

## Math assessments improve for Hamilton Community Schools, but work still needed

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**The Holland Sentinel**

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Hamilton, MI — **Monday, Feb. 14**

### KEY ACTION:

Delta math assessments from fall and winter were presented. All grades showed an improvement in math from the fall to winter assessment, but fractions proved to be a problem for fourth- and fifth- grade Hamilton students as only about 25 percent of fourth- and 10 percent of fifth-graders scored above 75 percent overall. Blue Star Elementary Principal Tim Lyman said the solution is more direct instruction and focus on greatest common denominators, subtracting and recognizing fractions.

### DISCUSSION:

“Our eyes got big when we saw a gap, and we said, ‘We’re missing something here,’ Lyman said. “It’s a difficult area for our kids to grasp, but it was really encouraging to see the growth school-wide even though fractions are still a problem.”

### OTHER ACTION:

- The 18 mill non-homestead renewal issue for May 3 was voted to be placed on the ballot.
- A contract was authorized between Lakewood Construction and Koops Well Drilling in the amount of \$37,750 to start work on two new wells for the start of construction as part of Hamilton’s \$18 million bond issue. Drilling for the wells will start over Spring Break as will construction of the pool’s locker room and stadium entrance. Construction of all the other projects, which will get under way this summer, is estimated to wrap up in October.
- With the new MEAP cut scores put in place by the Michigan State Board of Education last week, Principal of Sandyview Elementary School, Barb Ferguson said she expects to see the number of students scoring “proficient” to go down. “This just further reinforces the direction we need to go to get our kids ready,” she said.

### FOR YOUR INFO:

- NorthPointe Christian in Grand Rapids was added to the OK Conference beginning in fall 2012.
- The purchase of three buses — totaling about \$256,000 — was approved.

### UP NEXT:

March 14, 7:30 p.m., Hamilton High School Forum Room

— Lisa Ermak

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