

Dear Minnetonka Schools Community,

It's been a busy start to second semester, amid this unseasonably balmy late January weather!

It's always exciting to feel the energy and enthusiasm that teachers and students bring as we enter the second half of the school year, with a fresh take on the learning opportunities ahead.

It is important to me that we keep our community informed about important activities within the District. This message includes updates on some key areas: School Board Goals, School District Financial Stability and School District Facilities. I encourage you to review these updates and to provide feedback, as interested.

School Board Goals

Our District takes seriously its commitment to continuous improvement, community input and planning. After surveying staff and families, the School Board drafted its preliminary goals for the 2025-26 school year. The goals were shared at the January School Board meeting as an opportunity for our community to review them and to provide feedback. The proposed goals continue to focus on belonging and well-being efforts, on providing exceptional learning opportunities for all students, and on improving leadership and organizational support. To review the draft of these goals, [click here](#).

Financial Stability

District leaders continue to work through financial challenges to balance our budget and maintain as much of our programming as possible. With some uncertainty in funding at both the state and federal level, securing financial stability for our District will continue to be one of our highest priorities. At the January School Board meeting, our Board approved budget adjustments for 2025-26. Reductions in staffing are never easy, and the cuts will be felt across the District.

Our goal is to continue to increase funding streams to limit future reductions in staffing and to prevent cuts to programs. Maintaining strong enrollment is one of the key ways we can accomplish this, and I am pleased to share that our initial enrollment numbers for next school year are healthy, and that the increased revenue that strong enrollment brings will reduce the likelihood of large cuts again next year. In addition, the School Board and I have been very active in advocating with state lawmakers on how the state legislature can help school districts across Minnesota address the budget shortfalls so many districts are experiencing. In the past few months, more than 90 of our District's parents, teachers, staff, administrators and community members have joined the Community Action for Student Education (CASE) committee and are connecting with lawmakers to make their voices heard. If you'd like to participate in the CASE committee, please find more information [here](#).

Facilities Study

During my first few years in Minnetonka, the School Board and I have received many questions about our facilities and suggestions for improvements. With this in mind, the Board created a community task force to study the needs of our facilities. This group met from last April through November and made recommendations to the Board in December.

If you have not yet had the opportunity to learn about the Facilities Study that the District has been engaged in for the past year, I encourage you to explore [this web page](#) to update yourself on that effort and where the District is at in the process of ensuring our District's facilities meet the needs

of current and future students. More will be shared in the coming months, as the School Board determines whether to go forward with a bonding bill to support the District's facility needs.

February Fun and Supporting our Staff

If you are looking for ways to support staff and teachers in the District, one of the greatest things you can do is to get involved with the Minnetonka Public Schools Foundation. It is an organization that works alongside our District to support teachers' needs in the classroom through its Teacher Grants Program and to fund innovations and initiatives that support the District's goals, such as the Foundation's investment in our literacy efforts. The Foundation's biggest fundraiser, the Dream Maker event, is coming up Friday, February 7, and there is also a silent auction that you can participate in prior to the event. To learn more, visit the [Foundation's website](#). Another great event that is just a few months away is the District's 20th annual Celebration of Excellence, which honors teachers, staff and school volunteers for their incredible work. To nominate someone for an award, visit the [Celebration website](#).

I'm looking forward to a great semester ahead! Thank you for all you continue to do to make this an exceptional place to live, work and learn.

David Law, JD
Superintendent
Minnetonka Public Schools