

Dear Board,

With the board meeting scheduled earlier than usual this month on February 9th, I want to take a moment to provide an update on several important areas across the district. Even in the heart of winter, the work across Menahga Public Schools continues at a strong pace, and I remain grateful for the commitment of our staff, students, board members, and community.

We held our first policy committee meeting of the year and identified a tentative list of policies to review as we move forward. Thank you to everyone who invests their time in this important work. Strong policy creates strong systems, and your efforts help keep Menahga Public Schools well-positioned for the future.

Earlier this week, the district hosted a local caucus in the media center. We are proud to support civic engagement by providing our community with a safe and welcoming space to participate in the democratic process.

On Friday, I will be off campus attending a superintendent workshop. Opportunities like this allow district leaders to collaborate, stay informed on legislative developments, and bring forward ideas that help position Menahga for continued success — particularly as rural schools continue to advocate for resources and long-term sustainability.

Our Menahga Online School continues to exceed projections in year two. We are now serving well over 150 students from across Minnesota. This program represents an important step into the future of public education while also strengthening our local system by helping maintain manageable class sizes in our brick-and-mortar classrooms.

The district recently reached a Memorandum of Understanding with the union to forgo hit-and-bid for employees who choose to participate in our health benefits. We met collaboratively as a team to review multiple options, and this approach represents the best path forward for staff electing coverage. This agreement reflects our continued commitment to working together in good faith while making decisions that support both our employees and the long-term stability of the district.

As always, I encourage our entire organization to continue leading through our core values of integrity, respect, safety, and relationships. When decisions are grounded in these principles, we continue building a culture that supports both student achievement and staff success.

Thank you for your continued leadership and partnership in serving the students and families of Menahga Public Schools.

Respectfully,
Jay Kjos
Superintendent