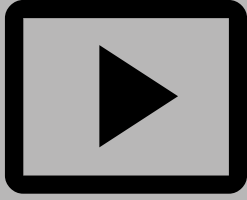


At the Core

BOARD HIGHLIGHTS | AUGUST 17, 2026

Naperville 203
Community Unit School District



Watch the Full
Board Meeting
Online

OUR MISSION

The mission of Naperville Community Unit School District 203 is to empower students to develop a **learner's mindset**, demonstrate **adaptability**, **communicate** effectively, **think critically**, and become **global citizens**.



OUR VISION

Building a Passion for
Lifelong Learning

GOOD NEWS FROM NAPERVILLE 203

First Day of School

We welcomed our students back for the **start of another great school year** on Thursday! Exciting events were happening before and during the school day, including assemblies and a special welcome from local first responders. Here's to another amazing year!



Substitute Training

We welcomed our new District 203 **Substitute Teachers** on Wednesday, August 12th and the district administrative building. Substitutes play a huge role in our daily operations and we are always so honored to have such a great group of people helping us out each year!

Inspire 203

Some of our Naperville 203 educators gathered at Naperville Central on August 6th for **Inspire 203**: a day dedicated to exploring, energizing, and re-imagining learning together.

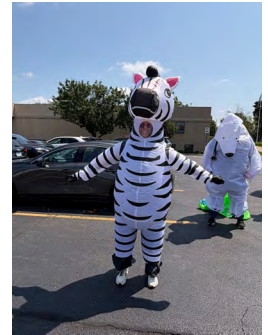
From an empowering keynote by George Couros to peer-led workshops and inspiring student insights, staff recharged their creative spark for the 2026-2027 school year.



Middle School Institute Day

Our middle school teachers kicked off the school year with a **Staff Development Day** on August 11th. They didn't let the bad weather rain on their parade and kept the day going after a brief interlude to hunker down for the storms. One of their activities had staff choose ribbons based on the impact for our students they want to focus on for the school year that they wove together to create fun boards for each school.

Staff also got to vote for which inflatable won in a race without knowing the results or who was wearing the costume, and the winners got some swag as prizes!



Kid Booster Resource Center



The Naperville Education Foundation has been receiving generous donations to their **Kid Booster Resource Center** in preparation for the new school year.

They were able to send over 700 items last week to many of our schools to meet anticipated student needs. The Resource Center not only provides essential items for expected and unexpected student needs, but it also provides real-world vocational training opportunities for Naperville 203 students with special needs, who help to operate the Resource Center.

If you would like to donate and help refill the shelves for the upcoming school year, please visit the Naperville Education Foundation's Facebook page or their website at nef203.org.

Construction Updates

We are making great progress on construction projects across the district. At Washington, **Project Lead the Way classrooms** are open and ready for students! At Kennedy, the **FACs room** is ready as well! This completes the final phase of those space renovations.

The **new transportation facility** is well underway. Photos show the building has the walls up and crews are hard at work for substantial completion in December and having in fully operational shortly after.

And finally, at **Naperville North**, you can see the addition is starting to come together. They even had a beam signing for that project, more on that later. This project is still ready for substantial completion by August 2027. We'll continue to keep you posted on these projects!



NNHS Beam Signing

Naperville North students, staff, coaches, and families had the opportunity to **sign a steel beam** that was being installed in the new building addition. The white beam covered in signatures stands out against the other parts of the structure. A big thank you to Pepper Construction for helping to give these members of our NNHS community the opportunity to be a permanent part of the new area!



Prairie Trolley Tour

Prairie Elementary teachers and staff rode the **Naperville Trolley** on August 12th around the Prairie neighborhoods to wave to their students. Students and families were invited to come out and wave as the trolley passed by to show their excitement for the upcoming school year.



Ranch View Grade-Level Teams

Grade-level teams at Ranch View Elementary got together before the start of the school year. Each grade-level team works together to support not only each other but also the learning of each student, helping them grow and excel throughout their time in the district.



[Check Out the Good News Presentation](#)

Forward Together 2032

This is a new human-centered design process launched by the district to rebuild community trust, elevate stakeholder voices, and collaboratively design the 2032 Community Framework. The initiative will use a phased approach involving qualitative listening sessions, quantitative surveys, and AI-augmented data synthesis to identify recurring themes. Every household will receive a postcard with a QR code linking to a community report and an initial survey. The goal is to finalize and publish the framework by August 2027

[Read the Overview Here](#)

Student Services Update (Strategic Blueprint 1.4A)

The Student Services team provided an update on their analysis of specialized self-contained classrooms (e.g., multi-needs, emotional support, and structured learning programs). The project specifically addressed high staff turnover and burnout in these high-intensity roles by gathering feedback from current and former staff to improve support systems. Key factors include the creation of a Specialized Program Playbook: An internal resource designed to ensure consistency across the district so that the quality of a student's environment is not dependent on which school they attend.

[View the Presentation Here](#)

Health Insurance Approval

The board approved a comprehensive insurance rate proposal for 2027 to stabilize a self-funded plan. These adjustments were developed through a collaborative shared governance model involving all four District Union Associations

[View the Proposal Here](#)

NAPERVILLE 203 BOARD OF EDUCATION:

Charles Cush, President
Kristine Gericke, Vice President
Holly Blastic
Melissa Kelley Black

Joseph Kozminski
Amanda McMillen
Marc Willensky



All Board Meeting notices, agendas, presentations, minutes, video links, and more can be found on our website, under the Board of Education tab.



NEXT BOARD MEETING

The next Board Business Meeting will take place Tuesday, September 8, 2026, at 7:00 p.m.