

Community Linkage Committee

Eden Prairie Schools Newsletter – January 2025

We are pleased to welcome two new directors, Ann Bradsher and Jody Ward-Rannow, and recognize the re-election of director Kim Ross to the Board.

The fiscal year 2025-2026 district budget is set to be approved in June 2025. Unlike many Minnesota districts facing serious financial challenges, staff reductions, programming cuts and significant tax increases, Eden Prairie Schools remains on solid financial footing. This stability results from steady leadership, strategic planning, and oversight. Nonetheless, like neighboring districts, we face a challenging environment with elevated inflation and unfunded legislative mandates.

During this period of disruption and uncertainty, we want to share how Eden Prairie Schools operates differently to deliver exceptional results for all our stakeholders.

1. Competitive Edge:

Our commitment to an Inspired Journey for each student comes to life through personalized learning and authentic experiences. This is highlighted through our Pathways initiatives and is the foundation of the work to deliver a world-class education that benefits students, parents, and taxpayers, and helps us attract and retain students while remaining competitive with nearby districts.

2. Exceptional Talent:

Eden Prairie Schools consistently earns recognition at state and national levels. From Presidential Blue Ribbon academic excellence and Green Ribbon environmental leadership awards to leadership on National/State Advisory Boards, our educators and administrators are recognized for their innovation, collaboration, and dedication.

3. Strategic Execution:

We implement long-term strategies with measurable results, such student driven learning experiences with Discovery Groups and hands-on career Capstones, effective use of technology, best-in-class online learning options, real-world learning through community and professional partnerships, and initiatives addressing achievement disparities. In addition, investments to reduce class size targets over many years have resulted in some of the lowest class sizes at elementary schools in our area, and investments in schedules at the middle school and high school expand opportunities and benefit students and staff.

4. Community Engagement:

District leadership actively collects parent and community feedback during principal hirings, strategic planning initiatives and envisioning the future of learning (Flight Plan 2035). Through forums like “Meet and Greets,” “Measuring What Matters,” and focus groups, the School Board solicits family, student, and community feedback. This communication and transparency ensures your voice and influences strategic decision-making.

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5. Fiscal Responsibility:

Eden Prairie Schools balances spending and taxes to sustain financial stability. Our budget and forecast continue to support the five-year referendum promise of financial stability. Over the last four years, we have been one of only three districts statewide to under-levy taxpayers. This has reduced the taxpayer burden by more than two million dollars over those four years, while achieving educational goals, expanding student learning opportunities, rewarding staff, and acquiring a new building to improve programming and offer additional student education services.

6. Innovative Governance:

Our unique governance model supports creativity, accountability, and flexibility. While our staff innovates to enhance classroom outcomes, the Board ensures oversight and future-oriented planning. And when we get something wrong, our governance model provides prompt and prudent response and accountability to get things corrected.

Looking Forward:

As we prepare for the next school year and decade, the Board reaffirms its commitment to balancing stability with innovation. In a sea of fiscal chaos, uncertainty, and disruption in education across Minnesota and nationally, our disciplined and forward-looking approach drives predictability and success--ensuring students gain both academic excellence and critical life skills to contribute purposefully to an ever-changing world.

Thank you for your continued support and partnership in keeping Eden Prairie Schools a model of success for students, staff, and the community.