Board Meeting Date: 11/17/2026

Title: Legislative Platform Discussion

Type: Discussion

Presenter(s): Dan Arom and Michael Birdman, Edina School Board Members

Description: In previous years, the Edina School Board has developed an annual legislative platform based on recommendations from the Legislative Action Committee. The platform has generally reflected a combination of legislative priorities and recommendations developed by statewide education organizations, collaboration with neighboring districts, EPS Administration, LAC member research on issues and priorities specific to Edina Public Schools and the Edina community.

For the 2026–2027 school year, the School Board previously determined that the Legislative Action Committee would be suspended while the Board revisits the committee's bylaws, purpose, structure, and potential next steps. Given that pause, the traditional process for developing and promoting the district's legislative platform is not currently in place.

The purpose of this discussion is to seek School Board direction regarding legislative advocacy for the upcoming legislative session. Specifically, Board members will be asked to discuss whether they would like Edina Public Schools to develop a legislative platform for this year and, if so, what process should be used to develop the platform. The discussion will also provide an opportunity for Board members to identify the role they would like to play in the process, including whether one or more Board members would like to facilitate development of the platform, consistent with approaches used in previous years.

Recommendation: No formal action is requested at this time. Administration recommends that the School Board discuss its desired approach to legislative advocacy for the 2026–2027 school year and provide direction regarding:

- Whether the Board would like to develop a legislative platform for the upcoming legislative session;
- If a platform is desired, the process and stakeholders the Board would like involved in its development;
- Whether one or more School Board members would like to help facilitate development of the platform; and

- If a platform is developed, what is the advocacy action plan (e.g. legislative outreach, student engagement, and community advocacy campaigns) and who will be accountable for coordination and execution.

Desired Outcome from the Board: School Board consensus and direction regarding whether to develop a 2026–2027 legislative platform and, if so, the process, participants, and Board leadership that should guide its development.