

Monthly Committee of the Whole Board Meeting
Duluth Public Schools, ISD 709

Agenda
Tuesday, October 7, 2025
District Services Center
709 Portia Johnson Dr.
Duluth, MN 55811
4:30 PM

- 1. **CALL TO ORDER**
- 2. **ROLL CALL**
- 3. **AGENDA ITEMS**
 - A. Strategic Plan Alignment
 - 1) Advancing Equity
 - a. Myers-Wilkins Spanish Immersion Update 2
 - 2) Improving Systems
 - a. School Resource Officers Update 12
 - b. Vision Card - Strategic Road Map Update 23
 - 3) Supporting Every Student - N/A
 - B. Budget Update - N/A
 - C. Other
- 4. **ADJOURN**

COW Agenda Cover Sheet

Meeting Date: October 7, 2025

Topic: Myers-Wilkins Spanish Immersion Update

Presenter(s): Brenda Spartz, Lisa Nicholson, Eve Hessler

Attachment: None

Brief Summary of Presentation or Topic (no more than a few sentences):
Update on the Myers-Wilkins Spanish Immersion program.

This Requires School Board Approval : No

Myers-Wilkins Spanish Immersion Update

Duluth Public Schools
Committee of the Whole

October 7, 2025



Goals for relocating six Spanish Immersion classrooms from Lowell to Myers-Wilkins:

- **More Opportunities**

To expand direct access to the Spanish Immersion Program for diverse students in the Myers-Wilkins attendance area.

- **Ease Overcrowding**

To reduce student numbers at Lowell Elementary by moving some Spanish Immersion classes to Myers-Wilkins.

- **Strengthen School Integration**

To help Myers-Wilkins Elementary, identified as a Racially Identifiable School, become a more integrated school community.



Increased Access

More Myers-Wilkins students are now attending the NV program in their neighborhood school.

- This year, 44% of Spanish Immersion kinders are from MW community.
- Last year, 28.2% of in-district transfer students were from the MW community.

Relieved Overcrowding

Lowell Elementary enrollment decreased by *149 students (June '25 = 634 ; Oct '25 = 485)

- Myers-Wilkins gained *149 students (June '25 = 313 ; Oct '25 = 462)
- According to the staff, Lowell is a much less crowded and chaotic.

Improved Integration

Changes have resulted in significant progress toward integration goals.

- Percentage of free/reduced meal status students decreased from 86.5% to *56.9%.
- Percentage of non-white students decreased from 65.8% to *43.4%.

*Data pulled from Educlimber October 2, 2025





Building a More Integrated School

Student Group	2024-2025	2025-2026
Free/Reduced Meal Status	86.5%	56.9%
Special Education	41.8%	29.4%
American Indian	28.1%	20.6%
Black	23.0%	15.1%
Two or More Races	11.8%	9.2%
Hispanic	1.9%	5.5%
White	34.2%	49.2%



Addressing Overcrowding

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As part of the planning process, an analysis of Spanish immersion enrollment was conducted, which led to 2025-2026 projections for Lowell and Myers-Wilkins Nueva Visión Programs.

The below data shows both the planned projected enrollment with the corresponding actual enrollment as of September 2025.



	MW NV Enrollment	
	Projected 1/2025	Actual 9/2025
K	25	25
1	21	26
2	22	23
3	25	28
4	25	28
5	22	17
Total	140	147



	Lowell NV Enrollment	
	Projected 1/2025	Actual 9/2025
K	33	35
1	40	39
2	27	26
3	34	29
4	36	26
5	28	28
Total	198	183



Space Usage & Capacity

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All six MW Spanish Immersion classes located in existing fully functional classrooms.

Considerations for class locations:

- Attempted to locate SI grade levels near English grade level peers
- Placed classrooms in appropriate sized classrooms

Adding these classes resulted in some building adjustments:

- Music room turned into SI kindergarten room (added bathroom)
- Two intervention rooms moved for SI 1st and 2nd grades
- Divided large classroom space into two classrooms for interventions
- Added two smaller spaces in library: one for Community Schools; one an office
- Divided large room on 3rd floor: one classroom; one small group space

Looking forward to 2026-2027:

- Plans underway to evaluate placement of classrooms
 - Specifically SI 3rd grade moving to 3rd floor nearer English programming peers



Family Engagement

- Myers-Wilkins is unique as the only elementary partnered with Duluth Community School Collaborative (DCSC).
 - One of the strategies under DCSC is Student and Family Engagement.
 - The MW DCSC holds monthly Site Leadership meetings, open to all family, school, and community members.
 - Purpose of this meeting: foster collaborative leadership and improve the school through the Community School model.
- Myers-Wilkins PTO is in the works.
 - MW did not have a PTO so this is a very exciting opportunity for the school community.



Collaboration

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- Joint meetings between Lowell and Myers-Wilkins Spanish Immersion teachers have been scheduled throughout the school year.
 - Myers-Wilkins Spanish Immersion teachers will have scheduled PLCs both with their MW English grade level colleagues as well PLCs with grade level Lowell Spanish Immersion partners.
- Teacher professional development days will provide time and space for Myers-Wilkins and Lowell Spanish Immersion grade level teachers to partner in multiple ways.
- Grade level Spanish Immersion teachers will be working together to create curricular documents over the course of the school year.



Connection

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Adding to the daily experience at MW is the full integration of all students in each grade two times per day.

- **Specialist (music, art, PE, media):**
 - All 4 sections of each grade level combine to create 4 different classes for specialist time.
 - Instead of going with their class, English and Spanish classes fully mix up into the red, blue, green, and yellow groups and then go to specialists.
- **Lunch/Recess:**
 - Each grade level goes to lunch and recess together.
 - Example, all 4th grade students in both English and Spanish Immersion classes go together for both lunch and recess.

COW Agenda Cover Sheet

Meeting Date: October 7, 2025

Topic: SRO Program Update

Presenter(s): Jen Larva

Attachment (yes or no): Yes

Brief Summary of Presentation or Topic (no more than a few sentences):

A review of the School Resource Officer (SRO) program and completed program assessment from the 2024-25 school year.

SRO Program Update

October 7, 2025

How to find information about our SRO program

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Go to isd709.org

On the “About Us” drop down, click on “School Resource Officers”

To meet our SRO officers click on each name:

- Officer Dardis - East HS
- Officer Hanna - Ordean East MS
- Officer Chaney - Lincoln Park MS
- Officer Simons - Denfeld HS



SRO Advisory Committee

24-25 Agenda Review

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Met in February and May

- Established a program assessment checklist
- Discussed survey administration and results
- Reviewed citation and restorative actions data
- Reviewed program assessment data

SRO Program Assessment

Focus Area:

Building Relationships



01 All site SROs successfully built student relationships

03 SROs met with 91 of 92 student groups¹⁷

02 Student visibility surveys were 83.8% positive

04 SROs attended 165 after-school activities



**School Resource Officer
Year by Year
Activity Comparison**



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	<u>2022-2023</u>	<u>2023-2024</u>	<u>2024-2025</u>
Positive Student Interactions	30,320	41,035	115,476
Positive Teacher Interactions	9,715	17,410	23,953
Student Group Visit Requests		28	98
Student Group Visits		21	97
Elementary School Visits	101	62	68
Counseling/Mentoring Sessions	862	1,106	1,410
After School Activities Attended	113	133	174
De-escalation Opportunities	250	227	261
Restorative Action		194	254

SRO Program Assessment Findings

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- Family and student survey data remained consistent
- Significant decrease in survey sample sizes
- Principals to provide input for SRO evaluations
- Recommendation to evaluate officers in April

Professional Development Highlights

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- All SROs received professional development training
- Cultural responsive and implicit bias training accomplished
- SROs will attend a MN Juvenile Officers conference
- SROs are not attending district professional development days



Communication & Transparency

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- 01 — [Citation](#) and complaint data updated monthly on website

Resources

- + Citation Data
- + Student and Family Survey Data
- + School Resource Officer Activity Data

- 02 — SRO website updated with new officers



Contacts



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COW Agenda Cover Sheet

Meeting Date: October 7, 2025

Topic: Strategic Roadmap Update - Vision Card Development

Presenter(s): John Magas, Superintendent

Attachment: [COW Vision Card Presentation](#)

Brief Summary of Presentation or Topic (no more than a few sentences):

The intent of this presentation is to inform the board regarding the development of our district Vision Card, as well as to explain where this work fits within the overall strategic planning efforts of the district. The Vision Card will consist of both inward and outward facing measures and will serve as the Key Performance Indicators (KPI) for our efforts as a district to meet the desired daily experiences of our students, staff and families as we focus on Supporting Every Student, Advancing Equity, and Improving Systems.

This Requires School Board Approval : Not at this time



Strategic Road Map Update - Vision Card Development

October 7, 2025



OUR MISSION

Every student, every day will be empowered with learning opportunities for growth, creativity and curiosity, in preparation for their future in a global community.

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OUR VISION

Duluth Public Schools provides an academically engaging, safe and inclusive environment with high expectations and responsible use of resources.

OUR CORE VALUES

Learning



Developing a love of learning through life-long inquiry.

Excellence



Having high standards for all through accountability, integrity and authenticity.

Equity



Creating conditions of justice, fairness and inclusion so all students have access to the opportunities to learn and develop to their fullest potential.

Collaboration



Working in partnership with staff, families, students and community.

Belonging



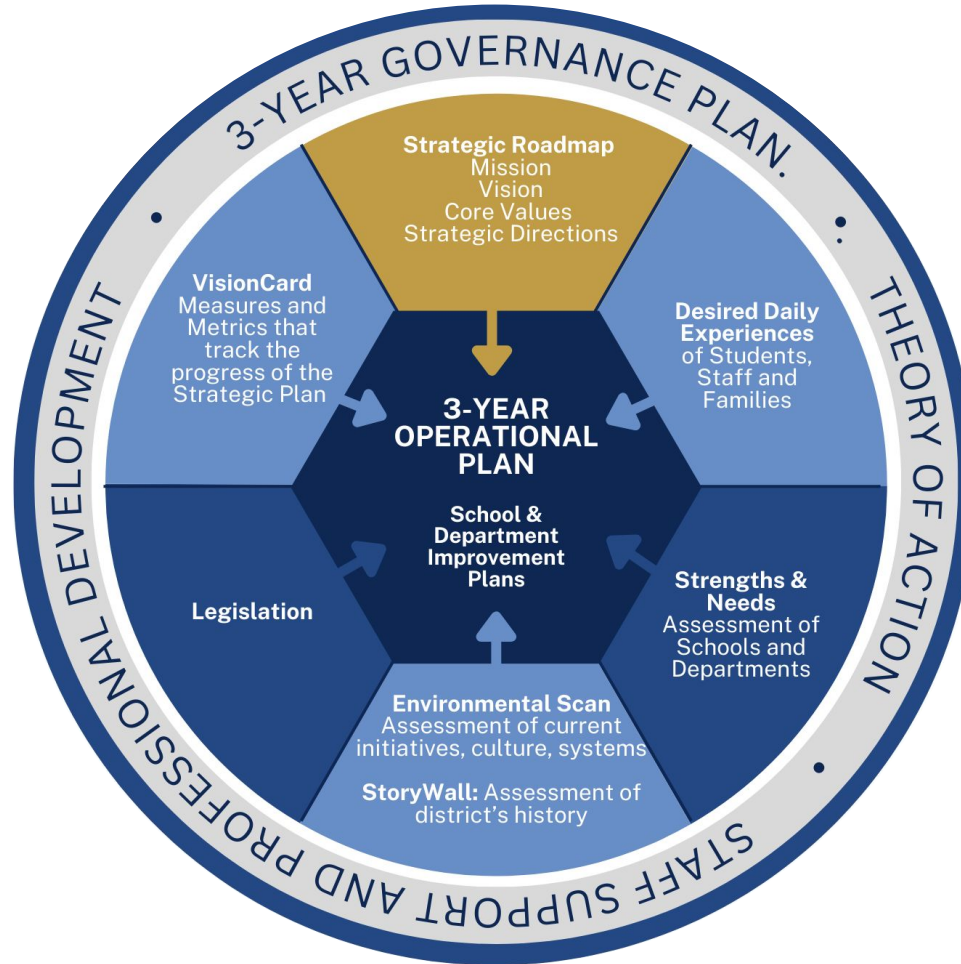
Providing a welcoming and accessible environment where everyone feels safe, seen and heard.

Strategic Roadmap

Improving on our ability to provide desired daily experiences to students, families, and staff through:

- Supporting Every Student
- Advancing Equity
- Improving Systems





Strategic Roadmap

We lay out the “big rocks” of our work through our annual district **Action Cards**.

- Action Cards provide a high level overview of the key District efforts as we work towards our three focus areas.
- Action Cards do not represent ALL the work being done, but rather highlight our front burner efforts and assist us in prioritizing resources.

<https://youtu.be/W3hhiShzKTE>



2025-28 Operational Plan

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- [Duluth Public Schools 3-Year Operational Plan](#)

Questions