MINNETONKA INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT #276
District Service Center
5621 County Road 101
Minnetonka, Minnesota

Minutes of October 1, 2026 School Board Meeting

The School Board of Minnetonka Independent School District #276 met in regular session at 7:00 p.m. on Thursday, October 1, 2026 in the Community Room at the District Service Center, 5621 County Road 101, Minnetonka, Minnesota. Chairperson Kemerie Foss presided. Other Board members present were: Sally Browne, Karen Jordan, Taunya Kolbinger, Dan Olson, Meghan Selinger and Superintendent David Law, ex officio. Absent: Michael Remucal. Student School Board representatives KK Otaro and Soli Rangel were also present. The meeting was livestreamed on the District's YouTube channel.

Chairperson Foss then called the meeting to order and asked that everyone stand and recite the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

1. **AGENDA**

   Olson moved, Selinger seconded, that the School Board approve the agenda, as presented. Upon vote being taken thereon, the motion carried unanimously.

2. **SCHOOL REPORT: DEEPHAVEN**

   Principal Bryan McGinley and members of his staff presented on the opening of school, their work on the district's Belonging goal, and the Harbor Program. They also provided an update on the implementation of the new Spanish Literacy program.

3. **COMMUNITY COMMENTS**

   Chairperson Foss noted that this opportunity for comment was available to community members who wished to address the Board on any item on that night's agenda. No one responded to this invitation to speak.

4. **ADOPTION OF THE ANNUAL REPORT**

   For accountability and transparency, the Minnetonka Public School District will publish its Annual Report for the 2025-26 school year in October 2026. Minnetonka uses its Annual Report as a primary tool to communicate District goals and results to parents and citizens of the District. Minnetonka's Annual Report includes financial data, reports on innovative initiatives and programs, and student achievements beyond test scores. Per state guidelines, the report also includes elements required from the Comprehensive Achievement and Civic Readiness Report.

   The Board reviewed a draft of the Annual Report at its September Study Session and

offered feedback on the draft. This evening, Executive Director of Communications JacQui Getty walked the Board through the latest version and highlighted the changes that had been made based on Board feedback. She noted that once the report is adopted by the Board, it will be mailed to every Minnetonka Public Schools parent and every District residence and distributed internally. It will also be posted as an online interactive publication, with additional multi-media to relay the incredible success stories of our students, staff and District.

Jordan moved, Kolbinger seconded, that the Board approve the annual report. Upon vote being taken thereon, the motion carried unanimously.

5. **WELLNESS/SOCIAL AND EMOTIONAL LEARNING UDPATE**

The District's social and emotional learning (SEL) implementation directly supports its emphasis on fostering belonging and well-being for each student. When students learn a shared language for character, see that language reflected in their building's norms, and experience consistent, caring adult responses when they struggle, they are more likely to feel known, valued and connected at school. Monthly themes will continue to connect to the Purposeful People and Character Strong curriculum, and each school's belonging initiatives remain strategically aligned with SEL programming to create a cohesive, supportive environment across all grade levels.

As Assistant Superintendent of Student Services Christine Breen and Academic Coordinator Anelise Peterson shared, Minnetonka remains committed to deep implementation of a Multi-Tiered System of Supports (MTSS) Framework with fidelity across all programs. In striving for continuous school improvement, this process continues to evolve as the District focuses on consistently and systematically responding to the needs of students. Minnetonka Schools believes SEL and well-being go hand in hand, and that both are essential to every student's sense of belonging. They explained all of the elements of this work.

In the discussion that followed, Chairperson Foss said that training for all staff was important and made a difference. She asked about the concept of resilience and whether it's being communicated even in elementary school. Ms. Peterson said yes and that it begins in elementary, focusing on perseverance. Dr. Breen added that the same concepts are embedded at middle school with the concept of grit and then resilience at MHS.

Board member Jordan asked at what point will we measure results on how this work impacts behavior. Dr. Breen said we measure it monthly, and then she explained the process of that measurement. Board member Selinger said it's important we are consistent across schools with regard to expectations and how it's tracked. Dr. Breen said there was a team that looked at that process and where there may have been inequities in the past and that was intentionally addressed when building the new framework. Board member Kolbinger said this work is very powerful. She wanted to highlight the flowchart and behavior reflection plan and the importance of students processing this with the adult they

are with, as it builds relationships. She also agreed it's important to include all staff in training—from bus drivers to nutrition staff to all teachers. She also applauded middle school teachers in particular for this work while also doing year two of the new block schedule, and she asked how things were going with that. Dr. Breen said we meet with middle school principals each month, and they spoke very positively about this. She said the two middle school principals are partnering well to have shared clarity around academics and social/emotional efforts.

Student School Board Representative Soli Rangel said it's important to keep the work consistent across schools and was glad to see that was happening. She asked how schools accommodate for different cultural needs. Dr. Breen said we train staff to support all students and to understand cultural competencies. She then offered some specific examples. Student School Board Representative KK Otaro commended the presenters for creating the framework of all of this. She has felt the impact of these efforts.

Vice Chair Olson said it's great work and that we're moving in the right direction for this work—having one system that works at all of our schools. He asked about eduCLIMBER and wondered where we are still looking for improvements for it. Dr. Breen said eduCLIMBER is a great tool, and we continue to train staff to use it daily or more consistently. She talked through some of the challenges in rolling it out and next steps for it. She also gave a shout out to the tech team for all of their work in getting it up and running.

6. **ATTENDANCE PROCEDURES AND GUIDANCE UPDATE**

Regular attendance remains one of the strongest predictors of student success. Even when absences are excused, missing school can affect a student's learning experience. When absent, students miss classroom instruction, discussions, collaborative learning opportunities, and important social connections with peers and staff. Regular attendance helps students build academic skills, maintain routines, develop positive relationships, and feel connected to their school community.

Chronic absenteeism, commonly defined as missing 10% or more of enrolled school days for any reason, excused or unexcused, can quickly translate into learning loss and disengagement if it is not identified and addressed early. To respond to this, the district has refined how attendance data is monitored and how families are informed and engaged at each stage of concern.

Minnetonka's attendance team is working to build a comprehensive framework utilizing an MTSS model to guide communication, intervention, and wrap-around supports for families. The updates build on the district's existing attendance policy and align monitoring practices across all buildings by using eduCLIMBER as the central platform for tracking, flagging, and communicating attendance concerns.

Dr. Breen and Ms. Peterson shared about the District's layered system of support, which includes early, personal outreach from teachers at Tier 1; consistent, automatically

generated formal notifications tied to clear thresholds in eduCLIMBER; recurring building-level reinforcement through monthly principal newsletters; and a centralized, always-available resource for families via the district attendance webpage. The shared goal across all four components is to help every student and family understand, in a clear and consistent way, why being in school every day matters; and to ensure that when attendance concerns arise, families are informed early, supported directly, and connected to help before patterns become chronic.

In the discussion that followed, Board member Jordan wondered how long chronic absenteeism has been in the national conversation. Superintendent Law said it really started post-pandemic, nationwide and has remained consistent. Board member Jordan then asked whether we have figures of the students chronically absent. Superintendent Law said he could provide that information to the Board in a future update.

Board member Browne asked for more information about tardies. Dr. Breen explained the parameters across the school levels, and noted tardies are often given because students are dilly-dallying and chatting in the hallways with friends. Board member Browne also spoke about how if families don't feel connected it is less likely students will be encouraged at home to connect with the school community. She said that the Board has had community connectedness in its District goals and may want to do even more with this.

Vice Chair Olson thanked the presenters and said the data is really interesting and valuable. He said it's heartening to see this work. He encouraged community members to continue to share ways the District can be even more inclusive. Board member Kolbinger expressed support for the eduCLIMBER system and for how it's helping us to accurately and consistently track reasons for absences, as it's taking some of that work off of staff. Board member Selinger said having more coding in the reporting of absences is helpful. She's heard feedback from families for a long time, as the reasons for absences are varied. She said having that enhanced data is helpful and parents find it useful, as well. Board Chair Foss thanked Dr. Breen and Ms. Peterson for the detailed report.

7. **CONSENT AGENDA**

Selinger moved, Browne seconded, that the Board approve the recommendations included within the following Consent Agenda items:

- Minutes of September 10 regular meeting and closed session, and September 24 special meeting
- Study Session Summary of September 24, 2026
- Payment of Bills
- Recommended Personnel Items
- Gifts and Donations: $60.00 from Charities Aid Foundation America to be placed in the MHS Principal's Discretionary Fund. $400.00 from Deephaven Elementary School PTA to be placed in the Minnetonka Family Collaborative Fund. $250.00 from Julie McClure to be placed in the Clear Springs Elementary Principal's

Discretionary Fund. $2500.00 from the Jeffers Foundation to be placed in the Clear Springs Elementary School Outdoor Classroom Construction Fund. $125.00 from the Jeffers Foundation to be placed in the Clear Springs Elementary School In-House Monarch Field Trip Fund. $3000.00 from the Clear Springs Elementary School PTO to be placed in the Clear Springs Elementary School Field Trip Fund. A euphonium from Judy Zier and 2 violins from Linlin Wang, all to be donated to the Scenic Heights Elementary School Orchestra Department. $150.00 from Dr. Dennis Peterson to be placed in the Dr. Dennis Peterson Scholarship Fund for Graduating Seniors. $8.40 from the Blackbaud Giving Fund to be placed in the MMW Principal's Discretionary Fund. Total Gifts and Donations thus far for 2026-2027: $244,422.60.

- Electronic Fund Transfers
- FY28-FY31 Transportation Contract with First Student

Upon vote being taken on the foregoing Consent Agenda items, the motion carried unanimously.

8. **BOARD REPORTS**

Board member Jordan shared that the Minnetonka Foundation's annual Dream Makers event has been set for January 30, 2027. More information can be found on the Foundation's website.

9. **SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT**

Superintendent Law said that Homecoming last week had been fantastic, from the pep fest, the football game, the alumni breakfast, to the dance itself. He thanked MHS staff and student leaders who helped to plan and support all of those efforts. He also thanked the community for celebrating our students and district.

10. **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Student Board representative KK Otaro said the school year is going great so far!

11. **ADJOURNMENT**

Jordan moved, Browne seconded, adjournment at 8:50 p.m. Upon vote being taken thereon, the motion carried unanimously.



Michael Remucal, Clerk