



ADMINISTRATION REPORTS JUNE 2025

ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES & HUMAN RESOURCES

by: Shawn Kirkeide

Bluejacket Celebration

Once again, this year's event was a tremendous success. We had the honor of recognizing nine retirees, many of whom brought their families to help celebrate their years of dedicated service and the lasting impact they've made on Cambridge-Isanti Schools.

In addition, we celebrated over 200 staff members who were nominated for the Bluejacket Way – Above & Beyond Award, Support Staff of Excellence, Teacher of Excellence, and Leader of Excellence awards. We were also thrilled to recognize Donna McNear for the Friend of Cambridge-Isanti Community Award. We also recognized more than 40 employees with service awards for 15, 20, 25, 30, and 35 years of service.

It was a truly inspiring event and a wonderful opportunity to celebrate both our current and retiring staff members for their exceptional contributions.

FINANCE AND OPERATIONS

by: Christopher Kampa, CFA

Finance

The past several legislative sessions have brought significant changes to school funding and operations. In contrast, the most recent session was relatively quiet, providing some stability. While the state's growing budget challenges have resulted in a modest reduction to school funding, these impacts are manageable at this time. However, it is important to note that more substantial budget reductions may occur in future years. The budget that will be presented at the June School Board meeting reflects a projected deficit for FY2026; however, this is a manageable situation due to the district's strong overall financial position.

Transportation

The Transportation Department remains actively engaged throughout the summer to ensure a smooth start to the upcoming school year. Summer school transportation is underway and operating efficiently. Staff are also focused on completing year-end reporting requirements and preparing necessary documentation. In addition, communication regarding transportation for the 2025–26 school year is being distributed to families to support early planning and coordination. Finally, buses and related equipment are being serviced and prepared to ensure they are fully operational and ready for the start of the new school year.

Food Service

The end of the school year is always a busy period for the Food Service Department, and this year's shutdown process was completed efficiently. Kitchens were cleaned and secured, necessary equipment was identified to remain operational over the summer, and food inventory was relocated as appropriate. We were also pleased to coordinate the donation of over 1,800 pounds of perishable food to the local food shelf, providing support to families in need as summer begins. In terms of facility projects, work is progressing on the replacement of the walk-in cooler, freezer, and conveyor dish machine at CPIS. This project includes necessary concrete removal and electrical capacity improvements, with completion anticipated later this summer.

Building & Grounds

The Buildings and Grounds Department is actively engaged in a variety of summer projects aimed at maintaining and improving district buildings and grounds. Preparations are underway across all sites to support scheduled construction and maintenance work, including deep cleaning, grounds upkeep, and coordination with contractors. Staff are also meeting with city officials to review storm shelter regulations and ensure compliance with applicable codes. These efforts are part of our ongoing commitment to maintaining safe, clean, and functional learning environments for students and staff.

Technology

This summer we will be using ERATE funds to install new network switches across the district. Not only will this improve our connectivity for students and staff, but accessing ERATE funds will save us over \$200,000! We are also working on the normal Chromebook cleaning, repair, and middle school-high school transition, summer cleaning, and computer recycling.

COMMUNITY EDUCATION

by: Christina Thayer Anderson

Adult Education, Congratulations Graduates!

On June 18, our Adult Education students celebrated a significant accomplishment: the completion of their GED. Earning a GED is more than a credential—it's a powerful achievement that reflects determination, perseverance, and the courage to keep going. For those who complete their high school equivalency outside of a traditional setting, this milestone represents a personal journey of resilience and growth. It opens doors to continued education, career opportunities, and a renewed sense of possibility for the future. This year, 24 students graduated with the GED, our 2nd largest class to date. Their accomplishments are already impressive, including a volunteer firefighter and EMT, an enlisted soldier, union welder, construction worker, and many current parents.

Congratulations to the Adult Education Class of 2025 Graduates!

Adult Recreation Summer Opportunities

While summer is often a time to slow down and recharge, it's also a great time to stay connected through our adult recreation programs. These are low-cost, local opportunities that bring neighbors and friends together as well as support healthy lifestyles. From community basketball and lap swim to Top Fuhol fitness, we offer a variety of options to help you stay active over the summer months. Keep an eye out for our Community Education brochure arriving in homes mid-August. It will include details on upcoming fall offerings including pickleball, volleyball, and yoga. For more information and to view current opportunities, visit our website.

Early Childhood Screening Year End Review: A Strong Start for our Bluejackets

Early Childhood Screening is a critical first step in identifying health or developmental concerns and ensuring young children receive the support they need to thrive. Screenings are recommended at age 3 to allow for early intervention, which leads to better outcomes for children and reduces the need for more intensive services later on.

In the 2024–25 school year, Cambridge-Isanti Early Childhood screened 302 children. This is a free service we provide to all families, and is funded through the State of Minnesota. We continue to strengthen partnerships with 8 local child care centers, offering on-site screenings during the day which helps families meet this important requirement without missing work. This year, 60 children were screened directly at their child care sites. Screenings are also offered weekly at Cambridge Intermediate School, with flexible evening and weekend options.

Thanks to strong community partnerships and a dedicated team, we are building a solid foundation for our youngest Bluejackets—and we're excited to keep expanding this important work in the year ahead.

TEACHING & LEARNING

by: Dr. Jason Bodey

Summer 2025 Teaching and Learning Planning Update

This summer, our Teaching and Learning team is focused on ensuring a strong start to the 2025–26 school year. Across June, July, and August, we're bringing together teachers and leaders to support staff in aligning curriculum, building capacity, and strengthening our systems.

Much of our summer content work centers on curriculum alignment. Small teams of K–5 and 6–8 ELA content leaders are working together to refine units, clarify instructional practices, and ensure students experience a consistent and high-quality literacy program. We will also be working with Science content and our K–5 teachers to revisit pacing and aligning resources to meet updated state standards.

We're investing in our assessment and intervention systems, too. Teachers and leaders are participating in training on eduClimber, with a focus on tracking interventions and using data to support student growth. These sessions also reinforce our SAT (Student Assistance Team) process, helping teams identify and respond to student needs in a timely, data-informed way.

Supporting new staff is another priority. Our new teacher workshops will span several days this August, giving incoming educators a strong introduction to our curriculum, instructional approaches, and school culture. We're also preparing mentors with dedicated training so they can support these new team members throughout the year. For teachers using Wit & Wisdom, we're offering targeted training to ensure everyone feels confident and prepared in delivering ELA instruction.

We're also continuing to grow our Catalyst Approach development and training. Staff from Catalyst will train and work with our school leaders and sites to review foundational instructional practices that can be used in the cafeterias, playgrounds, and other common spaces in the schools.

Finally, we're building cultural understanding through place-based learning. One of our summer sessions, "Learning from Place: Bdote," gives staff the opportunity to deepen their understanding of Indigenous history and connect that knowledge to culturally responsive teaching.

Overall, this summer reflects a thoughtful and coordinated effort to align our systems, invest in staff, and prepare for a successful school year. We're grateful to the many teachers and leaders giving their time and expertise to move this work forward.

STUDENT SUPPORT SERVICES

by: Rachel Kasper

I'm excited to join the Bluejacket team as the new Director of Special Education and Student Support Services. In my first two weeks, I've had the opportunity to attend the year-end Leadership Retreat, connect with incredible staff, and begin visiting our schools. The pride and dedication across the district is clear—and energizing.

As Extended School Year wraps up this week, I want to thank the staff who supported students through the summer. I look forward to continuing to build relationships and working together to strengthen systems that support *all* learners.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

by: Dr. Nate Rudolph

As we close out the 2024-25 school year, I want to take a moment to reflect on the many accomplishments, transitions, and learning moments that have defined this year. Across our schools, we've seen continued progress and student success that affirm the strength of our community, the dedication of our staff, and the impact of our shared vision.

One highlight this month was the graduation of the Cambridge-Isanti High School Class of 2025. These students leave behind a legacy of academic achievement, leadership, and resilience. From record-breaking scholarships and college credits earned to top honors in academics, arts, and athletics, this class reflects the diverse opportunities available through a Bluejacket education. Graduation also serves as a reminder that success is built through strong partnerships—among students, staff, families, and our broader community.

Earlier this month, our district and site leadership teams gathered for a year-end work session centered on reflection, alignment, and growth. This day marked the conclusion of year two of our strategic plan and offered an opportunity to assess progress on key district priorities, celebrate gains in leadership capacity, and lay the groundwork for the 2025-26 school year. Guided by our mutual commitments, the team engaged in meaningful reflection on what we've learned, how we've grown,

and where we need to focus next. This important work will continue through two additional planning sessions this summer as we prepare for a strong and focused start to the year ahead.

In June, we also conducted a district-wide reunification drill in collaboration with local emergency response teams. This important training exercise gave us the opportunity to review and strengthen our emergency procedures, with a particular focus on ensuring student safety and effective coordination across sites. I want to thank our staff and community partners for their professionalism and commitment to readiness.

Together, these milestones reflect the momentum we've built and the strong foundation we're continuing to grow—through thoughtful planning, community partnership, and a shared belief in the power of public education.