



Community Education Report

Jan 20, 2026

Early Childhood:

Registration Update as of January 20th:

We have 68 students enrolled in Early Childhood Classes:

- Little Miners AM: 11
- Little Miners PM: 8
- Little Rangers 3 Day: 25
- Little Rangers 5 Day: 24

We were awarded 23 Voluntary Prekindergarten (VPK) seats by DCYFS at the end of December. Each seat will generate 0.6 PPU of General Education funding for the 2025-26 school year. After reviewing the change in revenue, the decision was made to eliminate tuition for our Little Rangers (4 yr old) students for the second semester resulting in savings for those families. Also, students who were awarded a VPK seat are now eligible for bussing and will be able to “opt-in” if they would like transportation. This was a huge win for our families and is moving us closer to our goal of making early childhood education more accessible to our community.

Community Education Updates:

- Adult Enrichment Classes:
 - The next offering of “Brushes at the Bridge with Community Ed” is coming up on Thursday, February 5th.
- Our first Community Movie Night was held on Friday, January 16th at 6:30pm featuring “Wicked: For Good”.
 - Remaining Community Movie opportunities will be:
 - February 20
 - March 13
 - April 17
 - May 8
 - Additional movie nights and matinees will be added in June pending auditorium availability.
- We are in the process of assembling our next catalog. As a result of the discussion at the January 5th Advisory Council meeting, we are moving to a fully digital catalog.
 - A postcard every door mailing will go out across the district in February with information on how to access the catalog and how to request a printed copy if they are not able to get online. This information will also be included in the Courier.
 - We will move to quarterly publishing of the catalogs to keep information fresh and chunk it down into smaller timeframes to help community members plan for upcoming events.
 - Spring - February 15th (March, April, May programming)

- Summer - May 15th (June, July, August programming)
- Fall - August 15th (Sept, Oct, Nov programming)
- Winter - November 15th (Dec, Jan, Feb programming)
 - This process is subject to Advisory Council review and may change in the future.
- Storybook Theatre will be back March 23 - 28th to produce the production "The Little Mermaid". We are now using a new online registration and payment system through JotForm integrated with the district's Square payment account. We have received 25 registration since it opened on January 5th.
- The Advisory Council met on Monday, January 5th. Meeting notes are attached to this report. Our next meeting will be on Monday, March 2nd at 4:30pm.

Respectfully Submitted by: *Abby Geotz*

Crosby-Ironton School District
Community Education Advisory Council

Meeting Minutes Dated: Monday, January 5, 2026

Attendees: Abby Geotz, Kristine Booth, Barb Neprud, Nadine Schiffler-Albrecht, Andrea Gressman, Becky Pakarinen, Nikki Coler, Abby Smith

1. AI Meeting Notes Tool

An AI meeting notes tool was introduced and had been recently shared by Aubrey Koop, council secretary. The tool is intended to enhance documentation and improve the efficiency and accuracy of meeting records. Those notes were used to generate these meeting minutes.

2. Community Education Leadership Transition

Abby Geotz formally announced her intent to resign from her position as Community Education Director, effective on or before June 30, 2026, due to her upcoming relocation to Arizona.

Key points discussed:

- The importance of planning for a smooth transition to ensure continuity of Community Education programming.
- The requirement that the district hire a licensed Community Education Director, or alternatively collaborate with another district.
- Potential interest from Community Education coordinators in areas of the state who may be open to relocation.
- Ms. Geotz reaffirmed her commitment to supporting the transition process during her remaining time with the district.

3. Community Education Catalog & Communication Strategies

- The current approach to Community Education catalogs was reviewed and raised concerns regarding:
 - The high cost of printing and mailing catalogs.
 - Minimal revenue generated relative to expenses.
- Proposed strategies included:
 - Transitioning to digital communication methods.
 - Utilizing postcards via every door mailing with QR codes directing residents to online content.
 - Reallocating some of the publishing funds toward online advertising and more frequent digital updates.
 - Nadine Albrecht shared her experiences with traditional catalogs and expressed support for moving toward more efficient and accessible communication methods.
- Programming & Marketing Approach
 - Discussion focused on improving program delivery and marketing strategies:
 - Shifting to quarterly digital catalog cycles to keep information fresh and timely.
 - Increasing use of email marketing to stay within budget while maintaining community engagement.

4. Online Registration & Payment Systems

- An update was provided on the new online registration and payment system utilizing Square payments and JotForm.

- This new system was launched today with the opening of registrations for the March play. Three registrations have already been received.
- Highlights included:
 - Continued flexibility for families to pay via cash or scholarships.
 - Plans to streamline early childhood registration through the district's transition to Infinite Campus.

5. Early Childhood & VPK Updates

- The district secured 23 Voluntary Prekindergarten (VPK) seats through a reallocation process.
- Transportation will be provided for eligible students beginning January 18, with collaboration from the bus company and support from district administration.
- Families responded positively to second-semester tuition cancellation refunds, resulting in \$85,000 in savings for families.
- Future expansion of the program was discussed as a possibility for the following year.

6. ECFE Staffing Update

- Ms. Geotz addressed staffing challenges within the Early Childhood Family Education (ECFE) program:
 - The parent educator position has been posted for six weeks with no applicants.
 - A current employee has expressed interest in a restructured part-time position with flexible teaching options.
 - Ms. Geotz and Superintendent Rick are working with guidance from the Minnesota Community Education Association to finalize a compliant job description.

7. Early Childhood Registration & Upcoming Events

- Plans and timelines discussed:
 - Targeting February 2026 for opening early childhood registration for the 2026-2027 school year.
 - Potential March registration open house, dependent on Infinite Campus implementation.
 - The goal would be to combine this event with a larger CRES open house offering tours highlighting CRES updates and also a time to identify children needing to register for Kindergarten for fall of 2026.

8. Discussion of adding more spring community events, including a possible community job fair in April and community garage sale in June.

Action Items

- Abby Geotz will submit her formal resignation to the School Board at the January meeting.
- Ms. Geotz will develop an annual Community Education calendar and present it at the next Advisory Council meeting.
 - Other council members will also bring relative community calendars to add to the CE calendar to identify areas where programming is needed and important dates to avoid overlap in offerings.
- Ms. Geotz will collaborate with Superintendent Rick to finalize and post the revised part-time ECFE position by the end of the week.

- Ms. Geotz will explore planning a community job fair with Aubrey Koop, council member and Chamber Director.
- Ms. Geotz will begin planning a community garage sale for June including logistics, marketing, and volunteers.

The meeting concluded following discussion of upcoming events and initiatives, with continued emphasis on community engagement and program sustainability.

The next meeting will be held on Monday, March 2nd at 4:30pm.