

INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT 273
OFFICIAL MINUTES OF THE JOINT WORK SESSION OF JULY 21, 2026

WORK SESSION
5:00 PM

Edina City Hall
and Virtual

SCHOOL BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:

ABSENT:

Mr. Dan Arom
Ms. Cheryl Barry
Mr. Michael Birdman
Ms. Karen Gabler - virtual
Mr. Elliot Mann

Ms. Erica Allenburg
Ms. Jennifer Huwe

PRESIDING OFFICER: Vice Chair Cheryl Barry

5:05 PM - 6:43 PM

ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF PRESENT:

Dr. Daniel Bittman, Superintendent
Nate Swenson, Assistant Superintendent
Dr. Anne Marie Leland, Director of Community Education and Strategic Partnerships
Mert Woodard, Director of Finance and Operations

CERTIFIED CORRECT:

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Ms. Karen Gabler, Chair

Ms. Erica Allenburg, Clerk

(Official Publication)
MINUTES OF THE JOINT WORK SESSION
OF THE SCHOOL BOARD DISTRICT 273 EDINA, MINNESOTA
JULY 21, 2026

5:05 PM Mayor Hovland called to order the work session of the City Council. School Board Members present: Arom, Barry, Birdman, Gabler (virtual), Mann. Staff present: Bittman, Swenson, Leland, Woodard.

DISCUSSION

- A. Welcome, Introduction and Vision
- B. The Changing Face of Edina Families: Trends & Data
- C. Financial Stewardship & Comparative Analysis
- D. Navigating Barriers: Land, Infrastructure, and Safety
- E. Strategic Dialogue: The Spring 2027 Bond Pillars
- F. Conclusion and Collaborative Next Steps

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 6:43 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

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JULY 21, 2026 JOINT WORK SESSION

5:05 PM Mayor Hovland called to order the work session of the City Council. School Board Members present: Arom, Barry, Birdman, Gabler (virtual), Mann. Staff present: Bittman, Swenson, Leland, Woodard.

DISCUSSION

Welcome, Introduction and Vision: Mayor Hovland greeted everyone and introductions were made. Dr. Bittman shared an overview of the discussion topics.

The Changing Face of Edina Families: Trends & Data: Dr. Leland shared an overview of the Early Learning and Family Center, and Kids Club offerings, process, and recent history of waitlists.

Financial Stewardship & Comparative Analysis: Director Woodard shared an overview of the district's financial health and stewardship, and a comparative look at Edina's bond frequency versus neighboring districts as well as Edina's capital levy investment relative to other districts.

Navigating Barriers: Land, Infrastructure, and Safety: Logistical constraints, available parcels, and utility restrictions were discussed.

Strategic Dialogue: The Spring 2027 Bond Pillars: Possible future funding structure and partnership opportunities were discussed.

Conclusion and Collaborative Next Steps: Possible next steps were discussed.

ADJOURNMENT

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