

Community Linkage Committee:

Eden Prairie Schools Newsletter – January 2025

We are pleased to welcome two new directors, Ann Bradsher and Jodi Ward-Rannow, and recognize the re-election of director Kim Ross to the Board.

The fiscal year 2025-2026 district budget is set to be approved in June 2025. Unlike many Minnesota districts facing serious financial challenges, staff reductions, programming cuts and significant tax increases, Eden Prairie Schools remains on solid financial footing. This stability results from intentional leadership, strategic planning, and oversight. Nonetheless, we do face similar challenges like neighboring districts, namely elevated inflation and unfunded legislative mandates.

During this period of disruption and uncertainty, we want to share how Eden Prairie Schools operates differently to deliver exceptional results for all our stakeholders.

1. Competitive Edge:

Our commitment to personalized learning and the implementation of Inspired Journey/Pathways initiatives guides the work of delivering an authentic experience to students, parents, and taxpayers, and helps us attract/retain students and compete with nearby districts.

2. Exceptional Talent:

Eden Prairie Schools consistently earn recognition at state and national levels. From Presidential Blue Ribbon academic excellence and Green Ribbon environmental leadership awards to leadership on National/State Advisory Boards, our educators and administrators are recognized for their innovation, collaboration, and dedication.

3. Strategic Execution:

We implement long-term strategies with measurable results, such as 1-to-1 technology, online learning options, Inspired Choice/Pathways and Capstone programming, community and professional partnerships, and initiatives addressing achievement disparities— while maintaining the lowest class size targets (**maybe rephrase this to some of the lowest class sizes**)

4. Community Engagement:

District leadership actively collects parent and community feedback during principal hirings, strategic planning initiatives and future classroom evolution (Flight Plan 2035). Through forums like “Meet and Greets,” “Measuring What Matters,” and focus groups, the School Board solicits parent, student, and community feedback. This communication and transparency ensures stakeholders’ voice influences strategic decision-making.

5. Fiscal Responsibility:

Eden Prairie Schools balances spending and taxes to sustain financial stability. Our budget and forecast continue to support the five-year referendum promise of financial stability. Over the last four years, we are one of only three districts statewide to under-levy taxpayers. We have reduced taxpayer burden by over two million dollars **(need specific time frame to verify)** while achieving educational goals, expanding student learning opportunities, rewarding staff, and acquiring a new building to improve TASSEL programming and in-source additional student education services.

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6. Innovative Governance:

Our unique governance model supports creativity, accountability, and flexibility. While our staff innovates to enhance classroom outcomes, the Board ensures oversight and future-oriented planning. And when we get something wrong, our governance model provides prompt and prudent response and accountability to get things corrected.

Looking Forward:

As we prepare for the next school year and decade, the Board reaffirms its commitment to balancing stability with innovation. In a sea of fiscal chaos, uncertainty, and disruption in education across Minnesota, our disciplined and forward-looking approach drives stability and success, ensuring students gain both academic excellence and critical life skills for an ever-changing world.

Thank you for your continued support and partnership in keeping Eden Prairie Schools a model of success for students, staff, and the community.