

## Inspiring News

Over the past several months, Eden Prairie residents and school families had the chance to share their values, ideas, and expectations on important district matters in a variety of formats. A few examples worth highlighting are the recent elections, a vote on referendums, community surveys, and a Thought Exchange. The board appreciates our community's continued involvement in sharing perspectives, which will help shape and guide the district now, and in the years ahead.

### **Stakeholders Cast Their Ballots**

Community involvement at the polls in November solidified the composition of the school board for the next two years. Additionally, support and passage of two referendums set the district on solid footing, which will provide stability of district finances for the next five years. So, while we anticipate action from the Minnesota legislature which could impact school funding, the board is encouraged to hear from our administration that the state of Eden Prairie Schools is strong.

### **"Survey Says!"**

Recently, Eden Prairie residents participated in a scientific random sample community and parent survey, while 2,700 parents, staff, and students took part in a Thought Exchange sharing over 2,000 ideas offering over 40,000 interactions. Major themes derived from the Thought Exchange were shared with community participants during World Cafe events, offering further opportunities for discussion in a round-table format. The community's input from these platforms will be considered as the district moves into its Strategic Planning phase starting in March and April, setting the course for EP schools over the next 5 years.

### **Stable Finances, Reduced Class Sizes, & Increasing Enrollment**

The board would like to extend its gratitude to our community—for your engagement and ongoing commitment to Eden Prairie Public Schools. Together, with your support and the strategic work of the administrative team, the district has been able to maintain financial stability, invest in programs and services, and avoid unplanned reductions for an eighth consecutive year. The board is also excited to hear the Superintendent's recommendations to lower class size targets in grades 2, 5, and 6. Lastly, we are experiencing very stable enrollment numbers—in fact, 2022-2023 enrollment is higher than we have seen since 2014! This is inspiring news indeed, as enrollment is both a key driver for school funding and a positive indicator that families continue to choose Eden Prairie Public Schools.

Thank you for your involvement and sharing what matters most when it comes to our schools—we value your time and investment. Soar Eagles!