

## September 2023 Inspiring News - Final Draft

It is hard to believe we are already sending out a welcome back to school message! We trust the summer months provided some rest, relaxation, and time away from the demands of the 2022-2023 academic year. The start of a new school year marks a time of excitement and anticipation, whether you are parent/guardian holding back tears as you guide your student onto the bus for the very first time, a seasoned Eden Prairie Schools “pro”, or community member enjoying the “back to school vibes,” the Board of Directors want to thank you for choosing and supporting Eden Prairie Schools.

Certainly, the board has been active over the past several months, beginning the annual monitoring process of district policies, reviewing and approving the fiscal year 2023-2024 budget, and participating in a board development workshop. In addition, a few events stood out as highlights worthy of mention.

The first highlight was the graduation of our Class of 2023 seniors! The commencement ceremony was such an enjoyable event. We want to recognize and thank the district staff, family, friends, and Eden Prairie community for supporting these seniors throughout their time in Eden Prairie Schools. A big thank you also goes out to our PTO volunteers, some of which have faithfully volunteered their time and talents over the entirety of their student’s careers! Congratulations graduates and families for finishing strong.

The second highlight was a series of events including school site visits and a trip to the district’s transportation facility in May and June. Seeing firsthand the strategies being operationalized and hearing from the respective principals at each of the school sites was educational and inspiring. Many board members were especially impressed with the tour of district transportation headquarters. One director commented, “The school district is successfully managing a massive logistics operation including dispatchers, staff, drivers, and maintenance personnel. Computer spreadsheets were accessed in real time by mechanics, dispatch, and drivers allowing the transportation department to track and service every bus.” As we kick off a new school year, these positive comments segue to a friendly reminder to take advantage of the district’s bus service, offered at no cost to school families living in Eden Prairie.

Lastly, the start of the 2023-2024 school year marks the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Eden Prairie Schools! We are excited to celebrate this special achievement over the course of the school year. The board warmly extends its “welcome back to school” wishes and looks forward to connecting and engaging with families and the community at respective school sites and upcoming district events. If you spot one of us, please take a few moments to talk with us about your experiences in Eden Prairie Schools. Have a wonderful year!