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Duluth

Public Schools

Every Student. Every Day.

Superintendent's Report

July 21, 2026



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.

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.

Topics

- 2026 Student Representative Reports
 - Osiris Garcia Henderson- ALC
 - Tamia Bowles - Denfeld
 - Kalina Mattila - East
- Balanced Use of Technology
- Potential Referendum
- First Street Building Naming
- Summer Planning
- Other

Student Representative Reports

Balanced Use of Technology

Balanced Use of Technology

- Technology and curriculum leadership are collaborating to develop an intentional tech use philosophy for the district
- The group has met multiple times and will meet again before end of summer
- A draft will be presented to Committee of the Whole in August for feedback

What Will Balanced Use of Technology Look Like in Duluth Public Schools?

- Focus tech use on active learning including research, collaboration & demonstration
- Use technology selectively to provide personalized learning opportunities
- Leverage accessible digital content to provide access for all students
- Prepare students for rigorous career paths, including those that use technology

Potential Referendum

Potential Referendum

We are exploring the potential of a November 2026 operational levy to maintain staffing and student supports. To gain input from our community, families, staff and students, we conducted an adaptive survey, which concluded on Friday.

- **Operational Levy Support:** Evaluating community sentiment on increasing levies to maintain staffing and student programming
- **Student Supports & Outcomes:** Identifying perceived value of funding for direct student services
- **Financial Tolerance:** Determining tax impact thresholds for the community

Nearly 2400 individuals participated, including 1038 community members, 1025 parent/guardians, 304 staff members, and 22 students.

Potential Referendum

65% of respondents support the idea of an operational levy and 35% do not.

Based on the value of a \$300,000 average home in Duluth, 30% of respondents would support a \$0 per month increase in property taxes, 7% would support a \$5 per month increase, 15% would support a \$10 per month increase and 48% would support a \$15 per month increase.

When looking at respondents who identify as community members, however, support for a potential operational levy is about 50/50.

We will continue to examine this feedback as we consider the possibility and amount of a potential operational levy.

Cabinet Work Session Update

Cabinet Work Session Update

1. Welcome and Opening Activity (*15 minutes*) 8:30
2. Reflection and Celebration (*25 minutes*) 8:45
3. 2025-26 Operational Plan Close Out (*45 minutes*) 9:15
4. Break (*10 minutes*) 10:15
5. 2026-27 Operational Plan Reset (*45 minutes*) 10:30
6. Lunch (*30 minutes*) 11:30
7. Action Card Development (*75 minutes*) 12:00
8. Cabinet Team Development (*90 minutes*) 1:30
9. Wrap-Up and Closing Activity (*15 minutes*) 3:00

First Street Building Naming Update

First Street Building Naming Update

The committee started with 36 community suggestions and narrowing them down to a final recommendation. Key steps in the process included:

- **Initial Screening:** Proposals were evaluated for educational relevance, reducing from 36 to 16.
- **Rubric Evaluation:** Candidates were scored against District Policy 810 criteria, which assessed mission alignment, community/historical context, and naming rights pathways.
- **Due Diligence:** The committee performed research and external consultations, including engaging with tribal leadership and alumni associations to refine the top choices.
- **Policy Checklist:** All recommendations were required to pass a mandatory checklist regarding governance, signage compliance, and authority.

First Street Building Naming Update

The committee and administration recommend naming the facility "**Duluth Central Education Services**" and dedicating an internal space as the "**Ethel Ray Nance Welcome Center**" to honor her achievements as highly distinguished alumna.

Summer Planning

Summer Planning

We have been collaborating with our leadership teams as we close the 2025-26 school year and prepare for the 2026-27 school year. Here are some of the meeting key dates:

- Extended Cabinet - July 13th
- Cabinet Work Session - July 29th
- Minnesota Department of Education Welcome Back - August 4th
- Duluth Leadership Team - August 19th
- Extended Cabinet and Unity in Our Community - August 24th
- All Staff Professional Learning and Welcome - September 1st

Questions