



ADMINISTRATION REPORTS FEBRUARY 2026

ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES & HUMAN RESOURCES

by: Shawn Kirkeide

Job Fairs

Given the competitive job market for teachers, we have registered to attend two upcoming job fairs. The first is the St. Mary's Educator Job Fair on Friday, March 13, which is new for us and attracts students from all metro-area colleges. We are also registered for the Minnesota Educators Career Fair on March 31 at Eden Prairie High School.

Postings

We have begun posting open positions resulting from approved leaves, retirements, resignations, and changes in student enrollment. In the coming weeks, we anticipate several additional postings related to nonrenewals, long-term substitute coverage, Tier 1 licenses, and probationary teachers working under Out of Field Permission. These postings are part of our ongoing efforts to ensure appropriate staffing and continued support for students across the district.

FINANCE AND OPERATIONS

by: Christopher Kampa, CFA

Finance

At last month's board meeting, our auditors presented the FY2025 financial results, and the district again received a clean audit with strong overall financial performance.

As we enter the legislative session, the district is also monitoring several significant state funding concerns. Minnesota is projecting a sizable state budget deficit, and school funding pressures remain. New mandates continue to require additional administrative time and local resources, while statewide special education funding is projected to decrease by approximately \$250 million despite growing student needs. In addition, the expiration of summer unemployment funding would create a substantial budget impact for the district. More broadly, education funding has not kept pace with inflation over the past two decades, with the gap widening in recent years. Facility funding in particular remains insufficient for districts to adequately maintain and preserve school buildings over time.

Transportation

As Bus Driver Appreciation Day approaches on February 18, the district would like to recognize and thank our dedicated drivers. Their professionalism and daily commitment ensure students arrive at school and return home safely, and their contributions are essential to the district's operations. The team takes pride in serving our students and looks forward to continuing to support their educational experience throughout the remainder of the school year.

Food Service

The department is beginning the Minnesota Department of Education audit process, with the initial entrance meeting held on February 10. The audit requires significant documentation and file uploads, but it provides a valuable opportunity to review program compliance and work collaboratively with MDE staff. In addition, staff are continuing preparations for the Skyward migration by establishing user permissions so employees can begin exploring the point-of-sale functions in the updated system.

Building & Grounds

We are currently working on repairs for the pool's rooftop unit at CIHS, though completion is pending the arrival of necessary parts, which are estimated to be 5–6 weeks out. In addition to active repairs, we are streamlining our emergency protocols by updating all procedural instructions for electricity and fuel curtailment. To ensure system reliability, these procedures will now be scheduled for testing at least twice a year. Looking ahead, we are also in the process of identifying and evaluating project opportunities for the upcoming summer season.

Technology

February has been a month of planning, professional learning, and staffing efforts for the Technology Department. Early in the month, Ray Sperl presented at the Minnesota Technology Leadership Conference in St. Cloud. The session, “From Assessment to Action: Strengthening K-12 Cybersecurity Together,” highlighted the district’s ongoing partnership with ECMECC and the annual cybersecurity risk assessment process. The assessment provides recommendations for the district cybersecurity team to review and implement as part of a continuous improvement plan. Over the five years the district has participated, our cybersecurity score has improved by more than 65%, increasing from 440 to 729. While at the conference, Ray also gathered additional artificial intelligence resources that will be shared with the district’s AI Guidelines Task Force. In addition, the department is working to fill the Network Security Administrator position, with interviews scheduled for February 12 and seven highly qualified candidates selected to advance from the applicant pool.

COMMUNITY EDUCATION

by: Christina Thayer Anderson

Youth Enrichment: Building Confidence Early

Our preschool enrichment programs provide meaningful opportunities for our youngest learners to build confidence, explore new interests, grow in independence, and begin discovering what sparks their curiosity. These early experiences help children strengthen social skills, practice problem-solving, and see themselves as capable learners in supportive, joyful environments.

Recent highlights include classes such as Tiny Toes, where children explore movement and rhythm in a playful setting that supports coordination and self-confidence, and Nature Nuts, a parent-child class that blends outdoor play, literacy, hands-on projects, in a fun, safe setting that nurtures curiosity and early learning together.

These programs reflect our commitment to creating welcoming spaces where all learners can grow, connect, and thrive. Thank you to the dedicated teachers and community partners who share their time and talents to offer these high-quality classes and love for learning with our families.

Communications Updates

This winter, we have continued refining our districtwide communication strategy. First, we continue highlighting the incredible stories unfolding each day in our classrooms, programs, fields, and gyms—celebrating the accomplishments of our learners, athletes, and dedicated staff.

Second, we are prioritizing the clear and proactive sharing of accurate, complete information about our district. By elevating key facts and directing our community to reliable sources, we aim to ensure transparency and build shared understanding around current issues and district initiatives.

We remain responsive and committed to partnership. We stand ready to meet with community members, listen thoughtfully, and work collaboratively to support the success of every learner.

Think Summer!

Even as we move through February, planning for summer is well underway across our district. A cross-departmental summer planning team has been meeting to prepare for all summer programs, including camps and clinics, Adventure Center, Extended School Year (ESY), and Targeted Services programming.

Families can expect to see the Summer Community Education brochure soon, along with more detailed information from Student Support Services regarding ESY and your child's teachers for Targeted Services programming. Registration for Community Education summer programs opens **March 16**. We look forward to this being our best summer yet!

TEACHING & LEARNING

by: Dr. Jason Bodey

READ Act Update

We continue to focus on professional learning as we implement the READ Act requirements in Cambridge-Isanti Schools. Most classroom instructional assistants completed their literacy training sessions during the January 16th Professional Development day. New special education teachers and elementary classroom teachers are learning through the OL&LA course and will complete this training by June. Additionally, all preK and elementary teachers who teach reading are participating in professional learning and collaboration time to deepen their knowledge and plan high quality structured literacy instruction. This time for working together to learn more and apply our learning is crucial. The efforts of dedicated teams of teachers will continue to enhance student learning, and it is appreciated! To learn more, please visit the [MDE READ Act Intervention site](#).

Skward Qmlativ Migration Update

The district continues its planned transition from Skyward SMS 2.0 to Skyward Qmlativ, the district's next student information system. Skyward SMS 2.0 will sunset in 2029, which prompted the district to evaluate future options. After a review process led by the Skyward Advisory Committee, district leadership approved Qmlativ as the replacement system in early 2025.

Since the announcement, the district has focused on careful planning and staff preparation. A Qmlativ Project Management Team formed in spring 2025 and meets regularly with Skyward's project manager to guide implementation. The district has also shared regular updates with staff through newsletters and leadership communications.

Training is underway and follows a phased approach. Administrative Assistants, who use Skyward most frequently, began training in December 2025. Building leaders begin training in February 2026. Teachers and other Skyward users will begin training in mid-February 2026. Training occurs through Skyward's Knowledge Hub, which provides self-paced modules aligned to each staff member's role.

The technical transition will occur during summer 2026 and Qmlativ will become the district's active student information system in late July 2026. Qmlativ provides updated tools, improved functionality, and enhanced user experience for staff. District leaders continue to monitor implementation progress, support staff training, and work with Skyward to ensure a smooth and successful transition.

STUDENT SUPPORT SERVICES

by: Rachel Kasper

Extended School Year (ESY) – Summer Programming Update

A cross-department summer programming planning group met to prepare for the 2026 Extended School Year (ESY) and targeted services programming. The team included representatives from Buildings & Grounds, Community Education, Food Service, and Transportation to ensure coordinated planning and efficient use of resources.

ESY services will be offered on the following dates: June 15-17, 22-24, and 29-30, 8:00–11:30 a.m. ESY will be held at one centralized location. For 2026, all ESY programming will take place at Isanti Intermediate School (IIS).

Special Education Advisory Committee (SEAC) – Family Engagement Update

As part of our ongoing commitment to family partnership and education, the Special Education Advisory Committee (SEAC) will host a Spring Parent Presentation Series for families of students receiving special education services. The series will focus on supporting families with practical information related to transition planning after high school and caregiver self-care.

Sessions will be held on March 19 and April 23 in the evening (5-6pm) and will include community partners with expertise in transition services and family mental health.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

by: Dr. Nate Rudolph

Literacy Progress, Strategic Planning, and 2026-27 Preparation

February has been a productive month across the district, with focused work in three key areas: student literacy growth, our annual Strategic Plan review, and early planning for the 2026-27 school year.

Literacy Progress – Winter Learning Data

Recent winter learning data shows encouraging progress across our district. Between fall and winter, nearly 70% of all second-grade students met or exceeded their expected growth in reading. These early years are critical, and this progress reflects strong foundational instruction that supports long-term success.

At the secondary level, students continue to demonstrate solid performance as literacy skills deepen and expand. More than 61% of sixth-grade students and nearly 60% of eighth-grade students scored above winter grade-level benchmarks. Together, these results reinforce the importance of sustained attention to literacy development at every grade level.

These outcomes reflect the expertise of our educators, who consistently use data to refine instruction, collaborate across teams, and provide targeted supports to students. Foundational literacy skills developed in our elementary grades continue to build momentum through middle school and into high school, positioning students for success in graduation pathways and postsecondary opportunities.

Strategic Plan Annual Review – Community Task Force

February also included important progress in our annual Strategic Plan review. Our Strategic Planning Task Force reviewed 32 End Result Statements and provided thoughtful feedback grounded in community engagement themes.

Through this process:

- 8 statements were affirmed as strong and ready to sustain
- 19 statements were identified for continued refinement
- 4 statements were recommended for revision or merging
- 1 statement was identified as no longer relevant

Key themes surfaced included hands-on and real-world learning (including technology and AI), student belonging, demographic growth and facilities planning, financial sustainability, and broader community engagement.

We are deeply appreciative of the time and perspective our community members contributed. Their partnership strengthens the clarity and relevance of our Strategic Plan and ensures our work remains aligned to community values.

Planning for 2026-27

In parallel with our instructional and strategic work, district leadership has begun early planning for the 2026-27 school year. This includes:

- Staffing alignment based on enrollment projections and student needs
- Strategic investments directly linked to our Strategic Plan priorities
- Ongoing review of financial sustainability and responsible resource allocation

- Continued alignment of programming to support academic achievement, belonging, and long-term district stability

This proactive planning ensures we remain responsive, strategic, and aligned in how we allocate resources to support students.

February's work reflects steady progress — strong teaching and learning in classrooms, meaningful community engagement in planning, and disciplined preparation for the future. We remain focused on continuous improvement and advancing our mission to Educate, Empower, and Inspire Every Student, Every Day.