



School Board News
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School Board News

January 4, 2024

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Recognitions

Hennepin Theatre Trust Spotlight Awards for Minnetonka Theatre Production of Cabaret; Bowling State Qualifiers; 2022-23 AP Scholars.

[Watch Recognitions](#)

Swearing In of Newly-Elected and Re-Elected School Board Members

Three newly-elected School Board members (Sally Browne, Kemerie Foss and Dan Olson) and one re-elected School Board member (Dr. Mike Remucal) were sworn in.

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Election of School Board Officers for 2024

For the 2024 calendar year, Meghan Selinger was named School Board Chair, Patrick Lee O'Halloran was named Vice Chair, Dan Olson was named Treasurer and Chris Vitale was named Clerk.

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School Report: MME

Minnetonka Middle School East Principal Pete Dymit and Language Arts Teacher Patty McConeghey, who runs the Lighthouse program at MME, presented. The Lighthouse program is a short to medium-term educational option for students who are coming back from a long absence, have had ongoing attendance difficulty or are experiencing school-related anxiety. School Board Director Dr. Mike Remucal thanked Ms. McConeghey for her work. School Board Vice Chair Patrick Lee O'Halloran said it's good to see this program. He asked whether this program is well-accepted by students and teachers. Ms. McConeghey said students have grown to understand what the program is and what it's for and that teachers have been tremendously supportive. School Board Director Kemerie Foss said this is a wonderful program and wondered how many students were currently in Lighthouse. Ms. McConeghey said 14. School Board Chair Meghan Selinger thanked Ms. McConeghey for her work.

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Community Comments

There was one community comment.

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Organization of the School Board

The School Board held its organizational meeting for the year ahead. The Board set the following: Fixing the Day, Time and Place of Regular Board Meetings; Fixing the Time, Day and Place of Board Study Sessions; Setting of Salaries for the Board Chair, Vice Chair, Treasurer, Clerk and Board Directors; Resolution Designating Depositories; Designation of Official Newspaper; Designation of Official Radio Station for Emergency Announcements; Appointment of Auditor; Setting of Superintendent's Evaluation Dates; Setting of Mileage Allowance for Business Purposes; Approval of Board Member to Intermediate District 287 Board; Determination of Board Committee Assignments. The Board approved the elements unanimously.

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Review of Long-Term Financial Stability/Possible Enrollment Increase

Executive Director of Finance and Operations Paul Bourgeois provided background on the District's financial picture, showing how the District has worked hard to build strong programs, support its teachers and staff and provide outstanding opportunities for students. The District has not had cuts in the past 17 years, which is unprecedented in our state. Mr. Bourgeois presented options for the School Board to consider that would help the District to remain financially strong and stable, going forward. The report was presented to the Board for information only at this time. The Board will study this information and will consider options as early as the February meeting. Vice Chair Patrick Lee O'Halloran asked how District would manage additional enrollment, if the Board decides to lift the enrollment cap. Superintendent Law said we would prioritize spots across District where there are lower than average class sizes and that we would work to maintain target class sizes. School Board Treasurer Dan Olson said that Mr. Bourgeois' current projections assume a 4% increase in salaries and wages, but deficits could be better or worse, depending on how negotiations end up with the teachers' union. Chair Seligner thanked Mr. Bourgeois for his presentation.

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Review of 2024-25 School Board Goals

The School Board met in November to review its current goals and to discuss changes and additions to consider for the 2024-25 school year goals. Parents and teachers were surveyed this fall on the current goals, for their input and suggestions. The survey summary was presented to the Board at its November planning meeting.

At the January 2024 School Board meeting, Executive Director of Communications Dr. JacQui Getty presented the 2024-25 School Board Goals to the Board and the public as currently drafted. Treasurer Lee O'Halloran asked whether the District will be soliciting information from the public regarding the drafted goals. Superintendent Law and Dr. Getty shared that the goals are in draft and have been shared publicly (at the meeting, in School Board News email, and on the District website as a component of the meeting agenda) and that the Board will have the opportunity to consider any community input it receives regarding the draft goals. The Board will have a meeting later this spring to finalize the goals for 2024-25. Chair Seligner said the Board took the survey results into consideration when drafting the goals and really tried to make the goals more readable and useful to people, as that was something that came up in the survey results.

Watch Presentation

Approval of Consent Agenda

(Minutes of December 7 Regular Meeting and Closed Session; Study Session Summary of December 14, 2023; Payment of Bills; Recommended Personnel Items; Gifts and Donations; Electronic Fund Transfers)

Board Reports

Treasurer Lee O'Halloran commented on the CASE legislative advocacy committee. He said the committee is reinvigorated and more people are getting involved. Another meeting is coming up on January 16 where the District has invited a delegation of legislative leaders. He suggested if you are interested in getting involved and helping District parents to advocate for more school funding support from the state, you can reach out to him directly or to Carrie Voeltz, the executive assistant to the Superintendent.

Chair Selinger shared that on January 27th the Minnetonka Community Education Center is hosting a preschool and ECFE open house from 9:30-11:30. Registration for those programs opens Feb 1.

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Superintendent's Report

The Minnetonka Schools Foundation Dream Maker Gala is on February 3rd with the theme of - Dream On Rock On! It will be a fun night of dinner, games, dancing and a live auction. For tickets, visit: <https://link.edgepilot.com/s/c4fee838/HhCioUHEzkiQnwDZh4G1PQ?u=https://www.minnetonkaschools.org/district/partners/minnetonka-foundation/dream-makers> (And, there are some special extras for those who purchase tickets in the next few days).

Watch Presentation

Announcements

No announcements.

Upcoming Meetings

- January 18, 2024 School Board Study Session, 6PM at District Service Center
- February 1, 2024 School Board Meeting, 7PM at District Service Center

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