

SUPERINTENDENT REPORT · BOARD OF EDUCATION

What our community told us

Glow and grows from this morning's Community Conversation

October 21, 2026 · Dr. Laurie Putnam, Superintendent

What we heard, at a glance

GLOWS

Families feel informed, welcomed and connected

- Real-time progress and personal calls home
- Steady enrollment and growing early learning
- Partnerships opening real-world pathways

GROWS

Widen the circle and keep raising outcomes

- Reach every family, in every language
- Strengthen math support and graduation
- Be clear and visible about safety and AI

GLOWS

Students and families

Progress in real time

Grades, automated progress reports and SeeSaw updates. After adjusting to no paper report cards, families say this is even better.

Personal connection

Positive phone calls from teachers, strong fall conferences, and staff who are responsive and helpful.

Early learning that fits families

Preschool in the morning and ECCE in the evening, so families who can't come during the day are included.

Balanced buildings

Boundary changes eased crowding, and teachers are sharing how they challenge students ready for more.

GLOWS

District and community

Enrollment is holding steady while others decline.

Participants see a reason behind that: a district that keeps trying new ways to meet needs.

Growing early childhood access

Preschool in every elementary building, plus Club Kids with the Boys & Girls Club for a full day.

Partnerships opening doors

The EMT program and ambulance bay, Future 100, and Minnesota Supreme Court oral arguments at Tech.

Adaptable people

Staff, students and families navigating new systems, curriculum and standards with real resilience.

Many ways in

Advisory, special education and Crush meetings drew a good mix of voices and honest discussion.

GROWS

Widen the circle

Help every family understand AI

What is our plan for use and understanding, how do we protect children, and how do we leave no family behind?

Lower language and tech barriers

Workshops or how-to times so every family can navigate our online systems with confidence.

Show who we are

Let our social media reflect our diversity, in more languages, with reels featuring family and student voices.

Reach the whole community

Neighborhood open houses, learning breakfasts and events at games and concerts, at varied times of day.

GROWS

Outcomes, safety and belonging

Raise achievement and graduation

Families want MCA and graduation rates rising, equitable access to instruction, and support so students thrive at their home school.

Build math intervention

Model math support on our READ Act literacy work, bring Read with Me, Math with Me to preschool, and use visual proficiency trackers.

Staff who reflect our students

More leaders and teachers who look like the students they serve, building on our new grant, with diverse staff in hiring decisions.

Peace of mind on safety

National headlines worry parents. Families want to know what we are doing to keep schools safe, and to hear it from us directly.

Safer drop-off and pick-up

Heavy traffic at arrival and dismissal. Ideas include staff support out to the Madison crosswalk and options at Oak Hill.

Where this work already lives

Our Safety and Wellness, Curriculum and Instruction, and Equity family affinity advisories, launched October 19.

One thing before winter break

If we could do one thing before winter break, what should it be? A few starting points drawn from today's feedback:

1

Family tech and AI night

At a community school, with interpreters, walking through our online tools and our approach to AI.

2

A safety update to every family

A short, plain-language message in home languages on how we keep our schools safe.

3

Our first neighborhood open house

Principal led and two-way, with a tour and questions, timed for working families.