

Dear Edina Public Schools Administrators, Educators and Staff,

As we near the end of the 2024-2025 school year, we want to pause and recognize the extraordinary work that happens across Edina Public Schools every single day: preparing thousands of school lunches, providing study sessions for precalculus tests, helping students navigate their first days, patching up scratches from a heated game in physical education, and driving our students safely to school—just to mention a few of the myriad daily tasks that go into offering a world-class Edina Public Schools education.

As a relatively new member of the school board, I have the privilege of writing our letter of appreciation this year. It seems like a standard, ordinary form letter that most will scroll right past — I get it. But none of the work you all have accomplished this year has been standard or ordinary. I feel fortunate to share our appreciation.

Edina's reputation for excellence exists because of you. Your dedication—your patience, your creativity, your compassion—is what shapes our schools into places where students not only learn, but thrive.

I still remember how I felt as a child when I didn't know something — the fear of thinking, "Where do I carry the one?," the cluelessness of wondering, "So where is the mitochondria located?," the anxiety of wandering the halls, trying to find the right classroom in a new high school.

Recalling that now as a parent, a well-known adage comes to mind: "Be the adult you needed when you were younger."

Whether it is watching the Polar Plunge, enjoying an elementary school band concert, or just talking with any of our educators — full-time teachers, part-time paraprofessionals, food service employees, business services administrators, our buildings and grounds staff, everyone with a green lanyard that is involved in this daily enterprise of education across our district — I'm warmed to know that our buildings are filled with adults pursuing that mission.

It means something special to be part of Edina Public Schools.

You have helped our youngest learners take their first steps onto the bus as kindergarteners, and you have guided our seniors as they take their final steps toward graduation. You have taught our students how to read and reason, how to count, and how to become critical thinkers ready to take on the world. You have also taught them compassion and empathy and how to go out into the world to serve their communities.

That is Edina Public Schools.

That is you.

We look forward to continuing this journey together.

- Elliot Mann, on behalf of your Edina School Board

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