
School Board News - April 9, 2026

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School Board News
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April 9, 2026

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Recognitions

Boys Hockey State Runners-Up, Boys Swimming and Diving State Runners-Up, Boys Wrestling State Qualifier, Mock Trial State Qualifiers, Science Bowl State Qualifiers, Science Olympiad State Qualifiers, and Chess State Qualifiers

[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 Christy Watras and Michah Lazarus.

School Report: Excelsior Elementary and Community Education

Excelsior Elementary Principal Jennifer Smasal, Assistant Principal David Wicklund, and 5th grade teacher Jennifer Kitt joined Excelsior 5th grade students to share their school's progress on two of the District's key goals: Excellence in Well-Being, Connection and Belonging, and Excellence in Student Learning and Support. The highlight of the presentation was a live student-led 5th grade morphology lesson — giving Board members a firsthand look at learning in action. School Board Director Meghan Selinger thanked the students for teaching us a new word. She asked school leaders about any correlation between a decrease in kids presenting as at-risk in a screening tool and behavioral referrals and whether the activities discussed in the report are helping with behavioral issues. Assistant Principal Wicklund explained some of the work that is being done to study the data to inform the school's best practices in that area. School Board Director Taunya Kolbinger thanked the school leaders and teachers for their work and the students for their presentation. School Board Clerk Michael Remucal said that understanding the roots to words will serve students for the rest of their lives.

Executive Director of Community Education Kim Carlson, Director Jenny Bodurka, and Coordinator of Minnetonka Preschool, ECFE & Jr. Explorers Molly Bahneman shared a presentation on MCE program and marketing information, along with Ellery Funk, Aquatics Rec Program Coordinator and Louise Weir, Marketing Specialist, and with the help of a preschool student, Ben. School Board Chair Kemerie Foss thanked the Community Ed Team and student Ben for their presentation. School Board Director Taunya Kolbinger said her family has used the ECFE and Community Education programming for years and they have found the services invaluable. School Board Director Meghan Selinger said she thinks rebranding to Tonka Swim School makes good sense and she loves the idea of the lunch bunch that the team spoke about. School Board Director Karen Jordan thanked the Community Education Team and Ben for their presentation and said the aquatics rebranding is a good idea.

[Watch the Report](#)

Community Comments

There were two community members who commented.

[Watch the Community Comments](#)

Approval of Minnetonka Foundation's Teacher Grants

The Minnetonka Public Schools Foundation annually funds a significant number of innovative grants for teachers. The Foundation presented its selection of grants for the School Board's approval. The Board approved the grants.

[Watch the Report](#)

Community Engagement Report

In alignment with the School Board's goals for the District, and, specifically, the goal of Excellence in Leadership and Organizational Support, District leadership continues to take significant strides in its efforts to strengthen relationships with its constituents. District Administrators and the School Board believe that community engagement is vital for innovation and for best practices in leadership. Convening and valuing voices from all constituents clarifies District priorities and the strategies by which those priorities will be pursued.

From community surveys to listening sessions, visits to senior living communities, presentations at Rotary clubs and other organizations, meetings with lawmakers, and engagement opportunities through events, volunteering, mentoring and community education classes for community members, Minnetonka Public Schools' leadership is committed to hearing observations, reflections and feedback and to providing real opportunities for constituents to engage with the District. Together, all of this input allows District leadership to help to shape the District that the community envisions, and that makes the District stronger.

Executive Director of Communications Dr. JacQui Getty and Executive Director of Community Education Kim Carlson provided a summary of the various outreach and engagement efforts and opportunities the District has undertaken and provided throughout the 2025-2026 school year. School Board Chair Kemerie Foss thanked the presenters.

[Watch the Report](#)

Approval of Bid for Site Work Component of MMW Project

As part of the voter-approved project to construct additions and renovations at Minnetonka Middle School West, it is necessary for several key items related to work on the MMW site to be completed before the start of school on September 1, 2026 and to also set up the layout of the MMW site to facilitate construction of the main portion of the project. The site work bid package contains the following key components:

- Relocate the driveway to the South Parking Lot to facilitate a simplified traffic pattern and create space on the site to stage construction materials
- Relocate the track and internal play fields and rotate them 90 degrees to create space for construction of a stormwater retention pond that is a regulatory-necessary part of the project
- Construct the stormwater retention pond
- Install storm drainage piping on the site that is needed for the new building additions

The budget estimate for the site work portion of the project is \$2,500,000. Bids were opened at 2:00 PM on Thursday, April 9, 2026. Six (6) bids were received for the project. Executive Director of Finance and Operations Paul Bourgeois asked the Board to accept the low bid of Rachel Contracting, LLC in the amount of \$2,360,000.000 for completion of the site work portion of the additions and renovations project at Minnetonka Middle School West. The Board accepted the bid.

[Watch the Report](#)

Approval of 2027-28 Calendar

Minnesota State law requires the School Board to adopt a calendar prior to April 1 of the school year preceding the year the calendar will be in effect. As is the District's practice, we are working on setting a calendar a full year in advance of its due date. Accordingly, on February 24, a committee of teachers, paraprofessionals, administrators, parents, and students worked to develop the draft of a calendar to recommend to the School Board. The Committee followed contractual and state law parameters in developing this recommendation.

Superintendent Law provided some context, and in particular, he spoke about how the calendar committee works, how members are added to it, and what its work entails. He also clarified that the district did a survey earlier in the year regarding Chinese/Lunar New Year unrelated to the calendar committee's work to get feedback from Chinese Immersion teachers about the Chinese New Year Event and the time and effort it takes to put that event on. Executive Director of Human Resources and General Counsel Anjie Flowers provided the highlights of the proposed calendar for the 2027-28 school year. She emphasized the discussion the calendar committee had about its proposal to add Chinese/Lunar New Year as a non-school day for the 2027-28 school year.

Board Chair Kemerie Foss read a resolution for the Board to table this Board item, Approval of the 2027-28 Calendar, for further research and discussion. Several School Board Members expressed their thoughts on this, with many stating, for various reasons, they would be willing and supportive of additional research and discussion before approving the 2027-28 calendar.

The Board voted unanimously to approve the resolution to table this item and to have it come back to a future Board meeting for approval, after more discussion and research on Chinese/Lunar New Year is completed.

[Watch the Report](#)

Consent Agenda

(Minutes of March 5, 2026 Regular Meeting; Study Session Summary of March 17, 2026; Payment of Bills; Recommended Personnel Items; Gifts and Donations; Electronic Fund Transfers; Extension of Cell Tower Lease; Nutrition Services Prime Food Supplier; Apple Lease Purchase Agreement).

Board Reports

School Board Vice Chair Dan Olson said a lot of great things are happening in Community Education, as we heard earlier in the meeting. School Board Director Meghan Selinger said on April 18 there is a reuse and recycle event at MHS. There is also the Tonka Pride Sale at the District Service Center on April 17 & 18. School Board Director Taunya Kolbinger shared highlights of the Teaching and Learning Advisory meeting. School Board Clerk Dr. Michael Remucal reminded our community that May is Mental Health Awareness Month.

[Watch the Report](#)

Superintendent's Report

Superintendent David Law said we are starting fourth quarter and nearing the end of the school year! There is a lot going on, including the upcoming spring musical- Spamalot. He said at the next School Board Study Session, student School Board representatives will present about their experience this year in this pilot program.

Watch the Report

Announcements

School Board Director Karen Jordan reminded the community that people who want to advocate at the State Capitol for adequate school funding with the Community Action for Student Education (CASE) committee, can be involved in Day at the Capitol, which takes place on Monday, April 13. For more information on CASE and to get involved, please visit [this webpage](#).

Watch the Report

Upcoming Meetings

- April 23, 2026 School Board Study Session, 6PM at District Service Center
- May 7, 2026 School Board Meeting, 7PM District Service Center

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