

Executive Director Report

Board Meeting Date: October 27, 2025

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Executive Summary

CCS continues exceptional momentum through October with enrollment reaching 562 students, demonstrating steady growth throughout the fall semester. Our financial position remains robust with October actuals showing \$463,157 net income year-to-date, maintaining a strong \$3.13M fund balance. With successful grant submissions totaling three major opportunities and our 25th anniversary recognition by MACS, the district advances confidently through our FORWARD initiative.

Enrollment & Growth Trajectory

Current enrollment stands at **562 students** as of October 24, 2025:

- Seat-based: 135 students
- Online K-5: 56 students
- Online 6-8: 54 students
- Online 9-12: 317 students

October ADM averaged 497.92 (110.6% of budgeted 450), significantly exceeding projections. Marketing initiatives including YouTube channel launch and community engagement events continue driving enrollment momentum toward our 600+ projection for 2025-26.

Financial Position & Strategic Investments

October 2024 Actuals demonstrate exceptional fiscal health:

- **Fund Balance:** \$3.13M (maintaining strong reserves well above best practices)
- **Cash Position:** \$2.67M total (\$1.63M checking, \$1.04M investment CDs)
- **YTD Performance:** Revenues at 32.4% collected, expenditures at 25.7% disbursed (33% of fiscal year complete)
- **Net Income YTD:** \$463,157 positive variance

Board-approved strategic growth investments remain on track with projected fund balance of \$2.47M (36.1% of expenditures) at year-end, maintaining healthy reserves while supporting enrollment expansion. Multi-year projections show return to surplus operations beginning FY28.

Minnesota PFML Decision: The Board's exceptional decision to cover 100% of PFML contributions (\$40,000 annually) demonstrates extraordinary commitment to staff wellbeing, setting CCS apart from most districts statewide.

Strategic Initiatives & Innovation

FORWARD Implementation Progress

Successfully launched comprehensive district theme with measurable progress across all seven pillars. October financial data confirms sustainable investment capacity for technology integration and strategic initiatives.

Technology & AI Integration

Transparent AI utilization discussion initiated with plans for platform evaluation (spring/summer 2026), policy development, and professional training. Currently evaluating e-signature solutions with 3-month SignNow demo underway.

Grant Opportunities & External Support

Successfully submitted three major grant applications:

- **Nonexclusionary Discipline (NED) Grant** - Supporting SEL and PBIS initiatives
- **Full-Service Community School Grant** - Expanding comprehensive support services
- **Cardiac Emergency Response Plan Grant** - Enhancing safety preparedness

Pending: **Hydration Station Grant** (deadline November 14)

School-Specific Achievements

Seat-Based School: Achieved HRS Level 2 Certification, conducted successful Deep Portage experiences, completed Parent-Teacher Conferences with exceptional attendance, hosted successful Farm to School event featuring locally sourced lunch with community partnerships.

Online School: Record-breaking engagement metrics - K-5 morning meetings, Open House attendance growth (K-5 up 36%, 6-8 up 56%, 9-12 up 14%), Unity Day Meet with 105 participants, launched True North Award recognizing student excellence.

Looking Forward - Immediate Priorities

1. Complete universal screening window and data analysis
2. Finalize Student Information System (SIS) next steps

3. Continue strategic planning implementation with Teamworks
4. Advance compensation planning through Board Ad Hoc Committee
5. Advance safety and security planning through Board Ad Hoc Committee
6. Submit Hydration Station Grant by November 14
7. Prepare for comprehensive support planning (online 6-12 ESSA identification)

Bottom Line

CCS demonstrates exceptional operational and financial strength in our milestone 25th year. With October actuals confirming strong positive cash flow, enrollment growth momentum, successful grant positioning, and unified FORWARD implementation across both schools, the district is positioned for sustained excellence throughout 2025-26 and beyond. Our financial stability provides the foundation for continued innovation while maintaining fiscal responsibility.