

SCHOOL NEWS



isd77.org

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Stay in the loop while watching online

By Michelle Laven

Mankato Area Public Schools (MAPS) continues to take steps to make school board meetings easy to view. Both live and previously recorded meetings are available through the district's website at isd77.org. Interested users can also browse upcoming agendas, past meeting minutes, and special meeting sessions from the same web page.

Knowing that viewer interest in board activity is as varied as the individual, MAPS technology specialists continue to hone navigation and interaction features for a variety of users. For example, parents of young children may want to know more

about their child's future school. "With a young child, I don't want to have to make her sit through a meeting in person," says Jessica Lanes. "She's not in school yet, but I want to be an informed parent for when she does start." Parents like Lanes can view activities and reports related to their specific school, at a time that fits their schedule.

Sharon Taylor doesn't have children enrolled in MAPS, but knows school board decisions affect her community. "I am not interested in attending a meeting in person, however, since I vote for people who serve on the School Board, I find

value in watching," explains Taylor. Site search features allow community members like Taylor to search meeting minutes for hiring, wage, and other expenditure decisions.

To watch a MAPS school board meeting live, or to access the school board pages, users can go to isd77.org (click on menu, select Discover MAPS and then "About MAPS." Meetings are generally scheduled at 5:30 p.m., the first and third Mondays of each month. For more information contact Mankato Area Public Schools' staff at 507-387-1868. 📺



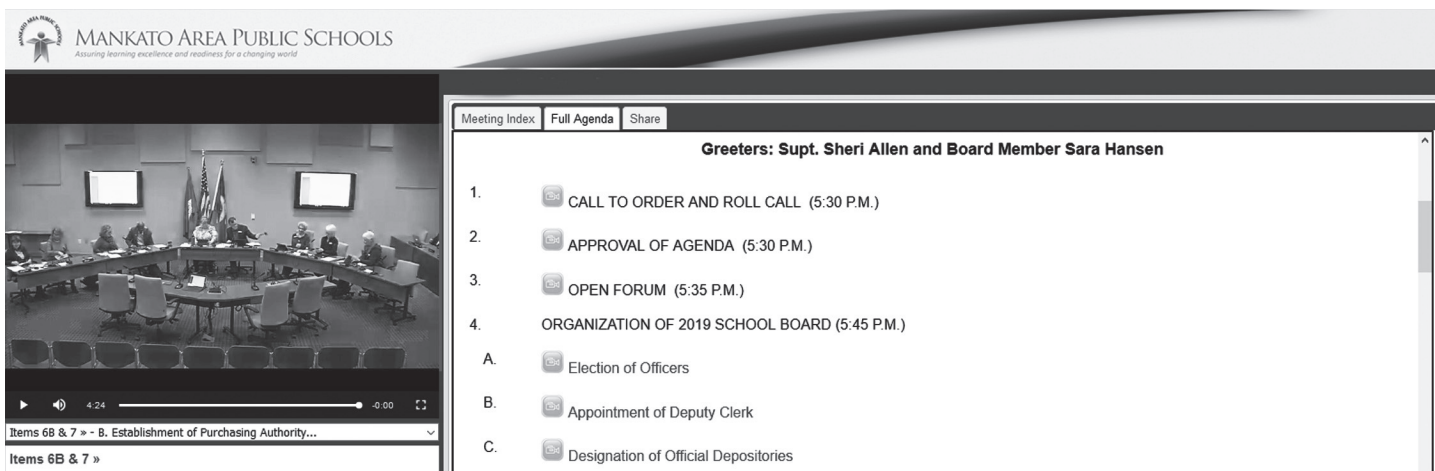
*Exclusions include away events, tournaments, section or state play.

Complimentary "VIP Gold Card" to experience Mankato Area Public Schools

By Shelly Schulz, public information

Mankato Area Public Schools' complimentary "VIP Gold Card" is exclusively for seniors—age 62 plus—who live within school district #77. It's a great way to enjoy no cost admission to enjoy concerts, athletic and academic events, plays and planetarium shows. To obtain a "VIP Gold Card," simply contact Mankato Area Public Schools' district office at 507-387-1868; or the activity offices at East High School (507-387-5671) or West High School (507-387-3461).

Students benefit from audience attendance, intergenerational and community involvement. Quality schools positively influence quality of life, economic development and home values. 📺



Mankato Area Public School Board meeting videos are divided into agenda topics, enabling viewers to go immediately to the section which interests them.

Follow Mankato Area Public Schools on social media

By Sara Gilbert Frederick

Earlier this year, the Mankato Area Public Schools Facebook feed was filled with photos of Vex Robotics teams at competitions, Math League teams, kindergarten classrooms—and weather-related announcements.

Although no school days and late starts qualify as essential information to share with area families, the district generally uses its social media presence to tell parents, students and the community about the great things happening in its schools.

"We want to tell our story, build relationships, empower learning and engage with community," says Tracy Brovold, director of Educational Technology and Information Services for Mankato Area Public Schools. "Social media allows us to connect with stakeholders by delivering real-time information on student achievements, sharing innovative learning, news and updates."

The larger community, Brovold says, is critical to student success. When schools, parents, families and communities work together to support learning, students tend to earn higher grades, attend school more regularly, stay in school longer and enroll in higher level programs. 📺



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