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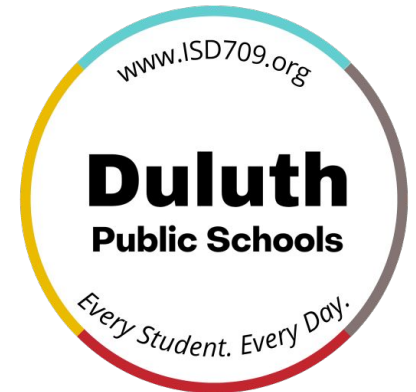
Duluth

Public Schools

Every Student. Every Day.

Superintendent's Report

February 25, 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
 - Myaiana Taylor - ALC
 - Latasaija Garner - Denfeld
 - Kate Dean - East
- Budget Reduction and Realignment Update
- Spanish Immersion Expansion Update
- Legislative Update
- Other

Budget Reduction and Realignment



Focus Statement: Achieving necessary budget adjustments while aligning resources to the district priorities and positioning us to make effective decisions now and into the future.

Reality "The Why"	Unacceptable Means "The Not How"	Results "The What"
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Elimination of federal pandemic relief funds ● Inflation costs ● New unfunded legislative mandates requiring resources ● Ongoing effects of employee contract settlements ● Relatively stable enrollment ● Current projected deficit of for FY26 \$7.5M ● Actual FY26 deficit dependent on prior intended reductions in FY25 budget - minimum of \$2.6M in overloads, summer extension, overtime, travel, floating subs and attrition. ● FY26 deficit will be reduced to \$4.9M if current goal of \$2.6M in FY25 reductions is met ● FY26 Priority areas supporting every student, advancing equity and improving systems including new MS and HS new schedule and model, literacy work ● Increasing costs of special education services ● Have been able to mitigate some financial impacts through unassigned fund balance (a savings account) and Long-Term Facilities and Maintenance fund balance. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Violate laws, board policy, regulations & contracts ● Going into Statutory Operating Debt ● Avoid going below 8% fund balance ● Violate identified November 2023 referendum commitments <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Maintain most social emotional and mental health supports ○ Implementation of a new high school schedule ○ Maintain and strengthen most academic supports ● Develop reduction and reallocation options in isolation without representative stakeholder input ● Make decisions without proper or sufficient data 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Balanced budget for 2025-26 ● Utilize a transparent and engaging process for budget reductions and reallocations for FY26 ● Prioritize and protect classroom needs as much as possible ● Alignment of funding and operations to district priorities: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Continue to support student needs throughout the district ○ Continue to advance equity efforts throughout the district (e.g. Continue to allocate additional resources to students with the greatest need.) ○ Continue to improve systems throughout the district ● Develop and forecast balanced budgets ● Examine all legacy practices with a lens of fiscal accountability ● Protects school district's fiscal health by continually seeking efficiencies and identifying new sources of funding, such as grants and investment opportunities

Spanish Immersion Expansion Update

- **Myers-Wilkins Parent Information Night: February 24th 5:00-7:00 PM**
 - Met with current Myers-Wilkins families to share about changes and opportunity
- **Myers-Wilkins Immersion Information Night: February 26th 6:00-7:00 PM**
 - Meeting: incoming kindergarten and 1st grade families to learn about immersion programming
- **Lowell Immersion Information Night: February 27th 6:00-7:00 PM**
 - Meeting: incoming kindergarten and 1st grade families to learn about immersion programming
- **Myers-Wilkins Family Night: March 20th 5:00-7:00 PM**
 - *1st hour*: new to MW family scavenger hunt (including incoming Spanish Immersion families).
 - *2nd hour* : all school event featuring a meal, activities, community partnerships, and community summer offerings.
 - Event is in partnership with Duluth Community Schools Collaborative.
- **Myers-Wilkins Spanish Immersion Transition Committee: Ongoing**
 - MW team met January 29th & February 10th
 - Sub-committees being established for continued transition planning.

Federal Government Updates

- We continue to monitor federal government changes and impacts on our schools, including immigration, and potential reductions in Department of Education funds and services.
- On Thursday, the Minnesota Attorney General's Office released a formal legal opinion that President Donald Trump's Executive Order banning transgender students from participating in extracurricular activities consistent with their gender identity does not supersede protections from discrimination in the Minnesota Constitution or Minnesota laws, and that complying with the Executive Order would be a violation of the Minnesota Human Rights Act.

Legislative Updates

- We participated in robust lobbying at the Duluth and St. Louis County Days, including testifying to support aspects of House File 6 for READ Act funding
- We have multiple bills authored, including bills for the Duluth Promise and for our special education funding anomaly.
- Member Lofald and I will be testifying at the Senate Education Finance Committee tomorrow morning

Questions