
School Board News - March 5, 2026

From Minnetonka Public Schools <communications@minnetonkaschools.org>

Date Fri 3/6/2026 10:48 AM

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School Board News
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School Board News

March 5, 2026

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Recognitions

Boys Alpine Ski State Runners-Up, Girls Alpine Ski State Qualifiers, Varsity Cheerleading State and National Qualifiers, JV Cheerleading State Qualifiers, Competitive Dance State Qualifiers, Boys Nordic Ski State Qualifiers, Girls Nordic Ski State Qualifiers, Debate State Qualifiers, First Tech Challenge State Qualifiers, LERN Network 2026 Top Community Educator Award.

[Watch the Recognitions](#)

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 Izzy Schoss and Micah Lazarus.

School News Report: Minnetonka Middle School West

Minnetonka Middle School West's Principal Freya Schirmacher was joined by dozens of students and several teachers and staff members to provide an update summarizing the work at MMW this year. This report highlighted MMW's program updates, including student perspective on new electives and the school's continued focus on belonging, inclusion, and community at MMW. School Board Director Kemerie Foss thanked the students and adult presenters for such an amazing presentation, their outstanding efforts, and for their bravery to get up in front of such a large audience to speak. School Board Director Taunya Kolbinger added her thank you to the group, as well.

[Watch the Report](#)

Community Comments

There were no community comments.

Presentation on School Safety and Security

Minnetonka has been continuously working to improve school safety for staff and students. Security and Emergency Management Coordinator Scott Gerlicher provided an overview of these efforts and the steps taken during the current school year to address school safety. This includes physical improvements, as well as training and partnership initiatives. Law mention. School Board Director Karen Jordan noted that Mr. Gerlicher, Superintendent David Law and Director of Health Services Annie Lumbar Bendson presented at the MSBA conference on this topic and that it was very valuable information. She asked whether data stored about students remains after they graduate. Mr. Gerlicher said that the information we keep is on current students. School Board Director Meghan Selinger said she was pleased to hear about the reunification efforts, as that can be something overlooked. She asked whether the tech tools would help track down kids in the event a student is missing. Mr. Gerlicher said its intended use is not as an accountability system and that we have class rosters in our classroom go bags and other ways of determining whether a student is in class in the event of a reunification, but that the system will show whether there is an issue happening in a classroom, which could mean that not all students are accounted for, which would help first responders in an emergency. School Board Clerk Dr. Mike Remucal thanked Mr. Gerlicher on behalf of parents in the district. He said having a consistent entry process for every building is so helpful. School Board Treasurer Sally Browne asked about how and what we communicate to MHS students about crisis response. Mr. Gerlicher said District Administration has discussed this many times, and there is a tactical advantage to not sharing every single detail in our crisis response plan. We consider much of it need-to-know, and students are encouraged to listen to the adults and follow their lead in the event of an emergency.

[Watch the Report](#)

Update on Districtwide Committees

One of the School Board Goals for the 2025-2026 school year under the area of Excellence in Leadership and Organizational Support is related to districtwide committees. Specifically, it states:

Districtwide committees, including the Calendar Committee, Teaching and Learning Advisory Committee, Finance Advisory Committee, Mental Health Advisory Committee and Community Education Advisory Committee, will each present an update to the Board on the committee's charge and current work.

The Mental Health Advisory Committee update was included in a January Wellness report to the Board. This Board meeting included updates from the remaining committees. General Counsel and Executive Director of Human Resources Anjie Flowers provided an overview of the Calendar Committee and how its members work together, Associate Superintendent Dr. Amy LaDue spoke about the Teaching and Learning Advisory Committee structure and work, Executive Director of Community Education Kim Carlson spoke about the Community Education Advisory and its focus, and Executive Director of Finance and Operations Paul Bourgeois presented on the charge, work and the history of the Citizen's Finance Advisory Committee. School Board Director Sally Browne asked Dr. LaDue about the Student Teaching and Learning Advisory and how meetings with that group work. Dr. LaDue said the group meets regularly, and their input is solicited and valued. School Board Director Meghan Selinger said that having been involved with that group for three years that student participation on that advisory was great—with insightful contributions and in representing students broadly. She said she felt they contributed from a different and important perspective. She applauded Dr. LaDue's great work with that advisory.

[Watch the Report](#)

Approval of Policy #707: Transportation of Public School Students

As part of the District's ongoing policy review, District Administration is recommending changes to Policy 707: Transportation of Public School Students. The School Board approved the policy changes.

[Watch the Report](#)

Decision on Enrollment Target Increase

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, to advocate for a larger increase in the per pupil funding, to make reductions to expenditures and to make adjustments to the enrollment target to support a balanced budget. The Board has also prioritized maintaining a stable fund balance.

Superintendent David Law explained that as the State of Minnesota considers how to address a budget deficit for the upcoming fiscal biennium, it

appears that legislative support to address the school district's financial challenges is uncertain at best. With this in mind, and in aiming to avoid additional cuts to staff and programs, District Administration is proposing an increase in the enrollment target, tiered over the next five years, that, if successful, would delay the need for additional cuts temporarily. The original proposed targets and financial impact were shared with the Board at its study session in January, its February regular meeting, and its February study session.

School Board Director Karen Jordan thanked Superintendent Law for the presentation and clarified for the audience that there is no path to bringing back the teachers and staff cut through budget reductions over the past two years. Superintendent Law confirmed that is true. Director Jordan also stated that if the enrollment adjustments are not approved that the District would likely need to cut more teachers and staff and class sizes would also increase. Superintendent Law confirmed that yes, larger class sizes would be the likely outcome if we had additional cuts, and that would mean fewer educators to meet our students' needs. School Board Director Meghan Selinger said she really appreciates the responsiveness of Superintendent Law to adjust the enrollment plan based on the Board's hesitation to allow a large, sudden increase in enrollment. She said this plan staggers the growth over time, which would lessen the stress of increasing, and she definitely doesn't want to cut programming. She said the Board has acknowledged the challenges, and this is not an easy decision. She said this is something the Board has discussed thoroughly and that there was a comprehensive process. School Board Vice Chair Dan Olson said he feels this plan does the best job the Board can do to balance District's needs, while keeping up with expenses. He thanked Superintendent Law for the revised plan. School Board Director Taunya Kolbinger agreed and said the Board is backed into a corner and it feels like this is the right decision. The School Board approved the enrollment target increase.

[Watch the Report](#)

Approval of 2026 Legislative Position Statements

The School Board reviewed the school district's drafted 2026 Legislative Position Statements document at its November study session, its December regular meeting and its February study session. As Superintendent David Law explained, the statements focus on the need for the State Legislature to provide sufficient funding for key funding formulas that are the backbone of programmatic stability for the District. Some interest areas were added to the legislative position statements, to be monitored based on community feedback, Board goals and AMSD priorities. If the District is not successful at the Legislature in getting the Operating Referendum Cap increased, it will only be able to rely on the limited funding increases available annually from the State of Minnesota, and that will be detrimental to being able to maintain all current programming offerings to 2030 and beyond. Success in the 2026 Legislature in getting these initiatives enacted into law is critically important to maintaining the programs the District is currently offering its students. School Board Vice Chair Dan Olson said he wanted to emphasize for people watching that the legislative position statements are in the board packet, and he encouraged people to reach out to legislators to understand schools' needs and put education front and center. School Board Director Karen Jordan agreed and said she encouraged school community members to join the Community Action for Student Education committee to advocate for school funding. To get involved, click [here](#). The School Board approved the legislative position statements.

[Watch the Report](#)

Approval of Bid for MHS NW Parking Lot Expansion

In April 2025, the School Board of Minnetonka Independent School District 276 approved the issuance of the 2025B Certificates of Participation at Minnetonka High School for the purchase of the property at 18407 Delton Avenue adjacent to Minnetonka High School, demolition of the house on that property and construction of an addition to the Northwest Parking Lot. Bids for the construction of additional parking at the Northwest Parking Lot at Minnetonka High School were opened on February 19, 2026, at 2:00 PM. Seven bids were received. Executive Director of Finance and Operations Paul Bourgeois recommended the School Board accept the low bid of Northwest Asphalt, Inc., in the amount of \$699,400.00 for construction of an addition to the Northwest Parking Lot at Minnetonka High School in summer 2026, contingent upon receiving the permit for the project from the City of Minnetonka. The School Board accepted the low bid.

[Watch the Report](#)

Decision on Resolution to Permit Board Member to Serve as a Substitute

A resolution was presented for the Board to consider that would allow a current Board Member to serve as a substitute within the District. Such a measure requires a Board majority approval. School Board Director Taunya Kolbinger has been a sub in the past and is seeking to in the future. To do so, the majority of the full board must support that. School Board Clerk Dr. Mike Remucal read a statement about conflicts of interest. School Board Director Karen Jordan said the state law and our current policy allows this, so her question was if this is approved now, could the Board revisit this in the future. Superintendent Law said yes, it is allowed and yes it could be revisited. School Board Director Meghan Selinger said her understanding is that this is allowed when there is an identified need, so she wondered whether Ms. Kolbinger would sub at all buildings, or where the needs are. Superintendent Law answered that there is a true need across the district, particularly on Fridays and Mondays and that anywhere we place a sub helps our system. Director Selinger said she feels this move has the ability to blur the lines between Board action and operational actions, and that she would expect Ms. Kolbinger would recuse herself from decisions that are a conflict. Superintendent Law said yes that has been outlined by Clerk Remucal and could be done. School Board Director Taunya Kolbinger thanked the Board for looking into the legal aspects of this and said she subbed last year and that is her passion so she would like to continue doing it. School Board Chair Kemerie Foss thanked Director Kolbinger for her dedication and efforts in teaching. The School Board approved the resolution.

[Watch the Report](#)

Consent Agenda

(Minutes of February 5, 2026 Regular Meeting, February 19 Closed Session, and February 19 Special Session; Study Session Summary of February 19,

2026; Payment of Bills; Recommended Personnel Items; Gifts and Donations; Electronic Fund Transfers; Approval of Calendar Change for Professional Learning; Approval of Vendor for Group Life and Disability Insurance).

Board Reports

School Board Director Karen Jordan reported on the Minnetonka Foundation's Dream Maker event. It was a great success and a lot of fun for all!

[Watch the Report](#)

Superintendent's Report

Superintendent David Law said we're coming up on the end of third quarter, spring break is a month away and we're at the culmination of winter activities. He mentioned hockey and basketball and the recognitions with all of the students honored at the beginning of the meeting. He thanked our two student school board representatives for their great work and representation.

[Watch the Report](#)

Announcements

No announcements.

Upcoming Meetings

- March 17, 2026 School Board Study Session, 6PM at District Service Center
 - April 9, 2026 School Board Meeting, 7PM District Service Center
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