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Duluth

Public Schools

Every Student. Every Day.

Superintendent's Report

May 21, 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
- Referendum Update and Next Steps
- Budget Updates
- Secondary Scheduling Updates
- Legislative Updates
- Other

Referendum Update

THE RESULTS ARE IN



**Voters have rejected
the referendum for
our schools.**

Thank you to everyone who made
their voice heard.

FUTURE FORWARD 
MAY 2024 REFERENDUM

Referendum - Next Steps

We are meeting with technology leaders this week to discuss the outcome and impact of the referendum on our technology plan. We will need to scale back on our efforts, timeline and programing, but also need to identify what is most essential that will continue to need funding. We will then identify what funds would need to be reallocated for this effort as part of our overall budgeting process.

Budgeting Reminder

- 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 intend to complete the process in early winter of 2025 to allow for 2025-26 budget planning.

Budget Next Steps

- The 2024-25 Budget will be brought for a second reading on June 13th and for approval at the Regular Board meeting on June 18th
- We are developing our timeline for 2025-26 and plan to share it at the Committee of the Whole on June 13th
- We have drafted our budgeting [Guiding Change](#) document
- We will plan to bring a final version to the board for approval at the Regular Board meeting on June 18th

Secondary Scheduling Updates

- Flexibility for new requirements is allowed by completing a special request form with a school counselor
 - When a student has seven (7) year long courses, making it impossible to fit in the one semester elective in that grade level
 - Example: A student taking two music courses and world language along with core required courses (English, Math, Science, Social, etc.) OR a student taking CTE block courses along with world language and core courses may not have room in the schedule to take the additional semester requirement
- Principal leadership team is exploring a short-term trial to embed some intervention, club/activity time into a bi-weekly “special schedule”
 - A stakeholder committee will convene in the fall to conduct a more extensive review

Legislative Updates

- Session adjourned on Monday, but was very busy until the final moments
- Limited increases in funding, as expected
- Funding areas:
 - READ Act - Additional funding and flexibility
 - Career and Technical Education funding

Legislative Updates

- **School resource officers:** The Legislature passed a law last year banning school resource officers and other adults from putting students in a prone position. There was a new change signed by Gov. Tim Walz clarifies that prone restraints can be used on a limited basis.
- **Smudging:** The bill allows Native American students or staff to conduct smudging on school grounds under staff supervision. (We already have policy in place.)
- **School cell phones:** Schools must have a cell phone policy in place by March 2025 as part of an education bill sent to the governor. (We already have policy in place.)
- **No book bans:** An education policy bill that prohibits public and school libraries from banning a book “based solely on its viewpoint or the messages, ideas or opinions it conveys” is headed to the governor’s desk. (We already have policy in place.)

Questions