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Duluth

Public Schools

Every Student. Every Day.

Superintendent's Report

December 16, 2025



OUR MISSION

Every student, every day will be empowered with learning opportunities for growth, creativity and curiosity, in preparation for their future in a global community.

OUR VISION

Duluth Public Schools provides an academically engaging, safe and inclusive environment with high expectations and responsible use of resources.

OUR CORE VALUES

Learning



Developing a love of learning through life-long inquiry.

Excellence



Having high standards for all through accountability, integrity and authenticity.

Equity



Creating conditions of justice, fairness and inclusion so all students have access to the opportunities to learn and develop to their fullest potential.

Collaboration



Working in partnership with staff, families, students and community.

Belonging



Providing a welcoming and accessible environment where everyone feels safe, seen and heard.

Topics

- Student Representative Reports and Thank You!
My'Aiana Taylor - ALC
Latasaija Garner - Denfeld
Kate Dean - East
- Human Resources Update
- Legislative Update
- Superintendent Contract Update
- Communications Audit Update
- Other

Human Resources Updates

Human Resources Updates

- Steve Johnson was selected by our hiring team as our Director of Human Resources.
- He comes to us with many years of experience in human resources in higher education and healthcare.
- The Human Resources department and director will be overseen by our Executive Director of Business Services and Operations

Legislative Update

Legislative Updates

- The school board and administration worked on our draft legislative platform with Jeff Anderson in November.
- We will be voting to approve our legislative platform tonight.
- We are scheduled to meet with our local representatives on January 27 in preparation for the 2026 legislative session.

Legislative Platform

1. School Funding (Top Priority)
 - a. Increase the state funding formula
 - b. Fully fund state mandated programs and no unfunded mandates
 - c. Special Education - Reduce or eliminate the SpEd cross subsidy and reimburse the district for a state formula issue
 - d. Technology, safety and infrastructure
 - e. Career and Technical Education
 - f. Transportation aid
 - g. READ Act

Legislative Platform

2. School Policy

- a. No unfunded mandates
- b. Expand educator workforce
- c. Reserve teacher flexibility

3. Prioritize Student Mental Health

4. Additional Funding for the Duluth Promise

Communications Update

Communications Audit Update

- 10 Focus Groups
 - Principals, Assistant Principals, Paraprofessionals, Clericals, Teachers, Families, Community Partners, Directors, Program Managers
- SCOPE Survey
 - Opened Between Nov. 17-Dec. 12 (It was extended a week)
 - Staff, Families, Students, Community Members
- Researcher is working on going through all the data as well as internal and external documentation and the websites.
- Expect to have a complete audit in January.

Superintendent Contract Update

Superintendent Contract Update

My current contract ends on June 30, 2025. I am working with the board on finalization of a 2026-2029 contract, which will likely come to the board in January. We are mutually agreeing to delay the finalization of my next contract as we have all been busy tending to other district needs.

I am looking forward to serving the district and community into the future. Duluth is an amazing community and I am extremely grateful to serve as superintendent of our school district.

Questions