

Ingham Impact Episode 14 – Facilities and Safety Transcript

Most of my career has been in the facilities arena. I've only been with the ISD for eight months now, all in facilities, but my whole career is facilities and that is my passion.

It's the daily impact; literally everyday you have the opportunity to impact somebody somewhere, and see that expression on their face when you get something done for somebody, and make their job easier.

I do have a little bit of history in the facilities side of things.

I was an operation manager for a cleaning company, so I bring some of that experience here, as far as the custodial side of things.

I am basically assigned to the Career Center, so these are the folks that I take care of on a daily basis.

We help keep the lights on, we keep the water flowing, we keep the buildings warm in the winter, keep it cool in the summer; just kind of make sure the building is ready to go everyday. Make sure there's a safe, secure learning environment for the students that come here.

So, we pride ourselves on keeping a good campus here.

We manage all aspects of safety and facilities in the district, so the moment a student,

a staff member, a visitor steps foot on the campus, we essentially take responsibility

for them.

Whether it's our sidewalks being plowed or maintained, the ground looking nice, or when they come into our building, having everything that's in the building working and operating as it should; that's our goal everyday.

We're working on Ingham County-wide safe school policies; we're working with all of our local agencies to commonize our lock down procedures and our emergency procedures; communicate those to law enforcement so that when a Mason police officer is required to go to Stockbridge, they quickly know what kind of situation, what are the policies that Stockbridge uses, and what should they expect when they show up at the school. So, we're doing a lot of county-wide safety initiatives, speed, recovery and response time for law enforcement.

We do operate a little bit in the background, so, you never think about heating and air conditioning. You walk into a building and expect it to warm in the winter and cool in the summer. If everything is running at operational efficiency, then you don't know we exist.

We have six people on our team; obviously, our boss, Steve Rusnock; we have an admin

support person, and then there are four of us currently that are out in the buildings and working on equipment and the infrastructure of the buildings.

I have the Facility and Safety Director title.

The safety portion ties really nicely with facilities because no one really overlooks the entire facility for safety, and it's usually the facility manager so I was very excited to have those two roles combined.

It hasn't been like that at other places where I've worked. Now we are that department so we are finding our own issues and fixing them before our customers, employees, staff members, students, trip on the sidewalk. We're fixing those before anyone else can find them.

We work primarily off a work order system. We get assigned different things; anything from changing light bulbs to several things, there's plumbing issues that we have to attend to. So, typically in the morning we show up, we do an outside check of the building, make sure all the lights are on, make sure the sidewalks are illuminated because at this time of year, it's dark out when students and staff arrive.

Then we open up the interior of the building.

We make sure the air temperature feels good.

And then we get onto our work, as far as responding to work orders.

Our priority is classroom items, to make sure everybody has what they need to be successful for that day. And we respond to radio calls throughout the day; could be anything from a clogged toilet to a burned out light bulb, or somebody might blow a circuit breaker somewhere. So we are on call throughout the day to respond to things that are needed.

We do actually, as a team, we have reached out to some of the programs within the Career Center, to kind of give them some real life experience on helping us.

We asked Welding, the other day to make us a drip pan, because we had a small leak in one of the other classrooms, and within an hour, one of the students had fabricated a really nice drip pan for us.

So, I know the instructor appreciated us coming to them, the student was excited to have an opportunity to get some real world experience on something.

In the facilities department, we don't get to teach, we're not teaching people, but it's our responsibility to make sure when teachers and administrators and school staff show up, that everything that is allocated to them is in good condition and in working condition so that they can do

their job: to continue to educate our children.
Again, we kind of operate in the back, behind
the scenes a little bit, but our mission is
to make sure that teachers can do their jobs;
everybody here can do their jobs because
we're doing our job, which is keeping
equipment running, keeping the lights on,
keeping the air flowing, and keeping
it safe.

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