

Ingham Impact Episode 47 - Business Unit Shows Unwavering Commitment During COVID-19

[Dawn DesJardin] So at first it felt pretty chaotic and I'd be lying if I didn't say that it wasn't stressful, but our administrators did a really good job of implementing what we needed to do from a guidance standpoint in the business office. Just to be able to evaluate and keep us running forward so that we could keep the bills paid and the lights on. It was constantly changing, so as things changed, with the guidance, things had to change here at the office as well. [Andrew Dravland] Our vendors still need to get paid. We still have money coming in that we need to get to our bank and recognize properly. The state still requires certain reporting that we can't just not do, so we really have to keep moving. Getting everything on line, and we're very fortunate that things like Zoom or Skype or Teams, They've really become more mainstream and more user, more widely available, and that was really key to making sure we could all stay in contact with each other as well and make sure we could communicate how we were going to have to if we were going to keep this going. [Rob Evans] We did have to keep the operation running. Payroll had to come in. Make sure you know everything was good for everybody's pay. [Kent Larson] We would come in after they had left and sterilize their workstations, keyboards, doorknobs, keypads, things of that nature and just made it sterile for them to do it again the next day, and that went for everybody that had come in the day before could safely come in the following day. And we would just repeat the process. [Rob] As the summer progressed and we got closer to restarting the next school year, the student load was cut in half. We separated a lot of the furniture. We installed some temporary partitions. We acquired a lot of PPE for the staff and students to use: masks, gloves. another other thing we did was install or have installed some ionizers and those basically go in the HVAC ventilation system. Really, it's just an air purification system. We purchased some equipment that would sanitize, disinfect large areas in a quick amount of time. We can go in between our AM and PM sessions and sanitize a large area in just a matter of a few minutes, and we've been doing that on a daily basis, literally since we've come back in the fall. [Nicole Coburn] In the Transportation Department, we create bus routes for three of our local school districts for the General Ed students, so we've been constantly changing routes to accommodate for cohorts and differences in the school day schedules, the ever fluctuating number of students riding the bus based on the family preference for the virtual or in school options, and we've been trying to do this as best we can to maintain some sort of social distancing on the bus. It's been a challenge. [Dawn] We've come to rely more on our teammates, but as a result of that, I think it's made us a stronger team. I think it's brought us closer together. You get to learn more about the people, about the people you work with. [Raelynn Johns] This group of people, in the Business Unit, they were always up for the challenge; whether that was from the very first week of shutdown in coming into the building and processing checks, to getting a clean audit in a very difficult and challenging year, to the Transportation Department For re-routing for every schedule change that occurred, and the Pupil Accounting team for reaching out and giving the local districts critical and vital support for the minute by minute changes that came, from MDE, and the Truancy staff to checking in on every referral and making sure that the students were OK. And to the facilities team, for their monumental effort in making sure that the buildings were safe for the staff and the students here, at Ingham ISD. When I think back I'm just so incredibly proud of the work that they did and I'm

so proud to be part of this team. Their work really does indirectly impact students and we're all just grateful for the opportunity and the chance to do that.

END OF VIDEO