

### **Referendum Results: Stability & Excellence- THANK YOU**

We want to thank all voters for their input via the referendum process. We are grateful for the continued community support for our schools by approval of both referendums. With this funding, our schools will continue to have the resources to meet the high educational expectations of our community and ensure EACH child excels. The results also provide an important reminder that the board continue to prioritize educational excellence and fiscal responsibility to maintain the trust of all voters in Eden Prairie.

### **Governance, Oversight, and Accountability: “What” vs. “How”**

The governance model in EP Schools is a little different than many in Minnesota. Our model requires the board focus on “What” should be accomplished in the schools versus “How” it should be accomplished. In Eden Prairie, the “How” is the responsibility of the Superintendent and Administration, whereas the Board provides oversight and accountability to ensure these operational plans achieve the goals/objectives set forth by the School Board. This model keeps the EP Board focused on student achievement for each student and reduces the impact politics and external distractions have on educational objectives.

### **“What” does the School Board do?**

The School Board is responsible for governing the Eden Prairie School district, approving the district’s budget, monitoring finances, exercising tax authority, hiring a superintendent, and establishing a Strategic Vision for the district and our students. Over the last few months, the board has been active in all these areas to sustain stability and excellence in EP Schools. In October we completed the annual performance review of the 2021-2022 school year and in November we extended Superintendent Dr. Swanson for an additional 3-year contract, reflecting his continued excellent leadership of our district. We completed the review of the long-term financial needs of the district and provided the community an opportunity to weigh in via the November referendums. And finally, in our on-going effort to improve transparency, we implemented a new process to share the results of our oversight and monitoring through the publishing of “Measuring What Matters.” This series highlights key metrics from the annual performance review, including a summary of the board’s perspective on results. Look for future updates via email or link to <https://www.edenpr.org/community/school-board/measuring-what-matters>.

### **How to engage with School Board?**

Over the last year, the School Board made an investment to increase accessibility and visibility in the community. You may have sent us an email, reviewed the Measuring What Matters summary on the website, or perhaps spoke with us at a High School sporting event, elementary/middle school welcome back event, or participated in a “Listen and Learn” round-table with board members. We want to emphasize the importance of your perspectives and experiences as we work together to deliver educational excellence. Your feedback helps us ask better questions, identify under-the-radar issues, improve accountability, and ensure academic excellence is delivered and recognized across our district. Please do not hesitate to email, call,

## Inspiring News - **FINAL**

or attend a school board meeting or event, as your input is critical to our oversight and monitoring responsibilities. <https://www.edenpr.org/community/school-board>.