

School Board News - February 5, 2026

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School Board News
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Recognitions

DECA State Qualifiers and DSC Honored Artists from Minnetonka High School.

[Watch the Recognitions](#)

NOTE: There was an audio software glitch during this School Board Meeting. This resulted in no sound being livestreamed or recorded for the majority of the meeting. Below are summaries of the topics covered at the meeting, as well as questions and comments from the Board and answers from the presenters, from notes taken during the meeting.

Welcome to Student Representatives

School Board Chair Kemerie Foss introduced our two student representatives to the Board attending the meeting. They are non-voting members. Their names are Ramon Francisco and Archer Burns.

School News Report: Groveland Elementary

Groveland Elementary continues to build a school of belonging and excellence. Principal Andrew Gilbertson and Assistant Principal Sarah Klitzke presented to the Board, joined by Sra. Cespedes-Schueller and students from her first grade Spanish Immersion classroom who shared how they incorporate families to create a strong sense of belonging in their classroom. The students all answered questions in Spanish. Student Board Representative Archer Burns told the first-grade student presenters that their Spanish-speaking skills were great. Superintendent David Law congratulated the student speakers on their courage in speaking to such a large crowd. Chair Kemerie Foss thanked the students and staff for their report.

Community Comments

There was one Community Comment. It was regarding the long-term financial plan.

Approval of Policy #703: Fund Balance

As part of the District's ongoing policy review, District Administration recommended changes to the Policy 703 – Fund Balance. Executive Director of Finance and Operations Paul Bourgeois presented the updates. Board Director Meghan Selinger clarified for the public that this policy was discussed at a recent study session and the change reflects the District's current practice. The Board approved the policy update.

Approval of MHS Course Changes

Each year, course proposals, changes and deletions are brought before the School Board to preview in November and approve in December. As the District strives to increase the number of students participating in experiential learning, new courses and strands have been regularly introduced. As these offerings continue to evolve, there have been a few instances where it has been necessary to make changes after the typical timeframe. As Associate Superintendent Dr. Amy LaDue presented, the following are two additional course requests for the 2026-27 school year.

Aviation Maintenance is a new course that was approved for the 2026-27 school year at the December 2025 School Board meeting. As the instructional team has continued to plan for this new course, a request was made to adjust this name to "Aircraft Maintenance" to better align with the aviation industry.

Health Sciences 2 was a new VANTAGE strand proposed and approved in December of 2024. Although added to the Skipper Log for registration for the 2025-26 school year, registration for the class did not meet the threshold to be offered during the current school year. This VANTAGE course was approved as a three-course, two-credit class that included: Human Anatomy and Physiology (0.5 science elective credit), Medical Terminology, a new course that was to be developed, (0.5 science elective credit), and

Emergency Medical Technician (1.0 science elective credit). The administration and teaching staff requested the District replace the first two half-credit courses with the full year IB Sports, Exercise and Health Science (1.0 elective science credit) for the 2026-27 school year. This request is expected to increase enrollment, which will allow this new VANTAGE strand to be offered during the 2026-27 school year.

Dr. LaDue shared that approving these two requests would allow the District to make changes in the Skipper Log prior to registration for the 2026-27 school year. School Board Director Meghan Selinger asked about the change and whether the move would make it more rigorous. Dr. LaDue confirmed that was the case and the change would make the new course more desirable for students. Student Representative Archer Burns asked what the benefit was in changing a course name. Dr. LaDue said that based on input from the aviation partners, aircraft maintenance is a more common term in the industry. The Board approved the courses.

Capital Projects Fund Technology Update: Infrastructure, Application and Classroom Technology Improvements

Executive Director of Technology Amanda Fay provided the School Board with a comprehensive update on the strategic modernization of the District's technology ecosystem. Since mid-2024, the Technology Department has shifted from maintaining legacy systems to building a resilient, secure, and modern foundation. This work focuses on four pillars: Cybersecurity Resilience, Enterprise System Modernization, Infrastructure and Network Modernization, and Classroom Environment and Safety Upgrades. The projects outlined by Ms. Fay represent more than just technical upgrades; they signify a fundamental shift in how the District manages risk and supports instruction. By institutionalizing vendor audits, hardening the District's identity management, and modernizing its enterprise systems and classroom technology, the District's technology infrastructure is as resilient as the community it serves. School Board Chair Kemerie Foss thanked Ms. Fay for the detailed report. School Board Director Sally Browne asked about the playbook and our frequency of review for that, with regard to cybersecurity. Ms. Fay said they are continuously reviewing it. She asked whether our District's HR and Finance system updates will be all at once or a transition. Ms. Fay said it will be a seamless transition. Director Browne also asked whether we are looking at physical site security to see if there are vulnerabilities. Ms. Fay said yes. School Board Vice Chair Dan Olson thanked Ms. Fay for the presentation and thanked the community for approving the tech levy as it has made a real difference in the District's ability to make key, needed technology updates throughout the buildings.

[Download the Presentation](#)

Discussion on Board Goal of Long-term Financial Stability and Enrollment Adjustment Consideration

The Minnetonka School Board has a goal to ensure Long-term Financial Stability. This goal suggests a variety of strategies to implement including advocating for legislative change so that the District can ask for voter support for additional funding or use Board authority to raise the Local Optional Revenue, advocate for a larger increase in the per pupil funding, make reductions to expenditures, and make adjustments to the enrollment target to support a balanced budget. The Board has also prioritized maintaining a stable fund balance.

Superintendent David Law shared that as the state considers how to address a budget deficit for the upcoming fiscal biennium, it appears that legislative support to address the District's financial challenges is uncertain at best. With this in mind—and hoping to avoid additional cuts to staff and programs—he shared a solution with the Board that would increase the District's enrollment target, tiered over the next two years, which, if successful, would at least delay the need for cuts. School Board Director Karen Jordan asked about whether the increase in students would bring back teachers and staff cut in the past or would it allow for any new staff. Superintendent Law said it would be a very small cushion for new, critical staffing. It would primarily be to maintain our current programs and staffing. School Board Director Sally Browne thanked Superintendent Law for the candid, straightforward report. School Board Vice Chair Dan Olson thanked Superintendent Law for the presentation and said that with inflationary increases the State does not keep pace with our financial obligations. He said he's sensitive about class sizes, drop off lines, and other challenges and wants to hear more about how we'll support families with additional changes. Superintendent Law said that the upcoming facility improvements will help with drop off and hallway crowding. School Board Chair Kemerie Foss thanked Superintendent Law for his consistent communication, stressing how important it is for our community, including the broader public. School Board Director Meghan Selinger said she feels we're in a pinch, and she wants the District to be thoughtful about anticipating challenges and improvements. She asked whether there are ways to have a more even distribution for any new enrollment to raise enrollment in schools where it's lower and not at schools that feel at capacity. Superintendent Law agreed that enrollment management is a delicate balance, and the District continuously considers increases and how they might affect each school. School Board Director Karen Jordan encouraged families, staff and the public to reach out to legislators and candidates for those offices to advocate for student funding. She said the money is there, and we need to have people advocating for it. Superintendent Law said this is the second public discussion about this topic (as the first was at the January study session). He will bring this topic back in March for the Board's consideration.

[Download the Presentation](#)

Consent Agenda

(Minutes of January 6, 2026 Regular Meeting; Study Session Summary of January 22, 2026; Payment of Bills; Recommended Personnel Items; Gifts and Donations; Electronic Fund Transfers; Out-of-state Travel - Spring Baseball).

Board Reports

School Board Vice Chair Dan Olson said he attended his first Community Ed Advisory meeting. They discussed Aquatics, a program that is thriving and growing. He said the Tour de Tonka community bike ride is coming up in early August and registration for spring Community Ed programs begins in a week. School Board Director Taunya Kolbinger reported on the Teaching and Advisory Committee and its current focus. School Board Director Sally Browne reported on AMSD and the work done to collaborate in crafting its legislative platform. She added that Friday is the AMSD legislative session preview, followed by a Dignity Index presentation. School Board Director Meghan Selinger said she is working with PTO and PTA groups to set dates for Board members to come and meet with PTA and PTO groups. School

Superintendent's Report

Superintendent David Law shared that it's the start of semester two and how proud he is of students off to a strong start.

He then shared that he had a special message. He said that schools across the nation were removed as a safe haven from immigration enforcement a year ago. At that time, school leaders across the country had shared that such a move would increase anxiety for students and families and would be damaging to their key role of providing a safe, welcoming and productive teaching and learning environment. He said that has played out over the past six weeks across our state, as immigration enforcement has increased. He said in a recent conversation with superintendents the question was asked "How much of your time are you spending responding to immigration enforcement in your district?" and that the range was "30-70 percent of a superintendent's time." A great deal of educators and school leaders' energy has been focused on managing concerns from families and staff. He said he has never met a parent that has told him "I hope my child sees an armed officer doing an arrest on campus today." He said we have protocols in place to work with law enforcement to minimize the impact on students on law enforcement action at school. He shared that recently he visited a school site to do a classroom visit and that the teacher walked over to him, hugged him and cried. He said "I learned a long time ago there's no point in arguing that's how you feel when you can see visibly that our staff are shaken. Our community is shaken. It sickens me that I spend an awful lot of time reassuring people that we are doing things to keep our schools safe. That is real. People have those concerns. I don't ever support any agency-immigration, local law enforcement [unnecessarily] coming in and disrupting the educational environment and traumatizing our kids." He said that is why the MN State Superintendent's Association, the School Board Association, the Principals Association, the Public Relations Association, and many others are encouraging the reinstatement of the safe haven law. He said he would support that. He also said he would never defend a criminal in our system and that if law enforcement showed up and said we need to go to one of your sites because someone there is not a law-abiding citizen, then our district leaders would seek a way for law enforcement to discreetly get the criminal out of our system. He said those are completely different questions. He added "If I'm feeling it, our teachers and staff are feeling it every day. And, whenever parents say 'What can I do?', I say 'Love our teachers up. They are on the frontlines. Love our staff because every day they deal with students and parents who are anxious. I appreciate our staff who are dealing with this every day and I can't say it enough. I put it in writing, I say it to people in person, and then I think sometimes it falls on deaf ears. I appreciate all the work our staff are doing. Every employee in our system. Every day. To make sure our kids feel safe. And, I look forward to a day when my colleagues and I don't spend so much time reassuring our community that their schools continue to be safe. We will continue to do everything we can to advocate to keep our schools as places of education with compassion and belonging, as we move forward."

Announcements

School Board Director Taunya Kolbinger shouted out the great aviation program and was impressed by all the kids are learning- about aviation. She tried the flight simulator, and a student taught her how to fly in it. She also went to Groveland Elementary for the READ Act walk through with some

legislators and members of the Department of Education to see the READ Act legislation in action. She was impressed with teachers learning a new curriculum and all they were doing to implement it. She said it was beautiful to see. She's proud of our teachers.

School Board Director Meghan Selinger said "Tonight, I wish to make remarks on behalf of the Minnetonka School Board. We want to acknowledge the challenging times our community and greater Minnesota are facing and that we have community members who are hurting and/or scared. We are heartened to see the way our community has come together to support each other. Schools are critical to society, and every child deserves an education. We stand with others who have called for our government to reinstate the decades-old protected areas policy and to keep immigration enforcement away from schools and bus stops. Kids cannot learn and teachers cannot teach effectively if they don't feel safe. Every child should be able to get to school safely, focus on their classes, eat lunch with their friends, and play at recess without fear."

Upcoming Meetings

- February 19, 2026 School Board Study Session, 6PM at District Service Center
- March 5, 2026 School Board Meeting, 7PM District Service Center

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