



# Morris Area Public Schools

Striving to become the finest school district in West Central Minnesota



201 South Columbia Ave  
Morris, MN 56267



District: 320.589.4840  
High School: 320.589.4400  
Elementary: 320.589.1250



[www.morris.k12.mn.us](http://www.morris.k12.mn.us)

## Superintendent School Board Report Monday, December 22, 2025

- Snow day make up day: Please see the additional information about options to make up the November 26 early release day due to the snow day.
- Transportation: A copy of the report will be provided on Monday from Aksamit Transportation.
- Culture: We continue to be intentional about recognizing staff doing great things!
- Building: There is work being done to put up walls on the second floor of the new addition. We met with Innovative Solutions to discuss furniture options for the new addition.
- Addition of elementary special education teacher: The elementary special education teaching staff experienced a significant increase in service minutes for special education students. Mr. Todd Travis, Midwest Special Education Director, did a case load comparison/review and this was an obvious take away. With that information we:
  - met with the elementary special education teachers to brainstorm ways we could provide more support for the staff and students they serve
  - items discussed included use of existing staff, use of the roving substitute teacher, adding additional staff either paras or a teacher
  - the recommendation was to attempt to add a teacher for the remainder of the school year and then use information gained to make decisions/recommendations moving forward
  - met with the personnel committee to explain the process and the recommendation was to move forward to finance and facilities committee
  - met with the finance and facilities committee and explained the process and the recommendation was to move forward with advertising the position

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### ***Our Core Purpose***

The mission of Morris Area Public Schools is to educate and prepare all students for a successful tomorrow through academics, activities, arts, and attitude.

### ***What We Commit To Become***

The vision of Morris Area Public Schools is to become the finest school district in West Central Minnesota.





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- Licensed negotiations: We met the MATA on Monday, December 15. We received the initial financial proposal. Our next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, January 22.
- Standing monthly committee meetings include: Policy, Finance and Facilities. You will get an update during member updates.

On behalf of the Morris Area School District, I wish all of the Tiger families a very restful, happy holiday season! Enjoy time with family and friends and cherish the memories made! I look forward to working with all of you in 2026!

- Strategic Plan update:
  - Overall Goal: The school district will work to implement the vision of the Morris Area Schools and fulfill our mission of educating all students for a successful tomorrow by providing resources and support to increase student achievement and close the achievement gaps.
    - Ongoing review of needed resources/staffing levels
    - Consideration of budget as we review staffing
  - Goal 1: Maintenance and retention of all staff; recruit and train new staff
    - Ongoing mentorship
    - Review onboarding procedures
    - Monthly new teacher meetings
    - Providing competitive wages and benefits
  - Goal 2: Training and awareness of mental health issues
    - Consideration of space in the repurpose of the elementary to include mental health
  - Goal 3: Maintain student enrollment
    - Branding Morris Area Schools

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- Create a marketing plan
- Provide mental health supports
- Offer a variety of educational opportunities
- Review ways to attract enrollment
- Goal 4: Enhance awareness of and preparation for receiving an increasing population of immigrant families
  - Providing opportunities for staff to learn best practices with English as a second language learners
  - Providing an opportunity for staff to increase their Spanish language skills.
  - Speak about how diversity is a strength

As you can see from this list we are working on the strategic planning goals adopted by the school board to guide our work.

Respectfully,

Mr. Shane Monson

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