



ADMINISTRATION REPORTS SEPTEMBER 2026

ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES & HUMAN RESOURCES

By: Shawn Kirkeide

Trainings

With the start of the new school year, the HR team gets the chance to do multiple training sessions for many of our staff in different departments. These trainings include all of the mandatory training, which are Bloodborne Pathogen, Employee Right to Know, McKinney Veto and Seizure Training. We also provide a refresher on policies and highlights in the employee handbook. Those that did not receive the in-person training are asked to complete the training modules within one Google Form called [Cambridge-Isanti Mandatory Trainings 2026-2027](#)

Red Rover

The District successfully kicked off the school year with the implementation of Red Rover, our new absence management and timekeeping system. While we recognize that transitioning to another new system requires adjustment for staff, the overall response has been very positive. The rollout has gone smoothly, and employees have adapted well to the new processes. We appreciate the patience, flexibility, and support of our staff as we continue to refine the system and make adjustments as needed.

FINANCE AND OPERATIONS

By: Christopher Kampa, CFA

Finance

As I prepare to leave Cambridge-Isanti Schools after seven years, I want to thank everyone who has made my time here so meaningful. I have been fortunate to work alongside incredibly talented people throughout the district, and I am grateful for the relationships we have built and everything I have learned from them. What makes our work meaningful is knowing that, in different ways and in different roles, we all contribute to creating opportunities for our students and helping them succeed.

I am proud of what we accomplished together during my time here. We faced significant challenges, made difficult decisions, and experienced a lot of change along the way. Through it all, I had the privilege of working with people who cared deeply about our students and this district. I will look back with a great deal of pride on what we accomplished together, most importantly, bringing back the Red as part of our school colors!

Building & Grounds

Our Buildings and Grounds team has been incredibly busy preparing our schools for the return of students and staff. A tremendous amount of work takes place over the summer—from deep cleaning and maintenance to repairs, grounds work, building projects, and preparing classrooms and common spaces for another school year.

That work does not slow down once school begins. Our custodial and maintenance staff continue to respond quickly to building needs, support daily operations, and address the unexpected issues that inevitably arise across our facilities. At the same time, our team continues to manage the challenges associated with aging buildings and infrastructure while working to prioritize repairs and make the best use of available resources.

We are grateful for the pride our Buildings and Grounds staff take in our schools and for the important work they do every day to provide safe, clean, and welcoming environments for our students and staff

Transportation

We have had a strong start to the school year with transportation, and we want to recognize the tremendous work of our entire team. Our drivers are greeting students by name and helping them learn new routines. Our routers are keeping careful watch over buses throughout the day, helping drivers navigate new routes, road construction, and the many adjustments that come with the beginning of a school year.

Our transportation leadership team has worked hard to communicate effectively with families, listen to feedback, and make adjustments as needs arise. Behind the scenes, our mechanics are working diligently to keep our fleet running safely and reliably—and are always willing to jump on a route or provide support to a driver in the field when needed.

Transportation is a complex operation, particularly during the first weeks of school, and it takes an incredible team effort to make it work. We are fortunate to have a transportation team that cares deeply about our students and takes great pride in getting them to and from school safely each day.

Food Service

Our Food Service team has had a strong start to the school year, serving thousands of meals each day across the district. From ordering and preparing food to managing deliveries, staffing kitchens, and welcoming students through the serving lines, there is a tremendous amount of coordination behind every breakfast and lunch.

Our staff do much more than serve meals. They build relationships with students, learn their preferences, accommodate individual needs, and help create welcoming spaces in our cafeterias. The team continues to adjust as needs arise while maintaining a strong focus on quality, efficiency, and service.

We appreciate the hard work of our Food Service staff and the important role they play in making sure students are ready to learn each day.

Technology

The beginning of the school year is always an especially busy time for our Technology team. From preparing and distributing student and staff devices to supporting classroom technology, accounts, systems, and the many questions that come with the start of a new year, the team has worked hard to keep our schools connected and running smoothly.

Cybersecurity also remains an important area of focus. Our team continues to monitor district systems, strengthen security practices, respond to emerging threats, and help educate staff about phishing and other risks. With cybersecurity threats becoming increasingly sophisticated, this work is an important part of protecting district information, systems, and resources.

Our Technology staff have been highly responsive, troubleshooting issues as they arise and working directly with staff and buildings to find solutions. We appreciate their flexibility, expertise, and commitment to supporting our schools.

COMMUNITY EDUCATION & ENGAGEMENT

By: Christina Thayer Anderson

Professional Development & a Strong Start

Teams across the district began the school year with professional development and kickoff meetings intentionally connected to our Strategic Plan and shared commitment to student growth and success. The District Leadership team, administrative assistants, Transportation, Community Education, School-Age Care, and many other staff teams engaged in learning tailored to their roles while reinforcing common themes of academic success, relationships and belonging, positive climate and culture, continuous improvement, and high expectations for every learner.

Across these opportunities, one message remained consistent: every role matters. Each employee contributes in different ways to the experiences and success of our students, and together our work supports our mission to EDUCATE, EMPOWER and INSPIRE EVERY STUDENT, EVERY DAY to achieve their full potential.

Community Partnerships & Engagement

We are incredibly grateful for the businesses, organizations, volunteers, and community members who helped our students and families begin the school year successfully. Generous donations of resources, supplies, time, and financial support strengthened initiatives including Here to Help, our Care Closets, and back-to-school activities across the district.

Throughout the summer, district staff and programs were also proud to participate in community celebrations and events across Cambridge and Isanti. These partnerships and opportunities to show up in our communities strengthen relationships and reflect an important shared belief: strong schools and strong communities go hand in hand. We are grateful for the many ways our community continues to invest in and support our students, families, and schools.

Communications and Systems Updates

This summer brought several significant systems updates across the district, including the launch of a new district website, updates to Skyward Family Access, and new mobile apps for both platforms.

While transitions to new systems require adjustment, staff and families have responded with patience and flexibility. Teams across Communications, Technology, Teaching & Learning, Transportation, and other departments continue to collaborate, problem-solve, and refine processes to support a smooth transition.

This work also strengthens how we reach and engage families and community members through improved digital accessibility and ADA compliance, expanded access to interpreters and translated materials, and greater consistency across district communications. Together, these efforts help reduce barriers and make information and services easier to access, understand, and use.

TEACHING & LEARNING

By: Tracy Hare

2026-27 Workshop Week set a strong start to the new school year, with staff engaging in districtwide learning and updates tied to key strategic priorities. Topics included reviewing MnMTSS, Catalyst and student belonging, safety and policy expectations, professional development opportunities, and the continued transition to Qmlativ. Staff also received updates on Teaching and Learning roles and resources, along with initial guidance from the AI Task Force focused on safe, ethical, and effective use of AI in schools.

Prior to Workshop Week, new educators participated in a multi-day onboarding experience designed to build connection, confidence, and consistency across the district. Training included district technology systems, human resources, instructional priorities, professional development expectations, the C-I mentoring program, Catalyst classroom leadership and support, the Marzano Focused Evaluation Model, PBIS, and student support systems. Phew! It was a busy couple of days, but our new team members appreciated the support and guidance.

New staff also spent time in their buildings with mentors, participated in a district bus tour (thank you to Mark Solberg for providing the commentary!), and received dedicated classroom prep time. Elementary educators participated in additional training focused on Wit & Wisdom and structured literacy. Together, these experiences helped establish shared expectations, strengthen alignment across buildings, and prepare staff to support students from the first day of school.

STUDENT SUPPORT SERVICES

By: Rachel Kasper

Early Fall Training

We wrapped up early fall training with Crisis Prevention Intervention (CPI) refresher and full-course training during our first staff week back.

This year, Brookside Academy became our first district team trained in Ukeru, a trauma-informed approach that emphasizes creating safe, supportive environments and reducing the use of restrictive interventions. Ukeru focuses on understanding behavior through a trauma-informed lens, building relationships, and using proactive strategies to help students regulate before behavior escalates.

Ukeru will be implemented alongside CPI, giving staff both proactive strategies for preventing escalation and the skills necessary to respond safely when a crisis occurs.

Back-to-School Professional Development

On September 3, Special Education teachers and Instructional Assistants participated in a half day of targeted professional development. We began the day with coffee and opportunities for staff to connect and build relationships before moving into role-specific learning.

Instructional Assistants rotated through three sessions focused on:

- Student regulation and co-regulation
- Effective data collection
- Functional communication strategies

Special Education teachers participated in sessions focused on:

- SpedForms and documentation
- Third-party billing and reimbursement
- Due process and procedural updates

The goal of this training was not simply to provide information, but to build staff capacity and increase consistency across our special education system. By providing role-specific training, we are strengthening the skills staff need to support students effectively while also reinforcing the systems and procedures that protect student rights and support district compliance.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

By: Dr. Nate Rudolph

The 2026–27 school year is officially underway, and much of the work from the Superintendent's Office over the past several weeks has focused on supporting a successful start for students, staff, and families.

Back-to-School Launch

A significant amount of time and attention has been focused on preparing for and supporting the opening of the school year. This included New Teacher Week, leadership development, our districtwide Welcome Back event, and supporting buildings during the opening days of school. It was great to see our staff back together and students return to our schools.

Leadership & Strategic Plan Work

Our administrative team has begun implementing the Year 4 work of our Strategic Plan. Leadership meetings this year have been redesigned to provide greater focus on instructional leadership,

operational and tactical needs, conditions for learning, and districtwide collaboration. We are also supporting several new administrators and leadership transitions as the school year gets underway.

Facilities & Long-Range Planning

We continue to work through a number of facility challenges across the district. Aging infrastructure, deferred maintenance, space limitations, and other building needs remain significant issues that require both immediate attention and long-range planning. The recent School Board facility tour provided an opportunity to see several of these challenges firsthand. Administration will continue working to prioritize needs, identify possible solutions, and provide the Board with information as we consider how best to care for our schools over the long term.

School Board & Governance

We recently completed our annual School Board tour, providing Board members an opportunity to visit several district facilities and better understand current needs and opportunities. We also continue to prepare for upcoming Board development work and discussions around governance, communication, and long-range planning.

Community Engagement

As we begin a new school year, we continue to look for opportunities to strengthen communication and engagement with families and our broader community. This work remains closely connected to our Strategic Plan and our ongoing efforts to build trust, listen to stakeholders, and strengthen partnerships throughout the district.

It has been a busy and positive start to the school year. I appreciate the work of our staff, administrators, families, and community partners who have helped us begin the year on a strong note.