

www.ISD709.org

Duluth

Public Schools

Every Student. Every Day.

Superintendent's Report

March 19, 2024



OUR MISSION

Every student, every day will be empowered with learning opportunities for growth, creativity and curiosity, in preparation for their future in a global community.

OUR VISION

Duluth Public Schools provides an academically engaging, safe and inclusive environment with high expectations and responsible use of resources.

OUR CORE VALUES

Learning



Developing a love of learning through life-long inquiry.

Excellence



Having high standards for all through accountability, integrity and authenticity.

Equity



Creating conditions of justice, fairness and inclusion so all students have access to the opportunities to learn and develop to their fullest potential.

Collaboration



Working in partnership with staff, families, students and community.

Belonging



Providing a welcoming and accessible environment where everyone feels safe, seen and heard.

Topics

- Student Reports
- Negotiations
- Budget Updates
- Referendum
- Legislative Advocacy
- Other

Negotiation Updates

We are pleased to bring forward two two-year teacher contracts which we negotiated with the Duluth This agreement marks a significant investment in the district's commitment to educational excellence, ensuring that teachers are recognized for their invaluable contributions to shaping future generations.

Teachers will receive a 6% salary increase in the first year, followed by a 3% raise in the second year (2023-2025). The second contract includes a 2% raise in each of the subsequent two years (2025-2027).

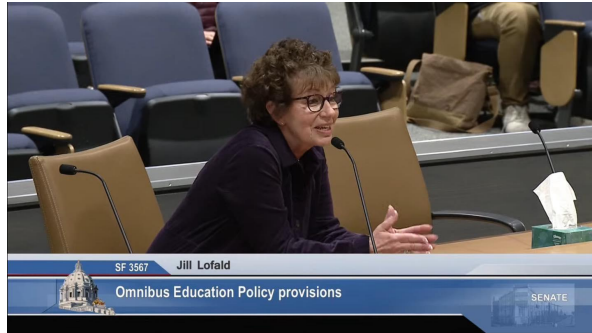
We are also continuing Director and individual contract negotiations.

Legislative Platform and Advocacy

We have been advocating strongly for our 2024 Legislative Platform at Duluth and St. Louis County Days, as well as at the MSBA/MASA Day at the Capitol

Priorities include an increase to the funding formula, Read Act funding, permanent funding for unemployment insurance and school meals, and increasing resources for cybersecurity, safety, Career and Technical Education, special education and solar projects. We are also seeking greater flexibility with operating levies and long-term facilities maintenance.

Legislative Platform and Advocacy



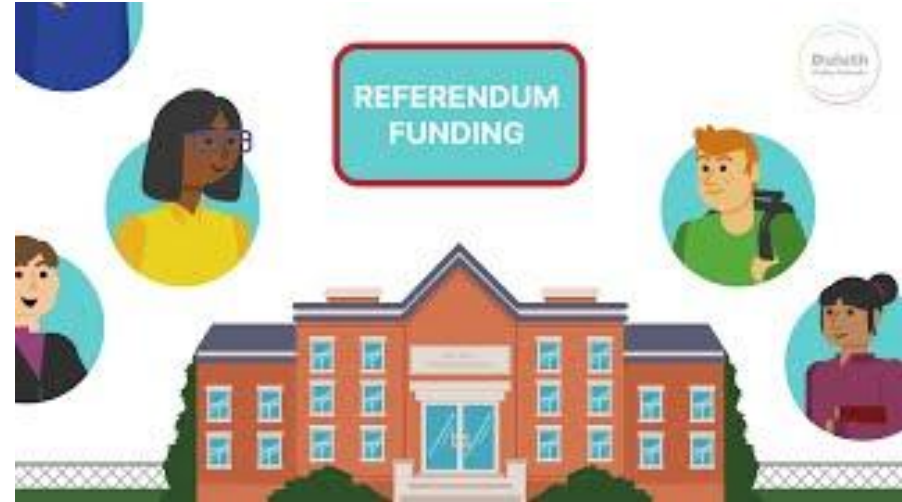
Referendum Updates

- Staff Meetings at Each District Site
- Community and PTA Meetings
- Additional Social Media and Newsletter Updates
- Updating Billboards
- New Student Story North Video
- Upcoming - Op Ed Column for the Duluth News Tribune
- Yesterday - Opinion Piece in Duluth News Tribune
- Duluth Area Chamber of Commerce - March 26th Exec. Board Meeting Presentation

Referendum Updates



By Story North



By Captivate Media

Budget Updates

- Districts across the state and country are facing deficit spending, in part due to the end of emergency relief funding this summer.
- Duluth Public Schools, with leadership and support from the board, has planned well for this change, but we will face upcoming budgetary shortfalls.
- If the referendum passes, we will still need to find reductions, but the impact will be decreased by about \$2M.
- It will be critical that we seek reductions that minimize impact on student outcomes.
- We are seeking to move forward with a two-phase process of budget reduction and reallocation.

Budget Updates

- Phase I would focus on addressing needs for the coming year.
 - 2.3 M in non-personnel budget reductions
 - Proposed usage of assigned fund balance (with board approval) from property sales to create an “off ramp” from ESSER spending for 2024-25
- Phase II will involve a comprehensive, collaborative process involving the board and other stakeholders. We would like to utilize our board work session in April to launch this effort with the board with the intention of completing the process in early winter of 2025 to allow for 2025-26 budget planning.

Questions