Community Education Advisory Council Meeting Minutes

Date: February 19, 2026
Time: 4:00PM-5:30PM
Location: In person at J.J. Hill and Zoom

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1. Call to Order

Meeting was called to order at 4:05pm by Chairperson Erik Skold.

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2. Roll Call / Attendance

Members Present:

- Erik Skold (Chair)
- Nancy Dana (Co-Chair)
- Tony Walker
- Katy Mommaerts
- Renada Rutmanis
- Stephanie Berwald
- Rob Lindberg
- Chue Xiong
- Matt Severns
- Katherine Young
- Deb Campobasso
- Sarah Matlock
- Chelsey Smith
- Nikol Gordon
- Doug Grave
- Lizzie Earnest
- Nicole Walberg
- Elizabeth Delay
- Dr. Beatriz DeSantiago-Fjelstad

• Wendy Flinner
• Colin McKiernan

Student Guests
• Rengsona Yawa, 9th grade
• River Alcenat, 11th grade

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3. Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes (December 2025)

4:19PM

Motion to approve minutes by Dr. Beatriz DeSantiago-Fjelstad, seconded. Motion carried.

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4. New Business

4:20-5:30PM

Congrats to Liz

Liz was selected to represent the Community Advisory Board on the district strategic planning team.

MCEA Day at the Capitol

March 10th hold on calendar if interested. More info to come.

4:30PM

SPPS Budget Presentation

• Presented by Tony Walker
• Key take away is a projected ($21 million) 2.65% district shortfall and described board budget
• Priority: retain 95% of instructional support services

4:35PM

Changemakers Presentation

- Presented by Rengsona Yawa and River Alcenat
- Changemakers program was reviewed in detail
- No child left inside paid wages for 11 student Changemakers across all sites
- Program evaluation methods (interviews, learning walks, and the M3 framework: participation, experience, quality, outcomes)
- Recommendations for meaningful youth partnerships, strengthening youth representation on advisory boards, and the value of listening and purposeful youth engagement at decision-making tables

5. Program Updates

5:09PM

ABE Presented by Renada Rutmanis

- ABE Hours were up starting in May. Hours were up higher than the rest of the state
- Current: downward trend and added classes online creating flexibility
- Summer schedule will be more online than usual
- Expect longer term that numbers will be lower and secondary migration to MN won't be as appealing to students
- Funding is from prior years funding keeping staffing consistent

Enrichment Presented by Katy Mommaerts

- Class attendance up with J.J. Hill addition: 600 adult and 200 youth classes
- Share the Love campaign served nearly 6,000 participants
- New registration system is going up and will be mobile friendly
- Spring Neighbor Night planned for Friday, May 1

ECFE Presented by Stephanie Berwald

- St. Paul's birth counts are down by 638. This is less than earlier multi-year losses of 1,500, affecting future funding

• January attendance dropped to 57% (from 70%)
• Children's Museum event for St. Paul ECFE families has 300+ sign-ups

Discovery Club
• Presented by Rob Lindberg
• Short staff update

5:32PM

Community Partner Updates
Sprockets, Saint Paul out-of-school network has upcoming youth worker network gathering and a planning meeting for summer programming and safety

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Adjournment

5:36PM

Next meeting is April 23rd at J.J. Hill, 6:00–8:00PM with focus on Com Ed budget

flipside Youth Changmakers

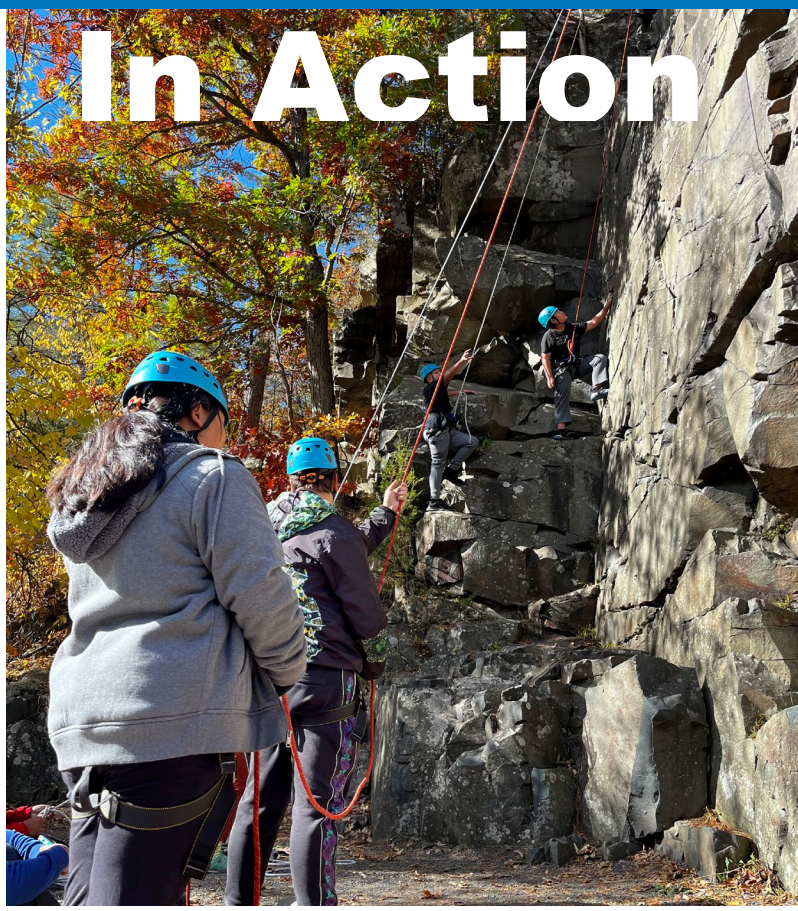
have fun • meet friends • be you

Origin Story

Youth Changemakers was imagined in 2021 in an effort to move Flipside to a more youth centered program where youth take ownership of leading, evaluating and improving the program. It is an opportunity for youth to partner with adults to support the Flipside outcome of increasing belonging at school for participants.

The first team of Changemakers worked together with staff and consultants to organize the establish the purpose and activities of the program. Part of that process was defining Belonging. They did this by interviewing staff and students across the program. As a result their definition of Belonging came together and they determined in order to increase belonging they would focus on five principles: Support, Respect, Being Seen, Being Ourselves and Engagement.

"When I'm at Flipside I feel seen and accepted for who I really am, respected and supported by others, and engaged with and connected to my community."



Components of Changemakers

Youth Employment and Job Skills

Work at one of our Flipside Program Site Locations approximately 5-10 hours per week, to assist the Site Coordinator with various administrative and evaluation duties.

Youth Led Evaluation and Continuous Improvement

Attend training to learn evaluation skills including observation & notetaking skills for conducting learning walks, data wall construction, survey administration, interviewing skills and evaluative thinking or analyzing data.

Leadership and Teambuilding with Voyageur Outward Bound School

VOBS will lead monthly teambuilding activities using outdoor activities such as rock climbing, cross country skiing, canoeing, orienteering and low ropes course to support the growth of leadership skills including problem-solving, trust, collaboration, communication, critical thinking and flexibility. In addition, each participant will experience belonging. The Flipside principles of belonging support, respect, engagement, being seen and being ourselves will be actively taught, practiced and expected and applied within each outdoor activity.

Principles of Belonging

Engagement

- Provide a variety of fun activities
- Opportunities to explore our interests and passions
- Connecting with friends who share interests/passion
- Opportunities to try new things
- Laughing and joking

Support

- Creating a safe environment
- Being present and patient
- Seeing mistakes as opportunities to grow
- Asking for help and helping others

Respect

- Actively listening
- Providing choices
- Sharing, valuing, and using each other's ideas
- Having high expectations and trusting each other

Being Seen

- Caring about people's well-being interests
- Being responsive to people's needs and concerns
- Paying attention to what people say and do
- Making sure people feel heard and understood

Being Ourselves

- Creating an environment where everyone feels comfortable expressing themselves
- Embracing each other's ideas, beliefs, interests and expression
- Using correct pronouns, names, and pronunciation of names
- Adults leading by example by being open and honest about their own experiences and identities

"Fitting in is becoming who you think you need to be in order to be accepted.

Belonging is being your authentic self and knowing that no matter what happens, you belong to you."

- Brene Brown

ACTIONS

Data Collection

- Youth and Staff Surveys
- Learning Walk Observations
- Social Emotional Program Quality Assessment
- Student Polls
- Staff and Student Interviews or Focus Groups

Strategies for Improvement

- Job-Embedded Professional Development
  - Monthly Staff meetings
  - Individual Coaching
  - Identify and provide specific supports, training, tip sheets, videos, webinars
- Call to Action on Data Wall
- Customized strategies to target specific challenges that arise.



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