



**Board Meeting Date:** November 28, 2023

**Title:** Board Legislative Action Committee (LAC) 2024 Legislative Platform Discussion

**Type:** Discussion

**Presenter(s):** Legislative Action Committee: Julie Greene, Chair; Dan Arom, Board Member; and Janie Shaw, Board Member

**Description:** The School Board approved board goals for the 2023-24 school year that include legislative advocacy as a priority. This work aligns with advocacy priorities outlined in the district's [2020-2030 Strategic Plan, Strategy E: Engage Parents, Schools and Community](#).

**Recommendation:** Review and be prepared with questions and feedback on the 2024 Legislative Platform.

**Desired Outcomes from the Board:** Board reaches consensus through discussion to move LAC 2024 priorities and plan forward for Board approval in January.

**Attachment(s):** 2024 LAC Legislative Platform DRAFT

**2022-2023 School Board Goals (Approved)**

**Board Goal (2):** *Elevate the Edina School Board within the District, State and Nation in order to advocate for the needs of the school community and best meet the needs of our district stakeholders.*

*Key actions:*

- *Board continues state and federal legislative advocacy efforts for public school education funding by following year 3 of the LAC plan.*
- *Board participates in leadership opportunities at local and national meetings/conferences (MSBA, AMSD, etc.) to elevate work of the board and successes in the district.*

*Measurable impact:*

- *Board LAC committee implements year 3 of LAC plan including increased community and legislative engagement.*
- *Full board actively participates in LAC efforts, as identified.*

To achieve these goals, the Board also approved a three-year plan for the Legislative Action Committee (LAC) in January, 2022. The 2023-24 school year is Year 3 of this plan.

## **For Board Review and Discussion:**

Below please find the 2024 Legislative Platform, and the 2023-24 LAC Goals and Action plan for Board review and discussion:

### **1) 2024 LAC Legislative Platform**

The LAC is proposing the attached 2024 legislative platform for Board consideration. These priorities are grounded in the Board's 2024 legislative priorities with suggested changes developed in collaboration with district leadership, Dr. Stacie Stanley and Jody Remsing, Director of Student Services and Special Education and partner organizations including AMSD, MSBA and MASE, and additional aligned organizations as references.

### **2) 2023-2024 LAC Goals and Action Plan (Year 3)**

The LAC sets goals and builds a calendar of LAC efforts in collaboration with Superintendent, Dr. Stacie Stanley and Director of Student Services and Special Education, Jody Remsing. These goals reflect hopeful outcomes of the LAC work this year. The committee meets on a monthly basis.

#### **➤ 2023-24 LAC Goals**

- 1) *Advocacy efforts lead to priorities being realized at legislative session;*
- 2) *New and current relationships with all EPS legislative representation are developed and strong;*
- 3) *Community gains better understanding of legislative priorities, the impact on students and engages in LAC advocacy efforts with student voice amplified;*
- 4) *Collaboration with aligned partners proves an effective tactic of advocacy efforts.*
- 5) *Implementation of LAC action plan is effective (committee engagement, capacity, admin support, event success)*

#### **➤ 2023-24 LAC Action Plan**

Through events, engagement, communication and community outreach, the LAC plans to advocate through a variety of means including, but not limited to, the following:

- Ongoing conversations with current and new local and national legislators in effort to build strong relationships
- Host pre-session legislative event to communicate priorities to legislators and larger community
  - 100% participation from local representative and at least one national representative
  - Attendance includes school board, community members and student representation outside of LAC, district admin and city leadership
- Continue to build communication base for info sharing and outreach
  - Revitalize social media platforms to welcome students and the Edina community to participate in planned LAC efforts

- Focus on traditional media efforts targeted to students (Zephyrus) and community (Sun Current, Star Tribune), as appropriate
- Track and support legislative bills and their development at local and national level to help identify opportunities for advocacy outreach
- Engage in AMSD and MSBA legislative efforts related to 2024 priorities with participation in meetings and advocacy opportunities; identify additional partnership alignment opportunities for synergy in efforts (MACE, MDE, National PTA, AAP, etc)
- Collaborate with neighboring school districts' LAC efforts and activities for shared practices and synergy opportunities
- School board actively participate in planned LAC activities
- Attend at least 1 MN education related Committee meetings related to 2024 priorities
- Participate in at least 1 day of advocating at state capitol
- Secure at least 1 student testimony during legislature session

## **Edina Public Schools | 2024 LEGISLATIVE PLATFORM IDEAS FOR DISCUSSION**

### **1. STABILIZE EDUCATION FUNDING**

> Increase basic formula allowance for FY 25 by an additional 2% to help offset costs related to inflation and provide funding for the new programs adopted in the 2023 legislative session including Paid Family Medical Leave, Earned Sick and Safe Time, The READ Act, and Unemployment Insurance; and

### **2. STRENGTHEN AND SUPPORT SPECIAL EDUCATION PROGRAMS**

> Reduce special education paperwork requirements to allow teachers to spend more time with students; and

> Federal funding outreach

> Study shortage of special education para support.

### **3. ENSURE SAFE, MODERN SCHOOL FACILITIES AND INCREASE MENTAL HEALTH SUPPORT FOR STUDENTS AND STAFF**

> Increase the Safe Schools levy and state aid to allow school districts and intermediate school districts to:

1. Support 21st century brick and mortar and cyber security needs
2. Hire additional support staff or develop programming resources to address the mental health needs of students and staff
3. Increase statewide capacity to provide intensive mental health services for children and youth experiencing mental health crises; and

> Clarify language related to the use of physical restraints to ensure the safety of students and staff.

### **4. INCREASE AND DIVERSIFY TEACHER WORKFORCE**

> Remove barriers and provide incentives to address the shortage of substitute teachers, school bus drivers, paraprofessionals, and other staff; and

> Continue to expand programs and incentives to attract, develop and retain teachers of color; and

> Maintain multiple pathways to licensure in the tiered licensing system.

## **5. TECHNOLOGY EDUCATION, LITERACY & ETHICS**

> Assistive technology best practices & training

## **6. SUSTAINABILITY/GREEN INITIATIVES**

> Electric buses, charging stations, solar panels

> Reduce Food Waste & Recycling

References:

[2024 MSBA Legislative Platform](#)