

**INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT 272 ~ EDEN PRAIRIE SCHOOLS
UNOFFICIAL MINUTES OF THE JANUARY 26, 2026
SCHOOL BOARD MEETING**

A Regular Meeting of the Independent School District 272, Eden Prairie Schools, was held on January 26, 2026 in the Eden Prairie District Administrative Offices, 8100 School Road, Eden Prairie, MN 55344.

1. CONVENE: 6:00 PM - Call to Order - School Board

Present: Steve Bartz, Ann Bradsher, Aaron Casper, Debjyoti "DD" Dwivedy, Abby Libsack, Kim Ross, Jody Ward-Rannow

Present: Superintendent Josh Swanson

2. Pledge of Allegiance

3. Agenda Review and Approval – Motion by S. Bartz, **Seconded** by K. Ross to approve the agenda for the Monday, January 26, 2026, meeting of the School Board of Independent School District 272, Eden Prairie Schools – Passed Unanimously

4. Approval of Previous Minutes - Motion by A. Casper, **Seconded** by D. Dwivedy to approve the UNOFFICIAL Minutes of the School Board Annual Organizational Meeting, the School Board Workshop on January 5, 2026 and the December 8, 2025 Regular Business Meeting as presented – Passed Unanimously

- A. January 5, 2026 Annual Organizational Meeting
- B. January 5, 2026 Board Workshop Notes
- C. December 8, 2025 Regular Business Meeting

5. Spotlight on Success

- A. Central Middle School (CMS) - Looping for Success
- B. Liz Lindner - FTC Robotics
- C. Pastor Kyle Robinson - BrighterFutures

6. Public Comment – 2025-26 Calendar (1) Spring Break 2026

7. Announcements

- Kicking off the evening with some great news: The Emerging Technologies Lab is now open at Eden Prairie High School! At my State of the City presentation last week, some of the Board members heard me speak about this amazing new innovative space, filled with cutting-edge technology curated to support learning and creation in a different interest-area Pathway each semester. More than a year ago, when the Foundation for Eden Prairie Schools was deciding how to award a \$100,000 grant in honor of the district's 100th year, the oversight committee looked for a project that would impact a large number of students across the district and contribute to Eden Prairie Schools' legacy of excellence. Last month, this became a reality with the opening of the Emerging Technologies Lab. We can't wait to see what Eagles do with this incredible new resource — thank you, FEPS!
- Another fantastic update from the high school (which I was also excited to share during State of the City): EPHS math teacher Alyce Price is a 2025 finalist for the prestigious Presidential Awards for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching! This honor, administered by the National Science Foundation on behalf of the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy, recognizes the highest achievements of K-12 STEM teachers across the United States. Alyce was honored at the Minnesota Council of Teachers of Mathematics conference in April as well as at the Minnesota State Fair in August. **Congratulations** to Alyce on this well-deserved honor, and thank you for your many years of dedication to our students and families!
- This month, we wrapped up our first year of the Career Immersion Partnership, a mentorship program designed for students participating in the Senior Intern Program. More than 40 12th graders participated in this authentic, real-world learning experience that placed them with businesses in healthcare, nutrition, technology and more. A number of students even gained workforce experience at the district offices! Opportunities like these support students' professional growth and career readiness within one of the Eden Prairie Schools interest-area Pathways, blending job shadowing with hands-on project work. Great job getting a head start on your professional careers, Eagles!

- I'm excited to announce that Eden Prairie Schools is now part of the Minnesota GreenStep Schools program! This statewide program offers a framework for best practices and recognizes public and private K-12 schools and districts. As part of the program, we will continue our work to reduce our environmental impact and costs, improve the health and wellbeing of students and staff, and provide effective environmental and sustainability education. Because of our U.S. Department of Education Green Ribbon Schools recognition in 2024, the district has a head start in the GreenStep program — we're looking forward to joining a community of schools working together to protect our environment and community health!
- Inspired learning happens in each and every classroom in Eden Prairie Schools, but there's something especially uplifting (and, frankly, adorable!) about older Eagles inspiring Little Eagles. Just before Winter Break, CMS eighth graders in Erin Webster's Advanced English class stopped by the Community Education building to read to preschoolers! And not just any books — they read books they'd written and illustrated themselves. From hand-drawn stories about Rosa Parks and Hedy Lamarr to digitally designed tales about tech leaders, the books were a hit. I love seeing our CMS students showing up as amazing role models to our youngest learners — and having some fun with it!
- This month, several students in the aeronautics program became the first in EPHS history to earn their Part 107 certification, which allows them to fly drones under 55 pounds for non-recreational purposes. To prepare for the exam, students have been working in teams to deliver drone footage to real clients, an opportunity not only to apply their knowledge, but also to practice communication, collaboration and professionalism. 12th grader Brynja Potter, who has committed to attend Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University next year, is one of seven who have already passed the exam or are planning to take it. We can't wait to see where the certifications take these students!
- **Congratulations** to EPHS basketball player Hamze Yusuf, who reached 1,000 career points over Winter Break! What an incredible accomplishment for the 12th grader, who has helped the Eagles to a winning start this season. Keep it up, Hamze!
- Kudos to both the girls and boys EPHS nordic ski teams on their first-place wins this month at the Metro-West and Lake Conference combo meet!
- I'm excited to shout out 12th graders Aaron Claver and Kotonno Kazama, two exceptional Eagles who were recently named Eden Prairie High School's 2025-26 Triple 'A' Award winners! This recognition (officially known as the Academics, Arts, and Athletics Award) honors high school seniors across Minnesota who participate in Minnesota State High School League-sponsored sports and fine arts, all while maintaining a GPA of at least 3.0. Aaron and Kotonno are now in the running to be named the Region 6AA finalists. In March, four of the 32 regional finalists will be selected as statewide 2026 Triple 'A' Award winners and receive a four-year \$1,000 scholarship. Join me in wishing them both good luck!
- Today we're celebrating the start of Paraprofessional Recognition Week! We are lucky to have an excellent paraprofessional team in EP. They are at the foundation of student success, providing essential support in classrooms, playgrounds, lunchrooms and beyond. Their efforts help shape a nurturing and inclusive space where every student has the opportunity to excel. Thank you, paraprofessionals, for all you do to inspire each!

8. Board Work

A. Decision Preparation

- 1) FY 2026-27 Budget Timelines - *First Reading*
- 2) FY 2026-27 Budget Assumptions - *First Reading*
- 3) FY 2026-27 Final School Calendar (*Draft*)
 - a. 2026-27 Holidays & Observances
- 4) FY 2027-28 Preliminary School Calendar (*Draft*)

Motion by A. Casper, **Seconded** by S. Bartz to **Recess** at 8:30 PM – Passed Unanimously

B. Required Board Action

- 1) FY 2025-26 Mid-Year Budget Approval – **Motion** by A. Casper, **Seconded** by A. Libsack to accept the Fiscal Year 2025-26 Mid-Year Budget as presented – Passed Unanimously
 - a. Executive Summary
 - b. Mid-Year Budget Update Presentation

- c. Mid-Year Fund Balance
 - 2) Student Expulsion – **Motion** by S. Bartz, **Seconded** by A. Libsack to approve and adopt the resolution relating to the proposed student expulsion as presented in 8B2 – Passed Unanimously
 - 3) Superintendent Contract – **Motion** by A. Casper, **Seconded** by D. Dwivedy to accept the Superintendent’s Contract as presented – Passed Unanimously
- C. Record of Board Self-Evaluation
 - 1) 2024-25 Record of Board Policy Monitoring - Board-Management Delegation (BMD's) *(No Updates)*
 - 2) 2024-25 Record of Board Policy Monitoring - Governance Policies (GP's) *(No Updates)*
 - 3) 2024-25 Record of Board Policy Monitoring - Executive Limitations (EL's) **Motion** by A. Casper, **Seconded** by A. Libsack to accept the evaluation as presented – Passed Unanimously
 - 4) 2025-26 Record of Board Policy Monitoring - Ends *(No Updates)*
- 9. **Superintendent Consent Agenda – Motion** by A. Casper, **Seconded** by K. Ross to accept the Superintendent Consent Agenda as presented – Passed Unanimously
 - A. Monthly Reports
 - 1) Resolution of Acceptance of Donations
 - 2) Human Resources Report
 - 3) Business Services Reports
 - a. Board Business
 - b. Financial Report - Monthly Revenues/Expenditure Report
 - B. Memo to the Board — Summary of Updated District Policies (See Appendix "A")
 - 1) District Policy 306 - Administrator Code of Ethics
 - 2) District Policy 416 - DOT Drug and Alcohol Testing for Bus Drivers
 - 3) District Policy 417 - Chemical Use - Abuse
 - 4) District Policy 601 - School District Curriculum and Instruction Goals
 - 5) District Policy 612.1 - Development of Parental Involvement Policies for Title I Programs
 - 6) District Policy 616 - School District System Accountability
 - 7) District Policy 621 - Literacy and the Read Act
 - 8) District Policy 709 - Student Transportation Safety Policy
 - 9) District Policy 712 - Video Recording Other Than on Buses
 - 10) District Policy 722 - Public Data and Data Subject Requests
 - C. Seek Bids
 - 1) Seek Bids - Oak Point and Eagle Heights Spanish Immersion Playground
 - 2) Seek Bids - Transportation Building Underground Storage Tanks
 - 3) Seek Bids - Eden Prairie High School Roof Replacement
 - 4) Seek Bids - Summer Construction
- 10. **Board Education & Required Reporting**
 - A. Budget: 5-Year Financial Forecast
 - B. Bonds & Operating Levy Schedule
- 11. **Superintendent's Incidental Information Report**
 - A. Message to the Community
- 12. **Board Action on Committee Reports & Minutes**
 - A. 2026 School Board Committee & Outside Organization Assignments
 - B. Board Development Committee
 - C. Community Linkage Committee
 - 1) Approval for Spring 2026 Inspiring News
 - Motion** by K. Ross, **Seconded** by J. Ward-Rannow to approve the Spring 2026 Inspiring News article and the CLC Committee minutes for January 19 as presented – Passed Unanimously
 - 2) CLC Committee Minutes for 1/19/2026 Meeting
 - D. Negotiations Committee
 - Motion** by A. Casper, **Seconded** A. Libsack to accept the Negotiation Committee meeting minutes for those three dates as presented – Passed Unanimously
 - 1) Negotiations Committee Minutes for 10/9/2025 Meeting
 - 2) Negotiations Committee Minutes for 12/17/2025 Meeting

3) Negotiations Committee Minutes for 12/19/2025 Meeting

E. Policy Committee

Motion by K. Ross, **Seconded** by S. Bartz that the Board approve the Policy Committee meeting minutes for January 12, 2026 – Passed Unanimously

- 1) Policy Committee Minutes for 1/12/2026 Meeting
- 2) Policy Update Guiding Principles
- 3) Policy Committee Ends Prioritization Survey

13. **Other Board Updates (AMSD, ECSU, ISD 287 & MSHSL)**

- A. BRIGHTWORKS - *Ann Bradsher*
- B. MSHSL (Minnesota State High School League) - *Ann Bradsher*
- C. ISD 287 (Intermediate School District 287) - *Kim Ross*
- D. AMSD (Association of Metropolitan Schools) - *Abby Libsack*

14. **Board Work Plan**

A. Work Plan "Changes" Document

Motion by A. Casper, **Seconded** by A. Bradsher to accept the changes to the placeholder, removal of the Board Development Team Building – Strength Finder and the addition of the Negotiations Committee process for superintendent contract – Passed Unanimously

Eden Prairie School Board 2025-26 Work Plan (Proposed) Changes

Date of Meeting/Workshop	Changes Requested
Monday, February 9, 2026 – Workshop	
Monday, February 23, 2026	- Moved to January 26, 2026: Approval for Spring 2026 Inspiring News
Monday, March 9, 2026 – Workshop	
Monday, March 23, 2026	
Monday, April 13, 2026 – Workshop	
Monday, April 27, 2026	
Monday, May 11, 2026 – Workshop	
Tuesday, May 26, 2026	
Monday, June 8, 2026 – Workshop	
Monday, June 22, 2026	
Placeholder – General Board Work	
- Board Development Team Building – Strength Finder	
Placeholder – Policy Review	

B. 2025-26 Annual Board Work Plan

15. **Adjournment – Motion** by A. Casper, **Seconded** by J. Ward-Rannow to adjourn the meeting at 9:59 PM – Passed Unanimously

16. Appendix "A" — District Policies (Item 9B)

- A. District Policy 306
- B. District Policy 416
- C. District Policy 417
- D. District Policy 601
- E. District Policy 612.1
- F. District Policy 616
- G. District Policy 621
- H. District Policy 709
- I. District Policy 712
- J. District Policy 722

Steve Bartz – Board Clerk

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