

INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT 273  
OFFICIAL MINUTES OF THE RETREAT OF JANUARY 20, 2026

RETREAT  
5:00 PM

Edina Chamber of Commerce  
7201 Metro Blvd, Edina

SCHOOL BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:

ABSENT:

Ms. Erica Allenburg  
Mr. Dan Arom  
Ms. Cheryl Barry  
Mr. Michael Birdman  
Ms. Karen Gabler  
Ms. Jennifer Huwe  
Mr. Elliot Mann

PRESIDING OFFICER: Chair Karen Gabler

5:23 PM - 9:06 PM

ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF PRESENT:

Dr. Daniel Bittman, Superintendent  
Nate Swenson, Assistant Superintendent  
Mert Woodard, Director of Finance and Operations

CERTIFIED CORRECT:

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Ms. Karen Gabler, Chair

CERTIFIED CORRECT:

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Ms. Erica Allenburg, Clerk

(Official Publication)  
MINUTES OF THE RETREAT  
OF THE SCHOOL BOARD DISTRICT 273 EDINA, MINNESOTA  
JANUARY 20, 2026

5:23 PM Chair Gabler called to order the retreat of the School Board. Members present: Allenburg, Arom, Barry, Birdman, Gabler, Huwe, Mann. Staff present: Bittman, Swenson, Woodard.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

DISCUSSION

- A. Future School Funding
- B. Board Processes
- C. Revisit Board Norms and Communication
- D. Board Self-Evaluation Results and Next Steps
- E. Housekeeping: Sunshine Fund

LEADERSHIP AND COMMITTEE UPDATES

SUPERINTENDENT UPDATES

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 9:06 PM. The minutes and resolutions are open to public inspection on the district website, and on file at the district office, 5701 Normandale Road.

Ms. Karen Gabler, Chair

Ms. Erica Allenburg, Clerk

OFFICIAL MINUTES OF SCHOOL BOARD'S  
JANUARY 20, 2026 RETREAT

5:23 PM Chair Gabler called to order the retreat of the School Board. Members present: Allenburg, Arom, Barry, Birdman, Gabler, Huwe, Mann. Staff present: Bittman, Swenson, Woodard.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Member Mann moved and Member Allenburg seconded to approve the agenda. All members voted Aye. The motion passed unanimously.

DISCUSSION

Future School Funding: Board members and administrators discussed future funding needs and opportunities, planning and timelines.

Board Processes: Board members reviewed and discussed current board processes including agenda planning, communication of board level topics and meeting frequency.

Revisit Board Norms, Procedures, and Communication: Board members reviewed and discussed Board norms as well as roles and responsibilities.

Board Self-Evaluation Results and Next Steps: Board members reviewed and discussed the results from their September 16, 2025 self-evaluation.

Housekeeping: Sunshine Fund: Board members discussed situations that arise where a note or acknowledgement from the Board is needed.

ADJOURNMENT

At 9:06 PM, Member Mann moved, and Member Arom seconded to adjourn the meeting. All members voted Aye. The motion passed unanimously.