

School District 12 Update

August 21, 2026

From the Desk of Dr. Mary Henderson

Calendar, Events and Links

[2026-27 School Year Calendar](#)

Special Board of Education Meeting: Tuesday, August 25, 2026 at 7:00 p.m. at the Administration Office

Regular monthly Board of Education Meeting: Tuesday, September 15, 2026 at 7:00 p.m. at Lake Park East High School

[Board Meeting Agendas](#)

[District 12 website](#)

[Safety Threat Report](#)

Dear D12 Families,

What a week! Welcoming our staff back on Monday, engaging with families on Tuesday at our Meet and Greet, and finally welcoming all of our Hawks and Ravens on Wednesday made for a very exciting time. We capped off our week with our eighth grade learners walking over to Spring Hills to present each kindergartener with their first D12 Spirit Wear earlier today. An activity like that can only happen in a small district, and we are fortunate to be able to do so!

Special Board of Education Meeting

The Board of Education will meet on Tuesday, August 25, at 7:00 p.m. at the Administration Office. They will be working with the consultant running the superintendent search in order to finalize a timeline for the process. This meeting will not be live-streamed.

Proposed Capital Project for Our District/Budget Presentation

As I shared in my last newsletter, Mr. Ohannes and I presented a comprehensive financial picture of the District at the August 11 Board of Education meeting. I began with an overview of where we were 10 years ago when the District 12 community approved a referendum to stabilize the District's finances. With a very healthy fund balance (similar to a family's savings) and the ability to issue **non-referendum** bonds that will **not** increase the taxpayers' obligations to the District, we have the ability to address two long-standing items to enhance the District 12 experience: a fully operational and functional gym space that will allow our RMS teams and learners to have true "home game" experiences and a District 12 preschool program. Currently, District 12 is the only district in our feeder group that does not have a preschool program. Learners who qualify for preschool

programming through special education programs or for at-risk programming must go to Medinah District 11. Bringing those learners home as well as having a traditional, tuition-based program would make preschool an option for all of our District 12 families. A district-based preschool program historically runs five days a week, which greatly increases the time spent in school. There is also greater cohesion and collaboration when the preschool team and the primary team from Spring Hills are all part of the same District. Finally, the District would add its offices to the addition allowing us to address the costs that come with a district office that is reaching the end of its functional life cycle. Our District Office footprint is fairly small as we house seven employees and do not foresee a need to add additional district level staff.

This [link](#) will allow you to view my presentation on the past, present and future state of the District's finances followed by Mr. Ohannes' presentation on the fiscal year 2027 budget.

Questions or thoughts about the project? You may use this [link](#) to share both. The information gathered will be accessible to all Board members as they make their decision on whether or not to take on this project.

We recognize that the beginning of the school year brings a rush of communication from both the school and district level. Our goal is to keep you up to date on school and district operations and hope that you find them informative and useful.

Sincerely,
Dr. Mary Henderson
Superintendent
#YouBelongInD12



Mary Henderson

Mary is using Smore to create beautiful newsletters

