



Morris Area Public Schools

Striving to become the finest school district in West Central Minnesota



201 South Columbia Ave
Morris, MN 56267



District: 320.589.4840
High School: 320.589.4400
Elementary: 320.589.1250



www.morris.k12.mn.us

Superintendent School Board Report Monday, September 21, 2026

Recognition of staff:

I would like to recognize a few staff members for their dedication to our students and Morris Area Schools.

Mr. Kehoe for working with staff to find a solution to a challenging and time sensitive issue involving open roles that need to be filled as soon as possible.

Mrs. Mumm, Mr. Viss, and Mrs. Asche came together and volunteered to fill several much-needed roles that became open following a late resignation. Thank you for stepping up, working together, and putting our students first. Your willingness to find a solution that allows us to continue providing the best education possible is truly appreciated.

I would also like to congratulate Caleb Cardwell on being recognized as the Minnesota Society of Health and Physical Educators' (MNSHAPE) Young Professional Teacher of the Year recipient! Thank you for representing yourself, the teaching profession, and Morris Area Schools in a positive light. This recognition is a reflection of your dedication to our students and your profession. Congratulations on this well-deserved recognition.

Superintendent Goals for 2026-2027:

You will find my goals submitted with this report for full school board review. I have worked collaboratively with Board Chair Johnson to refine these goals and discuss ways these goals will have a positive impact on the students, families, staff, and community we serve. No action is needed.

AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER

Our Core Purpose

The mission of Morris Area Public Schools is to educate and prepare all students for a successful tomorrow through academics, activities, arts, and attitude.

What We Commit To Become

The vision of Morris Area Public Schools is to become the finest school district in West Central Minnesota.





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Strategic Planning Committee:

The Strategic Planning Committee met on Wednesday, September 16, 2026. We discussed the core values that were presented and began the work on the vision and mission statements. I appreciate the diligence, thoughtful discussion, and commitment the committee has demonstrated throughout this process. Their work provides an important foundation as we continue to define and communicate the values that guide Morris Area Schools.

National/International Trips:

All summer trips that are non curricular will be advertised and supported through Community Education. All approved trips will comply with all community education rules and guidelines.

Legislative Advocacy:

The Permanent School Fund is a land trust fund that provides revenue to Minnesota public schools. The Legislature has approved a constitutional amendment that will appear on the general election ballot. The amendment would increase the annual distribution from the fund from 2.5% to 4.5%.

If approved by voters, Morris Area Schools would receive approximately \$40 more per student, resulting in an estimated \$40,000 in additional annual revenue. This increase in funding would not affect local property taxes. Additional information is available on the district website.

Standing Committee Meetings:

The district's standing monthly committee meetings include Policy, Finance and Facilities. Committee members will provide updates during the Board Member Updates portion of the meeting.

Strategic Plan update:

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- **Overall Goal:** The school district will work to implement the vision of the Morris Area Schools and fulfill our mission of educating all students for a successful tomorrow by providing resources and support to increase student achievement and close the achievement gaps.
 - Ongoing review of needed resources/staffing levels
 - Consideration of budget as we review staffing
- **Goal 1:** Maintenance and retention of all staff; recruit and train new staff
 - Ongoing mentorship
 - Monthly new teacher meetings
 - Providing competitive wages and benefits
- **Goal 2:** Training and awareness of mental health issues
 - Provide staff development about resources available
- **Goal 3:** Maintain student enrollment
 - Branding Morris Area Schools
 - Offer a variety of educational opportunities
 - Review of open enrolled students
- **Goal 4:** Enhance awareness of and preparation for receiving an increasing population of immigrant families
 - Providing opportunities for staff to learn best practices with English as a second language learners
 - Providing an opportunity for staff to increase their Spanish language skills.
 - Speak about how diversity is a strength

As you can see from this list we are working on the strategic planning goals adopted by the school board to guide our work.

Respectfully,

Mr. Shane Monson

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