



Public Comment &lt;public.comment@isd709.org&gt;

---

## Public Comment - Fiscal Responsibility

2 me age

Dave Reym [REDACTED]

Mon, May 17, 2021 at 12:36 PM

To: public.comment@isd709.org

Please read at May 18th Board meeting for all to hear Thank you

### Public comment on the new hiring of educational directors for the district.

This is a concerted effort to give perspective and information to the school board on being fiscally responsible with district funding, budgets, and pandemic grants from the view of a resident, taxpayer and previous district student

Apparently the new administration feels that there is a need for even more oversight within the educational and multicultural areas of our district and wants to hire additional directors at over \$100k/year each. How many assistants, deans and consultants do we really need? Most people on the board or within the upper administration have not been with the district long enough to remember all the issues that came with and followed the Red Plan and the financial straits it has left this district in since. It has not only been financially burdensome but within the mindset of the public and how they feel about this school district and the decisions they make. Educated people should know that we as humans need to learn from our mistakes if we plan to continue to prosper. Repeating past mistakes is not only ignorant but a vicious cycle of poor judgement and decision-making. The people of Minnesota's largest northern school district deserve better than that. Maybe they need to start doing more with less as many others have had to do within the district.

It is time this district starts investing into some of its own infrastructure and foundation before it places too many "blocks" on top. Its facilities, maintenance and transportation departments have fallen to lowest in manpower and wages in the area while at the same time our teachers are some of the highest paid in the state. Without the investments made to these very essential departments you are putting the district at a major risk of not being able to provide the security, safety, maintenance, transportation and the very structure, that without, all the highest paid educators in the world won't be able to teach our students as they won't have a place to do so. The deterioration has already begun with the loss of many very good employees with many years experience having to look elsewhere for employment because wages are not keeping up with the average pay scale of similar jobs. To make matters worse, the wages are too low to draw potential quality replacements and there is a high rate of turnover with an insufficient workforce. To stay on this track will create not an "if" the Jenga stack collapses, but "when". It's up to you, along with this new administration, to start taking this district as a whole into consideration and make wise decisions for its future.