



Eden Prairie School Board
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April 27, 2026

Dear Members of the American Indian Parent Advisory Committee (AIPAC),

On behalf of the School Board, we would like to acknowledge receipt of the American Indian Parent Advisory Committee's vote of non-concurrence as part of the Minnesota Department of Education process. We appreciate the time, thought, and care that went into sharing your perspectives, recommendations, and priorities.

We want to affirm the deep value we place on our American Indian students, families, culture, and community. In alignment with our mission of Inspiring Each Student Every Day, we recognize that fostering belonging, connection, and opportunity for American Indian students is an important part of ensuring each learner is known, valued, and supported throughout their educational experience. The School Board recognizes the importance of ensuring that each student feels seen, supported, respected, and connected within our schools. Our values call us to lead with care, collaboration, inclusion, and continuous improvement, and we believe strong partnerships with families and community are essential to achieving these outcomes. Eden Prairie Schools remains committed to strengthening relationships, listening carefully, and continuing to partner in meaningful ways that support positive outcomes for American Indian learners.

We appreciate the collaborative relationship that has continued to be fostered and developed between district leaders and AIPAC members. Our coordinator and assistant superintendents, will continue to serve as key connections between AIPAC and the district, helping to ensure ongoing dialogue, shared understanding, continued partnership, collaboration, and continuous improvement take place.

We are aware that the district has already begun work in many of the areas raised through AIPAC's recommendations, and staff have continued to meet with the committee to better understand concerns, identify opportunities, and improve systems of support. We also acknowledge that some of these items may take some time, but the district leaders will work

with you on each of the identified areas. We value the feedback provided and see this as an important part of an ongoing process of continuous improvement.

We remain grateful for the voices, perspectives, and partnership of AIPAC members. Together, we share a common goal of creating a school experience where American Indian students and families feel a strong sense of belonging, connection, and opportunity, aligned with our commitment to inspire each student every day.

Thank you for your continued engagement and partnership.

Sincerely,

Aaron Casper, School Board Chair
On behalf of the School Board

Dr. Josh Swanson, Superintendent

Recognized AIPAC Recommendations and Areas for Ongoing Collaboration

1. AIPAC recommends it work *with* the all hiring related school district entities and Human Resources to codify a position description that meets the standard of a district tribal liaison and to clarify what we would like to see from the role of, “cultural liaison”.
2. AIPAC recommends the district enrollment office work with AIPAC and the tribal nations of its students to ensure the district has an accurate number of EP students who are American Indian.
3. AIPAC recommends the district provide necessary access to the contact information for our American Indian families.
4. AIPAC recommends that the district establish a tribal disclosure ready position, a means to provide past, current and forecasted American Indian student data via a codified MOU and or data-sharing agreements (DSAs) with our tribal nations.
5. AIPAC recommends that when its AIPAC or American Indian student district wide programming is held, it also ensures access for our students and families to their own Indian education programming. There have been some hang ups about release from classrooms.
6. AIPAC recommends the district provide a physical space dedicated to American Indian Education.

7. AIPAC recommends the district make it clear they are dedicated to Indigenous Education for All by providing cultural programming for our American Indian students and across all grade levels and in all buildings.
8. AIPAC recommends that the district make at least Dakota and Ojibwe language instruction available to all students on a consistent basis regardless of course enrollment numbers.
9. AIPAC recommends the Districts Special Education Dept work with AIPAC to assess its need for Dream Catcher Project support.
10. AIPAC recommends the district create ways to support a visible presence of American Indian families across the district.