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Eden Prairie, MN 55344
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EDEN PRAIRIE SCHOOLS



EDEN PRAIRIE SCHOOLS
Inspiring each student every day

INSPIRING NEWS

JANUARY 2019 / VOL. 1 • ISSUE 1



DESIGNING PATHWAYS

School Board approves ballot question for building and safety upgrades

"I BELIEVE THIS IS IN THE LONG TERM BEST INTEREST OF STUDENTS, THE DISTRICT, AND THE COMMUNITY." – Superintendent Dr. Josh Swanson

At their Dec. 10 meeting, the school board approved placing a question on the ballot to cover improvements from the Designing Pathways process. After three years of planning, public input and research, the improvements include updates to learning environments and security, including:

- 1. Transition 4-year-old preschool to the elementary schools** to ensure more children are prepared for kindergarten. This would enable the district to serve more preschoolers as well as strengthen the link between preschool and kindergarten.
- 2. Transition 6th graders from the elementary schools** to a more age-appropriate environment at the middle school tailored to their academic needs. Making Central Middle School a grade 6-8 building would offer a more cohesive three-year program and align Eden Prairie with the middle school model used in most of the metro area.
- 3. Improve safety and security across all eight schools** by adding protective glass, lock down equipment, internal communication systems and exterior entry security. While all schools currently have secure entrances, these improvements would add

additional security layers to each building for student and staff safety.

- 4. Redesign classrooms across the district** to support a more flexible and personalized learning environment to develop skills employers and colleges demand; collaboration, creativity, communication and critical thinking. By providing spaces for students to learn in one-on-one, small group and large group settings, programs could be better tailored to meet individual learning needs.

The improvements would require a community vote to approve a \$39.9 million bond to fund the construction and materials needed. If approved by voters, the cost of the proposal would be \$6.50 a month on a \$350,000 home.

"I believe this is in the long term best interest of students, the district, and the community," said Superintendent Dr. Josh Swanson. "We would also maintain our commitment to financial responsibility by keeping our taxes among the lowest in this area."

The board is expected to vote to officially approve bringing the ballot to voters at a spring 2019 special election at an upcoming board meeting.



A MESSAGE FROM THE SCHOOL BOARD

Learning to Read, Reading to Learn

What does the Eden Prairie School Board do? As elected officials, we fulfill the tasks delegated to us by the State of Minnesota while representing the voice and values of our community. One of those tasks is to set outcomes (Ends policies) for the district that reflect community educational values.

Article continued on reverse side

JOIN US JAN. 14

Community & School Board Meet and Greet

Join us for light refreshments and conversation on Monday, Jan. 14 from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. at the Administrative Services Center (8100 School Rd). Get to know us and let us get to know you. Ask questions, offer a comment and get involved in our great school district to inspire each student every day! You're also welcome to attend our Board Meetings to hear your elected directors deliberate important decisions on behalf of our taxpayers and students.

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School Board | Continued from front side

Ends Policy 1.1.1 states the expectation that “each student is reading at grade level by the end of third grade.” Why is this an important outcome for our district? Third grade is viewed as a pivotal year for reading. Up to that point, students are learning to read; following that, they are reading to learn. As a district, we keep class sizes small in K-2 to give each student optimal opportunity to learn important reading skills. Reading by third grade has been correlated with higher student achievement, higher high school graduation rates, and greater career success.

During our recent monitoring of End 1.1.1, our Superintendent asserted: “Over the past three years, we have seen an increase in literacy achievement as measured by a triangulated measurement of three assessment methodologies.

This year we met the 2017-2018 target of 78.2% of students proficient in two of three measures. This is the first group of students to have experienced the reduced class sizes from the referendum and our results have climbed from 71.8% to 78.2% since implementing this measure.”

Our district remains committed to each student reaching their highest potential, and reading is a key that opens up the world of learning.

Resources:

- Fiester, L. (2010). Early Warning! Why Reading by the End of Third Grade Matters. KIDS COUNT Special Report. Annie E. Casey Foundation. <https://files.eric.ed.gov/fulltext/ED509795.pdf>
- Learning to Read, Reading to Learn Why third-grade is a pivotal year for mastering literacy. https://www.nsba.org/sites/default/files/reports/NSBA_CPE_Early_Literacy_Layout_2015.pdf

INSPIRE

Welcome to *Inspiring News*



Thank you for reading the first edition of Eden Prairie Schools' new community newsletter, *Inspiring News*. This newsletter officially replaces the former, *Connecting Points*. This new version focuses on shorter stories and more imagery. Our brains are better wired to process visual information quickly, and we know most of us are on the go with little extra time on our hands. We hope you find this refreshed quarterly newsletter enjoyable and maybe a little inspiring. For more inspiration, check out our *We Inspire* video series on Eden Prairie Schools' YouTube channel at www.edenpr.org/YouTube.

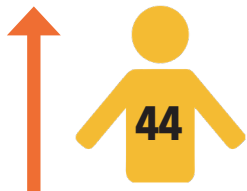


178 MORE STUDENTS THAN PREDICTED
FOR 2018-2019 SCHOOL YEAR

KINDERGARTEN



GRADES 1-6



GRADES 7-12



District unveils a fresh, consistent brand

Earlier this fall, Eden Prairie Schools launched its updated visual brand identity that includes updated district and activity logos that are consistent, cohesive and continue our tradition of excellence.



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Enrollment increase seen for first time in decade

After nearly 10 years of declining enrollment, Eden Prairie Schools has officially increased its student enrollment. The official October 1 enrollment count reported to the Minnesota Department of Education was 8,797 students (178 students higher than predictions indicated and 71 students higher than last year).

"We believe one of the largest reasons for the increase is due to more resident students and families choosing to stay in Eden Prairie," said Superintendent Dr. Josh Swanson. "We have outstanding opportunities in this district with 99 percent approval ratings of our high quality staff, small class sizes in our lowest grades, and the best college enrollment rates in the area."



SHOW YOUR **WINGS**

Name: Quentin Matsui **Grade:** 12 **School:** EPHS

My Wings: "I'm inspired by the passion that people in the school have for what they do. It is much easier to be successful in the classroom and in co-curricular activities when my teachers and coaches genuinely care about me and want me to reach my full potential. This passion and care inspires me to do my best in everything I do."



MARK YOUR CALENDARS

- **December 24 - January 2:** No School (Winter Break)
- **January 14:** District Secondary Choral Festival
- **January 14:** Cedar Ridge Kindergarten Registration Night
- **January 15:** Eden Lake Kindergarten Registration Night
- **January 17:** Eagle Heights Kindergarten Registration Night
- **January 21:** No School (Martin Luther King Jr. Day)
- **January 22:** Forest Hills Kindergarten Registration Night
- **January 24:** Oak Point Kindergarten Registration Night
- **January 24:** End of 2nd Quarter/End of 1st Semester
- **January 24-25:** EPHS One Act Play Performances
- **January 25:** No School
- **January 28:** District Orchestra Festival
- **January 29:** District Jazz Festival
- **January 29:** Prairie View Kindergarten Registration Night

01 Crandall Elected

Eden Prairie School Board Incumbent Lauren Crandall was elected to a one-year term on the Eden Prairie School Board. Her new term begins January 2019.



Kindergarten Registration 02



Kindergarten registration is open for the 2019-20 school year. Learn more and register today at www.edenpr.org/kindergarten.

03 District Selects New Finance Director

Matthew Hippen joined Eden Prairie Schools as the new director of finance on Oct. 29. Hippen replaces Ron Meyer, who resigned from the district in September.

