BLAINE | FRIDLEY
SPRING LAKE PARK

SPRING LAKE PARK SCHOOLS

SERVING ON THE SCHOOL BOARD

Proudly serving more than 6,000 students, their families and the school communities of Blaine, Fridley and Spring Lake Park

INSIDE

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- Rewards

August 2025

Spring Lake Park Schools
District Services Center
1415 81st Avenue NE, Spring Lake Park, MN 55432

763-600-5000
SpringLakeParkSchools.org

WHAT DOES IT REALLY MEAN TO BE A SCHOOL BOARD MEMBER FOR SPRING LAKE PARK SCHOOLS?

Serving on the school board offers personal rewards for service to the community. It is also a role that comes with many responsibilities. In response to community interest in serving on the board, the district has prepared this guide that explores the roles, responsibilities and requirements of school board service for Spring Lake Park Schools.

HOW THE BOARD OPERATES

The Spring Lake Park School Board uses a policy governance model as its model of operation, meaning the board focuses on policy decisions rather than on operational issues. The board adopts policies that provide general principles for guiding the management of the district. The administration then develops procedures to support and implement board policies. Procedures or how a policy is supported or implemented do not require board approval.

Governance, not management

The policy governance model used by the Spring Lake Park School Board is different than the management model used by most city councils. The differences include:

MANAGEMENT (CITY COUNCIL) COMPARED TO GOVERNANCE (SCHOOL BOARD)

City Council Members	School Board Members
Manage the "hows" at the tactical level of the organization	Govern through policies and overall budget, and by defining the "why and what we're providing," but not "how"
Represent a portion of the community	Are accountable to all members of the school community
Maintain an individual voice after council action	Have a unified voice after board action
Operate individually	Operate as a whole board with no individual member authority

Why governance works in Spring Lake Park Schools

The policy governance model delineates clear roles for the board and administration. The board's work focuses on the "why and what" of the district's direction while the administration works on "how" the board's direction will be implemented. In Spring Lake Park Schools, the board and administration work in partnership to move the district forward. The partnership is effective because:

- Students are at the center of the work
- There is a culture of trust between the board and administration
- The board speaks with one voice
- There is an intentional interdependence in the approach to the work
- There is a deep understanding and strong commitment to follow a policy governance model

ROLES IN A GOVERNANCE MODEL

Group	Roles
Public and parents	Serve as primary educator of the child (parents) Elect school board members Vote on levy requests
School Board	Supervise and evaluate the superintendent Develop policies that govern the school district Create district mission, vision and values Engage with the public Approve the overall district budget
Superintendent	Manage operations of the district through implementation of board policies Develop the district operational plan in alignment with the strategic plan
Principals and Administrators	Create school-based plans that align with the district's operational plans and vision Provide support for the superintendent Implement policies and procedures
Staff	Educate students Provide support for superintendent, principals and administration Implement policies and procedures

ELECTION 2025

On November 4, 2025, voters will elect four residents to serve on the seven-member school board of Spring Lake Park Schools, serving Blaine, Fridley and Spring Lake Park.

- Four seats are currently held by Sam Villella, Melody Skelly, Marilynn Forsberg and Kelly McClellan. These seats are for a 4-year term and will be back on the ballot in 2029.

The period for filing affidavits of candidacy for the office of school board member begins on Tuesday, July 29, 2025, and closes at 5 p.m. on Tuesday, August 12, 2025. Affidavits of candidacy may be obtained from and filed with Anoka County Elections and Voter Registration, 325 East Main Street, Anoka. If after filing a candidate decides to no longer run for office, they must file an affidavit of withdrawal no later than 5 p.m. on Wednesday, August 20, 2025.

If you have questions about filing to become a school board candidate, contact Ivonne Padilla, executive assistant to the superintendent, at 763-600-5020 or ipadil@district16.org, or Anoka County Elections and Voter Registration at 763-324-1300 or anokacounty.us/elections.

CONSIDERING RUNNING?

Ask Current Board Members about their experiences

There is an opportunity for potential school board candidates to learn more about the roles, responsibilities and requirements of the position. **The session is scheduled for Monday, August 18, 6-7 p.m.** at the District Services Center, 1415 81st Avenue NE, Spring Lake Park. It is strongly recommended that all candidates or potential candidates attend this session.

To learn more or to register, contact Ivonne Padilla at 763-600-5020 or ipadil@district16.org.

MEMBERSHIP

The school board is made up of seven citizens elected at large by school district voters every two years for four-year overlapping terms. At the end of a four-year term, members may run for reelection. Voting takes place on the general election day in November and terms begin on the first Monday in January. If a vacancy occurs in the middle of a term, there are procedures for filling that vacancy.

At its first meeting each January, the school board holds an organizational meeting to elect its officers. At the meeting each June, the board makes decisions on routine business. In the fall, board members are given their school liaison assignments.

The superintendent is an ex-officio member of the board who facilitates the work of the board and is responsible for providing leadership to the district and carrying out board directives.

Responsibilities

As the elected governing body of Spring Lake Park Schools, the school board must:

- Establish policy. The administration implements policy, and supervises school operations.
- Employ and evaluate the superintendent. The school board is responsible for hiring and evaluating the superintendent who functions as the chief administrator and oversees all operations of the district.
- Approve the overall annual district budget
- Set the annual local school levy
- Support and provide consultation to administration in the development and implementation of the annual district operational plan that aligns with the district vision and strategic plan

2024-2025 Members

Tony Easter, Chairperson
763-600-5521 / teaste@district16.org

Amy Hennen, Vice Chairperson
763-600-5522 / ahenne@district16.org

Melody Skelly, Clerk
763-600-5524 / mskell@district16.org

Sam Villella, Treasurer
763-600-5520 / sville@district16.org

Allie Schmidt, Director
763-600-5527 / aschmi3@district16.org

Marilynn Forsberg, Director
763-600-5523 / mforsb@district16.org

Kelly McClellan, Parliamentarian
763-600-5526 / kmccle@district16.org

Dr. Jeff Ronneberg, Superintendent
763-600-5020 / jronne@district16.org

2024-2025 School Board

Front:
Allie Schmidt
Marilynn Forsberg
Kelly McClellan

Back:
Jeff Ronneberg
Sam Villella
Amy Hennen
Tony Easter
Melody Skelly

MEETINGS

Membership on the school board requires attendance at a variety of meetings held every month as well as participation on district committee and community group assignments.

Regular meetings

In general, the school board holds regular meetings open to the public at 7 p.m. on the second Tuesday of each month. Meetings are held at the Spring Lake Park Schools District Services Center, 1415 81st Avenue NE, Spring Lake Park.

Work sessions

The school board also holds work sessions to study issues in more depth. No formal action is taken during work sessions. Work sessions are typically held at 5 p.m. on the fourth Tuesday of each month at the Spring Lake Park Schools District Services Center, 1415 81st Avenue NE, Spring Lake Park. The work sessions are open to the public.

Communication to the board & administration

Residents who wish to address school board members and administration have that opportunity once a month at 6:45 p.m. prior to each regular school board meeting. During this time, the board members and representatives from the administration make themselves available to hear from residents who wish to address them.

Public hearings

Scheduled as needed, the School Board occasionally holds public hearings to hear comments from citizens on specific topics.

COMMITTEE AND TASK FORCE ASSIGNMENTS

The Spring Lake Park School Board functions as a committee of the whole. At times, there is a need to study specific issues and work on special projects. When this need arises, a task force is formed at the chairperson's direction. At the conclusion of the task force study/work, they will make recommendations to the board.

In addition, Spring Lake Park School Board members represent the district throughout the cities of Blaine, Fridley and Spring Lake Park. This representation is as a liaison to specific district committees, and on metro and state education organizations in which the district has membership.

A sampling of the current committees include:

- Association of Metropolitan School Districts (AMSD)
- Minnesota State High School League
- Minnesota School Boards Association
- Northeast Metropolitan Intermediate School District
- School District 16/Lions Foundation
- Panther Foundation
- Special Education Advisory Committee
- Legislative Action Committee
- Community Education Advisory Council
- Athletics Advisory Board

TIME COMMITMENT

The actual time commitment required varies depending on the board member and the number of issues the district is addressing at any given time. Typically, a board member could expect to devote at least 20 hours a month studying issues, preparing for and attending meetings, attending school events, and responding to and communicating with community members.

COMPENSATION

Like most Minnesota school districts, Spring Lake Park Schools offers a stipend for board service. Board members receive the following annual stipend:

- Chairperson – $6,300
- Vice-Chairperson, Clerk and Treasurer – $5,800
- Directors – $5,700

SCHOOL BOARD MEETINGS ARE ONLINE

View an entire school board meeting or choose what portion of the meeting to view from a menu of agenda items.

Access meetings at:
www.SpringLakeParkSchools.org/SchoolBoard

OUR STRATEGIC PLAN FOR THE FUTURE

SPRING LAKE PARK SCHOOLS

The Spring Lake Park Schools' Strategic Plan for the Future is the roadmap that we follow in our continuing - and measurable - focus on success for all students. The strategic plan is developed and approved by the school board and provides overall direction for the district's work.

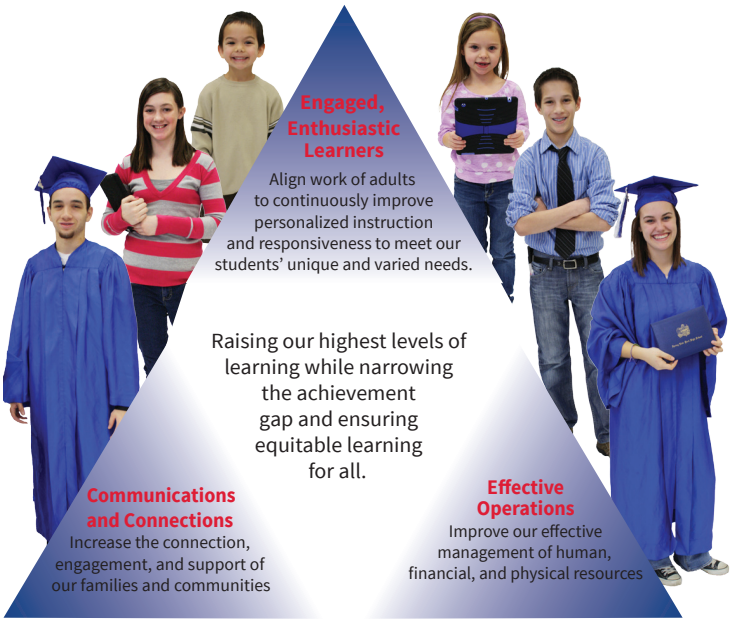
Our District Purpose

High expectations. High achievement for all. No excuses.

Our Vision for the Future

Spring Lake Park Schools will be a world-class learning community aligned around…

- Fostering personalized experiences so that each student feels valued, inspired, and has a sense of belonging,
- Resulting in college readiness, and the development of academic, life, and career skills so that each student has aspirations for success.



Our Strategic Anchors

We will move towards our vision through a focus on continuous improvement, identifying annual and multi-year projects and initiatives within three Strategic Anchors. Each of these efforts are centered around raising our highest levels of learning while narrowing the achievement gap and ensuring equitable learning for all.

Our over-arching goals for all planning and for providing a focus in moving towards our vision

- We will achieve greater levels of coherence and alignment throughout the system.
- We will proactively position the school district for the future in all planning and decision-making.

Our District Values

These values describe how we will work with our learners and each other:

Accountability
- To fulfill one's roles and responsibilities and be responsive to the results.

Courage
- Doing and saying the right thing at the right time in the right way despite challenge, adversity, or conflicting self interests.

Excellence
- A relentless and intentional effort in continuous improvement.

Innovation
- Purposeful, courageous, continuous improvement through research and action.

Integrity
- Always aligning our actions with our values and beliefs.

Learning
- Continuous, meaningful, and challenging effort that results in student success.

Respect
- Listen to, accept, and value each individual in the school district and community.

Shared Responsibility
- Working together interdependently and collaboratively, learning from one another, entrusting one's self interest to another, and taking ownership for our individual and collective actions and decisions.

2025-2026 District Operational Plan

Updated June 10, 2025

The Spring Lake Park Schools' District Operational Plan identifies the projects under study or being implemented to improve and innovate in our schools. This annual plan is reviewed and updated quarterly to reflect progress and emerging influences. The projects included are directly or indirectly connected to the district's strategic plan and vision for the future.

STRATEGIC ANCHOR – Engaged and Enthusiastic Learners

Align work of adults to continuously improve personalized instruction and responsiveness to meet our students' unique and varied needs

Deepen Student Engagement Through Innovative and Personalized Learning – Continue to support teachers in the design of engaging student work, strong literacy practices, the effective use of Artificial Intelligence and use of new furniture to support engagement in learning

Review and Refresh Career and College Pathways – Engage in a review of our current pathways programming to identify potential areas of enhancement and expansion and provide more college credit options in our high school

Deepen Systemic Supports for Students - Continue to support schools as they deepen their implementation of supports for students' academic, social, emotional and behavioral growth and development

Advance Curricular Reviews – Begin the curricular review cycle for K-12 math aligned to revised state standards, take next steps with social studies and complete the review cycle for multilingual learning

STRATEGIC ANCHOR – Effective Operations

Improve our effective management of human, financial and physical resources

Position the District for Fiscal Health — Adapt to changing federal and state funding realities, assess facility needs and strategically refine our long-term roadmap to ensure fiscal effectiveness into the future

Enhance Staff Collaboration and Efficiency Using Technology — Implement changes to how we use critical tools and platforms to improve collaboration and efficiency

Study Lighthouse Location to Enhance Programming - Assess the physical location of Lighthouse School and its impacts to enrollment, grade levels served and physical operations to enhance service to this community of learners

Enhance School Structures 3.0 – Continue to ensure systemic supports – flexibly using time, space, and human resources – to scale and deepen personalized learning for each student

STRATEGIC ANCHOR – Communications and Connections

Increase the connection, engagement and support of our families and communities

Develop and Successfully Implement Levy Campaign – Develop and implement a campaign that enhances trust and support for our schools and leads to the successful passage of the operating levy request

Enhance Counseling and Personalized Planning — Continue to support the implementation of enhanced counseling plans across grades 5-12 to provide more personalized support for students and families

Expand Access to Youth Activities – Partner with our community to develop more avenues for students at all ages to explore and discover interests and talents outside the school day that support success in school and beyond

Communicate What Matters – Clarify for families and our community how what we are doing provides value and connects to what matters most to them