



**MINUTES FROM THE
WORK SESSION OF
THE BOARD OF EDUCATION
Community Room
Tuesday, April 21, 2026
5:30 PM**

Members present: Ms. Granlund, Ms. Houle, Ms. Medearis, Ms. Mueller, Ms. Pettway, Laura Palmer

Revised 2025-2026 Budget Director Hennekens presented details on the revised 2025-2026 budget. The revised budget is closely aligned with the preliminary budget, reflecting areas where we exceeded and others where we came in under. Overall, these adjustments balanced out to closely match our projected needs.

Programs and Positions Directors Hennekens and Bennett presented information regarding the Programs and Positions. The first round of staffing cuts was focused on probationary teachers, while the second round of adjustments considered class sizes and operational efficiencies. Several staff members have already resigned or are preparing for retirement. The district has applied for grants, and factors such as enrollment numbers and potential reimbursement funds will influence opportunities to rehire staff in the upcoming school year. The district makes these decisions early to provide staff with the opportunity to plan their next steps.

School Board Goals

Chair Granlund led the mid-year review of the school board's goals. We are making significant strides in the metro area, and our active presence in the community is showing strong engagement—with residents referring to us as "my district" rather than just "the district." The concept is to present a State of the District address to showcase our progress. The next steps will focus on further enhancing volunteer efforts within our district.

Community Engagement/LAC Vice Chair Pettway presented information on the Community Engagement and Legislative Action Committee regarding the recent Day at the Capitol. Attendees will have the opportunity to listen to the goals of constituents and board members at the event. Board members play a crucial role in this process. We have prepared a draft to communicate with the Governor's office and the House of Representatives, emphasizing the importance of various issues and how compensatory aid benefits our district. It's essential for our voices to be heard. The Committee would like to express our gratitude to our representatives with a token of appreciation. Let's build momentum and see where it goes.

Other

Thank you to Member Mueller for accepting the nomination to fill the School Board seat from December to April. We are thankful for your seamless transition into the challenging times we

went through. Your presence is so calm and thoughtful. Great leader on the Board. Thank you will never be enough. Being the leader that we needed. Lorien Mueller was honored to help.

Meeting adjourned at 7:46 PM

4/28/2026

Date minutes approved

Laura Palmer, Clerk, Board of Education.
Independent School District 13