



ADMINISTRATION REPORTS JULY 2025

ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES & HUMAN RESOURCES

by: Shawn Kirkeide

Reunification

On June 18, our District Leadership Team and staff from the Educational Services Center participated in a Mock Reunification Drill. Reunification is a critical component of our emergency response protocol and is implemented when a significant event prevents students and staff from safely returning to their school building. In such cases, an alternative site is used to reunite students with their parents or guardians.

The exercise was a valuable experience. While we encountered a few initial challenges and questions, the team worked collaboratively to resolve them, and the process ultimately ran smoothly. As a result, we feel more confident in our preparedness should a real reunification event ever be necessary.

Thank you to everyone who participated and to our Reunification Planning Team for their dedication and hard work in organizing and executing this important drill.

FINANCE AND OPERATIONS

by: Christopher Kampa, CFA

Finance

We will bring our 10-year Long-Term Facilities Maintenance (LTFM) plan to the Board for approval in July. To qualify for LTFM revenue, school districts, cooperatives and intermediate districts (not charter schools) must have a ten-year plan adopted by the school board and approved by the commissioner. For the 2025 payable 2026 property tax levy, the plan must be approved before the proposed levy is certified in September 2025. The plan must include provisions for implementing a health and safety program that complies with health, safety and environmental regulations and best practices, including indoor air quality management. The plan must be updated and submitted to the commissioner annually by July 31 for approval.

Transportation

Both of our routers remain highly engaged in routing operations. Our Safety Coordinator is currently training three new hires—two who have just passed their road tests and one who will handle only trips and activities, while another is preparing for a full-time role. Despite losing four drivers this year, our retention rate remains strong. Additionally, we are collaborating with the new Special Services Director to overhaul special education training and related procedures. We're also working closely with our vendor to expedite the arrival of new buses.

Food Service

With the start of the new school year the Food Service Department is completing routine tasks such as vendor procurement, student rollover in Skyward, and the annual mailing of the Application for Educational Benefits to all households. Two equipment projects are underway at CPIS and progressing well: the replacement of the original walk-in cooler and freezer—installed in the 1980s—with an updated unit, and the installation of a new, more efficient dish machine. Notably, the cooler/freezer floor has been leveled with the ground, eliminating the need for ramps when moving carts. Additionally, we are closely monitoring potential changes from the USDA and HHS that could significantly impact school meal programs and will keep the board informed as more details emerge.

Building & Grounds

We are actively working with flooring companies to obtain quotes for necessary repairs to the high school gym floor. In addition, maintenance teams are addressing multiple roof drain leaks across the district. Staffing efforts are also underway, as we work to fill several positions following retirements that occurred over the summer.

Technology

Our summer projects are progressing well, with key initiatives ahead of schedule, including the deployment of new Chromebooks for 6th grade and the installation of network switches in Cambridge schools. As work continues through July and August, the team is prioritizing critical tasks such as reassembling classrooms following custodial cleaning and completing server operating system updates. These efforts are focused on ensuring a smooth and successful start to the upcoming school year.

COMMUNITY EDUCATION

by: Christina Thayer Anderson

Isanti County Safety Camp Returns

This summer marked the return of the Isanti County Safety Camp—an incredible two-day event for incoming 3rd–5th graders that teaches essential safety skills in fun and engaging ways. Campers experienced hands-on sessions in bike, water, fire, and electrical safety, explored ambulances and a rescue helicopter, and celebrated their learning with a graduation ceremony and ice cream social.

Thanks to our sponsors—Cambridge Lutheran Church, Comprehensive Health Clinics, East Central Energy, Isanti Tire and Auto Center, and our primary donor, the Sportsman’s Club—we were able to offer this high-quality experience at a very low cost to families.

We’re especially grateful to Officer Gross—also a School Board member—whose leadership was instrumental in bringing this camp back for our students. It was through his coordination that the Cambridge and Isanti Police and Fire Departments, the Isanti County Sheriff’s Office, Isanti County Emergency Management, and Cambridge Medical Center EMTs came together to support this meaningful event. Thanks to Enrichment & Recreation Coordinator Melissa Lupinek and former Director Dave Maurer for their outstanding leadership and coordination, and to Volunteer Coordinator Nicki Hasser for securing generous donor support. We are already looking forward to camp next year!

Community Events and Outreach

This summer, our Leadership Team, School Board, and Early Childhood Team has been actively engaging with families and community members at local events—fostering community connections, building relationships, and celebrating the growth of our students. From the Isanti County Fair to the Rodeo Days Parade, we've had the opportunity to connect face-to-face with hundreds of community members, many of whom shared enthusiastic support for our students, staff, and schools. These moments of connection are powerful, especially as we head into a season of important conversations about our future. We're excited to continue this outreach at upcoming events including Night to Unite in both Cambridge and Isanti, the City of Isanti's Park Event on August 20, and the Cambridge Customer Appreciation event in September.

We are grateful to our dedicated staff who continue to give their time all summer long to connect with students and families—because caring about our community doesn't end when the school year does. We hope to see you at one of our upcoming events, including Night to Unite in both Cambridge and Isanti, the City of Isanti's Park Event on August 20, and the Cambridge Customer Appreciation event in September!

TEACHING & LEARNING

by: Dr. Jason Bodey

Site Continuous Improvement Plans - New for 2025-26

We are launching new Site Continuous Improvement Plans for the upcoming school year. These plans build on our past goal-writing work and now align closely with both our strategic plan and the Minnesota MTSS framework.

Each plan serves as a clear bridge between the school board, cabinet, and each principal's mutual commitments. They will guide the work of the Building Instructional Leadership Teams (BILTs) and also serve as the main communication tool between the BILTs and the District Instructional Leadership Team (DILT).

Over the past two weeks, I met one-on-one with every principal to walk through their site plan in detail. The feedback has been very positive. Principals shared that the plans help them clearly see how their work at the building level connects to our district priorities.

These plans give principals a clear understanding of what they are expected to lead in their schools, along with a transparent document to share with their staff.

Earlier this summer, I attended the Minnesota Summer Compass Institute and sat in on several sessions where other districts shared how they use Minnesota MTSS and similar site plans. I left those sessions very encouraged. When I compared our plans to theirs, it was clear that we are well on our way to building a stronger, more unified system to support our schools.

This work lays a solid foundation for a better future and ensures everyone knows the priorities and feels supported to achieve them together.

STUDENT SUPPORT SERVICES

by: Rachel Kasper

Restrictive Procedures Summary Data

The Minnesota Department of Education requires districts to report restrictive procedures throughout the school year. This includes physical holding and seclusion techniques that are used as a last resort when students are having high behaviors and are a danger to themselves or others.

For the 2024-2025 school year, the district reported 40 total restrictive procedures used. This is a decrease in 84 restrictive procedures from the previous year.

In alignment with new Minnesota legislation prohibiting the use of seclusion for students in 3rd grade and under, Cambridge-Isanti Schools has increased staff training in behavior management, de-escalation strategies, and the use of proactive, non-exclusionary supports.

As the state continues to focus on reducing exclusionary discipline and closely monitoring restrictive procedures, our district is committed to equipping staff with the tools and knowledge to respond to student behavior in safe, developmentally appropriate ways.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

by: Dr. Nate Rudolph

Over the past several weeks, we've continued to make steady progress in our community engagement efforts around the upcoming referendum. We've had the opportunity to present to the Chamber of Commerce, Rotary, local business leaders, and city officials—each conversation offering a chance to listen, respond to questions, and clarify how this proposal addresses long-term facility needs in a fiscally responsible way.

In addition, we officially launched our [Referendum Website](#), which now serves as a central hub for transparent, up-to-date information. The site includes project overviews, tax impact tools, FAQs, timelines, videos, and opportunities to stay involved. We continue to build it out as a reliable and accessible community resource.

As always, we remain committed to meeting with any individual or group interested in learning more. Every question matters, and we are dedicated to providing accurate information, clarifying the process, and ensuring our community feels informed and empowered ahead of this important vote.