

# MENAHGA PUBLIC SCHOOLS

216 Aspen Avenue SE, PO Box 160, Menahga, MN 56464

218-564-4141

*"Home of the Braves"*



Menahga Public Schools

Superintendent's Board Update – October 2025

From: Jay Kjos, Superintendent

## Strategic Planning

Our strategic planning work continues to move forward with good momentum. The input we've gathered from staff, students, and community members has been really valuable. The updated plan and visuals are starting to show up in our communication and around the district, and the next step is to start building measurable goals under each of the strategic priorities.

## Negotiations

We've reached a tentative agreement with the Menahga Education Association. The teachers are expected to ratify the contract on Monday. I'll be sending both the redlined and clean copies of the contract in the board packet for your review. I appreciate the time and professionalism from everyone involved in getting this wrapped up.

## Policy

At our recent Policy Committee meeting, we reviewed and discussed several policies, including updates to both the Discipline Policy (506) and the Curriculum Policy (606). The committee instructed administration to make specific revisions to those two policies prior to the board meeting. All policies will be included in the upcoming board packet; however, please pay special attention to the redlined versions of Policies 506 and 606, as those contain the committee's recommended adjustments. For the remaining policies under review, the committee is recommending adoption of the MSBA model versions to ensure consistency and legal alignment.

## Facilities

We had a broken pipe in the nurse's office this past week. Thanks to Terry and Tom's quick action, it was caught early and repaired with very little damage. I appreciate their attention to detail and quick response.

I'd like to schedule a Buildings and Grounds Committee meeting either right before or right after the MREA Conference to review upcoming facility priorities and next steps.

## Cultural Partnership

We've started good conversations with the White Earth Tribal Council regarding the use of our trade name, Braves. Those discussions have been positive and respectful, and I'm



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optimistic that we'll find common ground that allows us to continue using the name in a way that honors everyone.

## Professional Development and Board Meeting

October 20th will be a big day for us. We'll have our all-staff professional development during the day and our regular board meeting that evening. The focus for the PD day will be continued work around relationships, understanding, and supporting all students.

## Safety and Training

In March, we'll be sending several staff members to a school safety training focused on proactively identifying and addressing potential threats before they occur. This training is designed for school leadership, and both John and I will be attending. It's a good opportunity to strengthen our prevention and response systems and ensure we're staying ahead of best practices in school safety.

## Menahga Online / OpenEd Partnership

Our partnership with OpenEd continues to go well. We currently have about 130 students participating in Menahga Online, and we expect additional enrollments at mid-year. The program is running smoothly, and the feedback from students and families has been very positive.

## Transportation

We're adding a paid student intern at the bus garage starting second semester. This will be a nice learning opportunity for the student and some extra help for our transportation crew.

## Closing Thoughts

It's been a busy and productive month — from negotiations and facilities work to planning and partnerships. I continue to be proud of our staff and the teamwork happening across all departments.

Go Braves!

Jay Kjos

Superintendent

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