported to the state in the ASBR has been fairly stated. Graves and Associates report no disagreements with management and no material weaknesses.

The 2024-2025 ASBR summary is provided below.

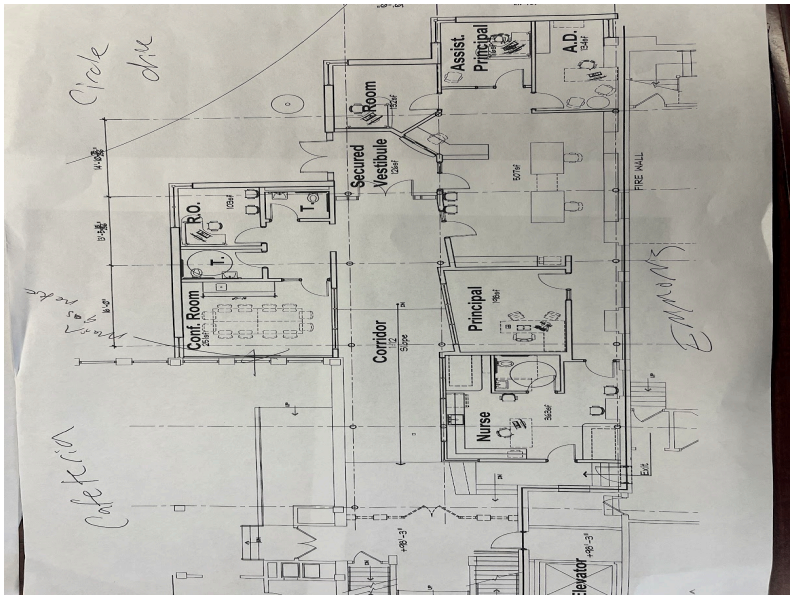
	General (1)	Teachers (2)	Debt Serv (3)	Capital (4)	Total
beginning	$13,577,628.17	$758,499	$4,263,391.28	$642,939.31	$19,242,457.76
rev	$17,368,778.25	$14,339,648.27	$2,734,858.09	$23,258,555.65	$57,701,840.26
exp	$13,866,253.62	$18,309,437.95	$5,429,692.99	$5,082,898.74	$42,688,283.30
transfer to		$3,211,290.68			
Transfer from	$3,211,290.68				
ending	$13,868,862.12		$1,568,556.38	$18,818,596.22	$34,256,014.72
restricted	43.10%				

Notes:

- The prior year fund balance was 48.21%
- The district coded two summer schools in 24-25 for a total of $1,103,467. The prior year was $636,493.93. FY 26 will only have one summer school.
- The district received $5,316,525.11 in federal revenue, including $1,243,116.45 in ESSER III funds and $887,166.07 in Title I ESEA.
- For FY 26, the district will not receive any ESSER III funds, and the funds available for budgeting in Title I ESEA (including pre-school) total $708,064.
- Current district balances total $25,533,422.99. $7.46 million has been spent on bond projects in FY26.

Facilities

The images below are architectural drawings for the secure entryway at the high school. The intention is to go out to bid in January or February. A memorial is located in the footprint of the addition. We are collaborating with the family on plans to move the memorial.





To date, the district has spent $11,132,045.91 in bond-approved projects. The district has $14,581,491.97 in contracted work.

School Board Filing

School board candidate filing closes on December 30. To date, three candidates have filed: Matt Pilger, Lennette Brown, and Jessica Ekern.

The following information has been shared with the community regarding filing.

Filing will begin on December 9, 2025, from 8:00 AM to 4:00 PM and will continue on regular business days from 8:00 AM to 4:00 PM. Filing will end on December 30, 2025, at 5:00 PM. The filing times for December 30, 2025, will be from 3:30 PM to 5:00 PM. Candidates filing on the last day should arrive by 4:30 PM to make sure the filing process is completed by the 5 PM deadline. Required documents must be checke,d and the declaration of candidacy, including signature, must be completed by 5 PM.

Filing will not occur on days the school district's Central Office is closed due to inclement weather or other health-related reasons. Filing will also not occur on the following holidays and breaks when the school district's Central Office is closed: December 24, 2025, December 25, 2025, December 26, 2025, and December 29, 2025. The names of qualified candidates will be placed on the ballot in order of filing.

Curriculum & Instruction

NEE Professional Staff Evaluations: Our principals have completed 273 teacher observations so far this year, a 5% increase over this time last year. Our goal is to complete approximately 600 observations by the end of the March. When principals conduct observations using the NEE observation form, they use a rubric to score teacher performance on specific teaching and learning standards. Each observation is followed by either a written email reflection or an in-person coaching conversation. The overall purpose of this process is to support teachers' growth in instructional practice and classroom management. To add a little fun and motivation, we're continuing with a friendly element of competition this year with monthly drawings for staff treats from the Superintendents for the winning principal.

New Teachers' Academy: Our instructional coaches are implementing NTA this year by facilitating training and support for our first and second-year teachers. They meet with participating teachers monthly after school, provide two full-day training sessions each year, and coordinate learning walks that include observing other teachers followed by reflective coaching conversations.

Special Ed Teachers' Academy: Our Special Education Director is providing targeted professional learning for special education teachers by meeting with them bimonthly for full-day sessions. The focus of this training is to strengthen skills in curriculum and instruction, behavior management, and IEP development and compliance.

Sub Training: Our instructional coaches will host a half-day training session for substitute teachers in early January. Approximately 10 substitutes have already RSVP'd to attend. The training will cover safety and security procedures, technology navigation, highlights of curriculum resources, and effective classroom management strategies.

Literacy: A district book study of The Writing Revolution has been underway, with approximately 20 teachers participating and several attending discussion sessions. The final session will be held in January, and the learning from this study is informing decisions related to an ELA writing curriculum.

The week of November 10th, Eugene Field and Hawthorne celebrated "Read Across America" week. Dr. Lentz and I enjoyed reading some Shel Silverstein poems and books to several

classrooms. Teachers also invited parents and community members to read to their classes throughout the week and had special activities to boost reading engagement.

Federal Programs

The October cycle of Tiered Monitoring has been approved by DESE, and the December cycle of uploads has been submitted for review. Tiered Monitoring includes uploaded evidence that the district is complying with federal and state regulations due to receiving federal funds.

I have completed the NonPublic Verification for all NonPublic schools that registered as having Mexico- area resident students. Special thanks to the transportation department for verifying addresses for me.

We are continuing our work on the Equitable Services Plan due to the removal of the Bypass option. Round 3 of revisions has been submitted for approval.

District Assessment

Kindergarten students completed the BOY i-Ready reading diagnostic in November, with results used by teachers and the Title I reading teacher to identify students for Tier 2 and Tier 3 interventions. Literacy Tasks for i-Ready were completed in late December for grades 1–5. Winter reading and math diagnostics will be administered in January, while middle school students completed their Winter benchmark assessments in December. Literacy teams, principals, and teachers will analyze results to identify areas for instructional improvement.