

Dear American Indian Parent Advisory Committee Members,

On behalf of the Duluth Board of Education, we extend our appreciation to the members of the American Indian Parent Advisory Committee (AIPAC) for your continued advocacy on behalf of our American Indian students. We are especially grateful to AIPAC members and co-chairs, Amber Greensky and Amber Lightfeather, for the thoughtful clarification and additional context provided regarding AIPAC's recommendations. AIPAC's insights, particularly around onboarding and training of American Indian education staff, the hiring and support of a dedicated coordinator and the development of a strategic plan, were instrumental in helping the Board craft a response that is direct, respectful, and aligned with AIPAC's intent.

The Board strongly supports and respects AIPAC's stated purpose, as outlined in Article II of the AIPAC Bylaws, to ensure that the educational rights of American Indian students are fully realized within Duluth Public Schools. Your commitment to culturally relevant and equitable educational opportunities is essential and your advisory role remains a critical component in advancing the success and achievement of American Indian students. We also affirm the importance of AIPAC's role in reviewing and approving the District's American Indian Education Program plan. Your input ensures alignment with the needs, experiences and aspirations of the American Indian students and families we serve.

In fulfillment of Minnesota Statute 124D.78, this letter serves as the Board's formal response to AIPAC's vote of non-concurrence. Following careful review during the March 12th Work Session, and in close collaboration with district leadership, the Board has developed a comprehensive response to each recommendation. These responses are included in the attached document.

As we move forward, the Board strongly encourages continued partnership with the American Indian Education Coordinator and the Director for Advancing Equity, Marisa Garverick-Herrera. We are confident that through ongoing collaboration, we can effectively address the goals, requests and expectations outlined in AIPAC's recommendations.

In closing, we again express our gratitude for AIPAC's dedication and leadership. Through continued partnership, we will work together to strengthen the educational experience of American Indian students, promote cultural understanding across our schools and community and advance equitable opportunities that positively impact American Indian students' futures. We look forward to our continued collaboration in fulfilling this shared responsibility.

Should you have any questions or need additional information, please do not hesitate to reach out.

In partnership,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "K. Eder". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "K" and a clear "Eder" following.

Kelly Durick Eder, Ph.D.

Duluth Board of Education, Chair