

Community Linkage Committee: *Inspiring News*

The school board ensures that Eden Prairie Schools offers educational opportunities that meet our community's values and that students are achieving educational results that the community expects. The board sets expectations for Eden Prairie Schools based on the values of our community. Over the past several months Eden Prairie residents and school families have had the opportunity to weigh in on a series of district matters that will shape and guide the course of the district now and in the future.

November's school board elections solidified the make-up of the current board of directors for the next two years, while passage of two referendums promising the stakeholders stability of district finances, operations, and academic programming set the district on solid footing. Most recently, residents have participated in a scientific random sample community and parent survey, as well as a Thought Exchange with over 2,700 parents, students, staff, and community members sharing over 2000 ideas offering over 40,000 interactions with submitted ideas. Themes from the Thought Exchange have been shared with the community during World Cafe' events. The community's input from these platforms will be considered as the district moves into its Strategic Planning phase in April.

Currently, the board is engaging with administration as the 2023-2024 financial plan and budget are set forth. While we anticipate action from the MN legislature which has the potential to positively impact school funding, the board is encouraged to hear from both Dr. Swanson and our Finance team that regardless of legislative action, the state of Eden Prairie Schools is strong. This is not the case in several neighboring school districts, so we are incredibly proud of our administrative team for the consistent fiscal stewardship they provide.

The board would like to extend its gratitude to our community. Because of your involvement and ongoing commitment to Eden Prairie Schools, we are delighted to share in FY 2023-2024, the district will continue to operate without reductions to staff or programming for an 8th consecutive year. We are also excited to hear Dr. Swanson's upcoming recommendations to lower class size targets at grades 2,4,5, and 6. We are experiencing very stable enrollment numbers--in fact, enrollment is higher than we've seen since 2014. This is inspiring news indeed, as enrollment is both a key driver for school funding and a positive sign that more families are making EP schools their first choice!

Thank you for your time and investment as you have engaged and shared what matters most when it comes to our schools—we value your input. Soar Eagles!

***Insert new picture of board at end of letter

**Charts/graphs to include latest enrollment bar graph with per pupil formula , current class size and recommended targets, graph of years of operating without reductions

**QR for measuring what matters, (Find out more about the School Board's Measuring What Matters publications)