

Student achievement gaps in district identified

By Kaitlyn Scoville
OSHKOSH HERALD

The Oshkosh Area School District Board of Education reviewed its most recent test data before report cards were sent home with students this week.

Of particular interest, especially for new board member Angie Lee at her first meeting, was how to work with and continue to close achievement gaps among those marginalized – be it students of color, with disabilities or economically disadvantaged.

Board members were told that data shows students in lower grades have been recovering from the pandemic slower than older students.

“We’re a work in progress, and we know that – but there are some things we have made significant progress on,” schools Superintendent Bryan Davis said.

With this, a memo from district administrators noted that “the changing landscape of state level accountability and assessment, as well as the COVID-19 pandemic, have increased the importance of local district, school and classroom assessments.

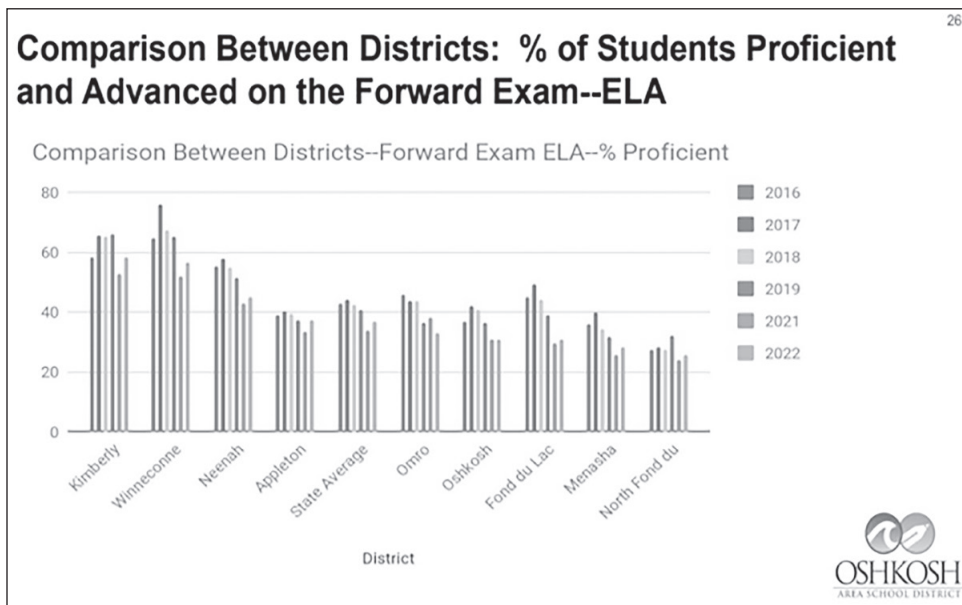
“Local assessment data is a key compo-

EAA banquet has new featured guests

Mike and Mark Patey, identical twins who hold multiple world speed records between them, are this year’s featured guests at the Experimental Aircraft Association’s annual Wright Brothers Memorial Banquet on Dec. 9 at the EAA Aviation Museum.

The brothers are replacing “Top Gun: Maverick” aerial coordinator Kevin LaRosa II, who is no longer available due to a scheduling conflict.

The Patey brothers have an extensive homebuilding background including an RV-6, a Zenith 801 with a modified en-



nent used in analyzing the validity and reliability of state assessment results at each grade level and by school.”

The tests that the district administers include the ACT for grade 11, ACT Aspire for grades 9 and 10, and Wisconsin Forward Exam for grades 3-8 and Dynamic Learning Maps for grades 3-11.

gine, and multiple high-performance Lancair Legacys. They competed in the Sport Air Racing League before attempting to set world records. Mike has received praise for his two latest original designs, Draco and Scrappy, which were popular draws at AirVenture Oshkosh.

EAA’s annual Wright Brothers Memorial Banquet honors the Wright brothers’ successful flights at Kitty Hawk, N.C., Dec. 17, 1903, that began the era of manned flight. Tickets for the event are \$70 for EAA members and \$95 for nonmembers. Doors open at 5 p.m.

Of the district’s 9,203-student enrollment for the 2022-23 school year, 42.5% are economically disadvantaged, 15.6% are students with disabilities and 5.8% are English learners.

Furthermore, 56% of students with disabilities, 73% of the English learners, 32% of white students and 68% of students of color are also economically disadvantaged.

Despite these statistics, however, test participation in the district for both English-language arts (ELA) and mathematics, at 98.8% each, while the state lies at 92.9% participation for ELA and 93.9% for math.

For the graduating class of 2023, the ACT composite matched the state average at 19.2. Ninth- and 10th-graders have shown through the ACT Aspire exam that they have recovered rather quickly from the pan-

College of Business names new dean

Academic leader Frank Braun has been named the new dean of the College of Business at the University of Wisconsin Oshkosh effective Jan. 17.

Braun serves as a professor in the School of Business at the University of Arkansas-Little Rock, where he also was dean of the College of Business, Health and Human Services.

“Dr. Braun has demonstrated excellence in teaching, scholarship and program development as well as a strong, diverse range of experience in college, university and private-sector service,” said UWO Provost John Koker. “He is an innovative educator with over a decade of experience developing and deploying experiential and emerging digital learning



Braun

dem, with 35.9% proficiency in ELA in 2020-21 and 38.3% proficiency in 2021-22.

Additionally, director of curriculum and assessment Julie Conrad noted a bounce back in graduation rates after the pandemic.

“High school students are recovering faster from the pandemic than younger students. The OASD has set rigorous reading goals in policy in order to establish a direct connection from the boardroom to the classroom,” Conrad said.

Some of the reading goals as noted in the district’s policy include changes in the elementary literacy program to respond to the needs of student skill development, coaching cycles to provide support for staff and additional resources to deal with phonological awareness, phonemic awareness and letter identification for elementary-age students.

Something else Davis and Conrad noted was how parents and the community are also a large factor in developing a student’s literacy skills. Volunteer opportunities are available for those interested in helping teachers hands-on.

“As a parent who has had kids who have excelled or needed tutors to excel, I appreciate the responsiveness in the ability for parents and teachers to know more quickly where a child is, and to get the resources there in a quick manner,” board member Chris Wright said. “I think that’s a really good thing so we aren’t losing students in the cracks.”

For those who would like to volunteer time to help students with literacy skills, Conrad said it is best to reach out to specific schools in the district.

technologies, pedagogies and strategies.”

Braun takes over for Barbara Rau, who has served as dean since June 2017 and is stepping down to return to the College of Business faculty.

He previously served as dean and professor of business and health informatics at the School of Business at Baldwin Wallace University. Before that, he spent 18 years as a faculty member and held various administrative roles at Northern Kentucky University. His research interests include entrepreneurship and innovation, organizational reliability and resilience, and project leadership attributes and outcomes.

Braun earned a doctorate at Case Western Reserve University, a master’s of business administration at Xavier University and a bachelor’s degree in engineering and computing at Miami University of Ohio. Braun is active in the cybersecurity domain and holds the certified information security manager credential.

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