

# CONTRIBUTE TO OUR NEW STRATEGIC PLAN!

Our current Strategic Plan was built in partnership with the community in 2018 and will continue through the end of this school year. Now it's time to look ahead to the next five years – and we need YOUR contributions for our 2023-28 Strategic Plan.

**Our Strategic Planning process is made up of three major parts:**

- 1. Scientific survey about our strengths and opportunities, plus a ThoughtExchange to gather community input**
- 2. World Café collaborative discussions about important questions that will shape our Strategic Plan**
- 3. Development of the plan by smaller groups of community members, school leaders, students and district leadership**

## Strategic Plan Timeline 2022-23



Just an hour of your day can shape the next five years in our schools! **Mark your calendars for World Café conversations:**

**Monday, February 13, 5 p.m., held virtually via Zoom**

*Get the link at [www.edenpr.org/StrategicPlan](http://www.edenpr.org/StrategicPlan)*

**Thursday, February 23, 5 p.m., Central Middle School Community Room**

*With multilingual support in Spanish and Somali*

*Have a middle schooler? Stop by during Conferences!*



INSPIRED  
**EAGLE**

**Name:** Amina Brown **Grade:** 12  
**School:** Eden Prairie High School

"EPHS has helped me get to my goals. I hope to major in either illustration or comic book art and minor in animation, and while I did take some art classes during my high school career, there's a lot more I want to explore in the art field outside of EPHS. I know there's a lot waiting for me after I graduate high school!"

**Amina has been accepted to her first choice art school, the Minneapolis College of Art and Design, and four other colleges.**



**February 13 & 23 - Strategic Plan World Cafés**

**February 17 & 20 - No school**

**March 17 - No school**

**March 20-24 - Spring Break**

**May 1-19 - Kindergarten Welcome Events at elementary schools**

EXCERPT **Ep** EXPRESS

EDEN PRAIRIE NEWS IN 30 SECONDS



### 01 Niche names EP Minnesota's only Straight-A school district

Once again, we get top marks from Niche: Eden Prairie Schools is the only district in the state to earn A's in every rating category, from teachers and activities to diversity and facilities.



### Support the all-new Eagle Nation Station



The donation-based Eagle Nation Station will increase access to basic necessities within the EPHS community and decrease barriers and financial burdens. Families

without current high school students are invited to volunteer at the store (scan the QR code!), and donations of clothing, food and more can be dropped off at the North Entrance of EPHS. Have questions? Email [Marissa\\_Brandt@edenpr.org](mailto:Marissa_Brandt@edenpr.org).

### 03 We're hiring!

Have some spare time during the day? Many roles in Eden Prairie Schools offer flexible schedules, competitive pay, great benefits and the chance to inspire our students. Call 952-975-2811 to learn more about becoming a bus driver, paraprofessional or nutrition services professional!



We need your help to plan our future! **Open and learn how you can get involved.**



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**INSPIRING NEWS**

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952-975-7150





**Dr. Josh Swanson, Superintendent**



# Varsity athlete siblings find a passion for business at EPHS

Business wasn't top-of-mind as a potential career field when siblings Devin and Vanessa Jordan arrived at EPHS. Now they're both varsity athletes taking career-focused Business Management Pathway courses and operating a cleaning company, CRB Cleaning, LLC., after school.



**Read the full story, featured in  
Eden Prairie Lifestyle Magazine:**



# 2023-28 STRATEGIC PLAN: WHAT WE HAVE LEARNED SO FAR

## Themes from a statistically-valid, random-sample survey of Eden Prairie community members

### What are the district's top strengths?

- high graduation rate
- excellent academic programming
- well-respected teachers and staff
- low class sizes

## What are the district's opportunities?

- growing our support for student mental health
- further lowering class sizes
- attracting and retaining the best staff possible
- deepening connections to the broader Eden Prairie community

## Themes from our ThoughtExchange: What does 'inspire each student' mean to you?

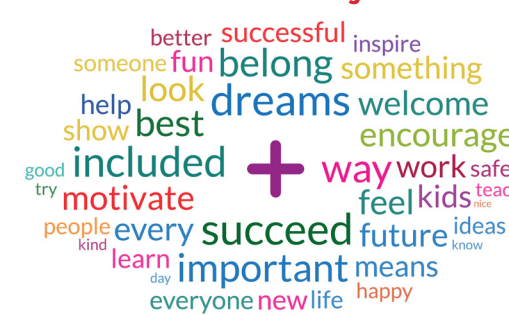
**From staff, caregivers and  
community members:**

- in-action and location-based learning
- opportunities for students with diverse learning needs
- encouraging students to guide their own learning
- building meaningful relationships with each and every student

**Most-mentioned words:**  
**Adult Exchange**



**Most-mentioned words:**  
**Student Exchange**



### From our students:

- safe and welcoming environments
- opportunities to find passions
- feeling inspired by the learning around them
- the chance to learn from other students' perspectives
- feeling ready to do their best

### Did you see some shared themes?

Both adults and students believe students having choice in their own learning, feeling a true sense of belonging at school and experiencing more hands-on learning opportunities are key to achieving our mission!

**Help us turn these ideas into action at a World Café conversation:**

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**The Eden Prairie School Board: (starting left) Dr. Josh Swanson - Superintendent of Eden Prairie Schools, Abby Libsack - clerk, Charles Strehl - treasurer, Aaron Casper - chair, Dennis Stubbs - director, Kim Ross - director, Debjyoti Dwivedy - director, Steve Bartz - vice chair.**

# A MESSAGE

from the Eden Prairie School Board

## Referendum Results: Stability & Excellence - THANK YOU

We want to thank all voters for their input via the referendum process. We are grateful for the continued community support for our schools by approval of both referendums. With this funding, our schools will continue to have the resources to meet the high educational expectations of our community and ensure EACH child excels. The results also provide an important reminder that the board continue to prioritize educational excellence and fiscal responsibility to maintain the trust of all voters in Eden Prairie.

## Governance, Oversight, and Accountability: "What" vs. "How"

The governance model in EP Schools is a little different than many in Minnesota. Our model requires the board focus on “What” should be accomplished in the schools versus “How” it should be accomplished. In Eden Prairie, the “How” is the responsibility of the Superintendent and Administration, whereas the Board provides oversight and accountability to ensure these operational plans achieve the goals/objectives set forth by the School Board. This model keeps the EP Board focused on student achievement for each student and reduces the impact politics and external distractions have on educational objectives.

## **"What" does the School Board do?**

The School Board is responsible for governing the Eden Prairie School district, approving the district's budget, monitoring finances, exercising tax authority, hiring a

superintendent, and establishing a Strategic Vision for the district and our students. Over the last few months, the board has been active in all these areas to sustain stability and excellence in EP Schools. In October we completed the annual performance review of the 2021-2022 school year and in November we extended Superintendent Dr. Swanson for an additional 3-year contract, reflecting his continued excellent leadership of our district. We completed the review of the long-term financial needs of the district and provided the community an opportunity to weigh in via the November referendums. And finally, in our on-going effort to improve transparency, we implemented a new process to share the results of our oversight and monitoring through the publishing of "Measuring What Matters." This series highlights key metrics from the annual performance review, including a summary of the board's perspective on results. Look for future updates via email or link to [edenpr.org/community/school-board/measuringwhat-matters](https://edenpr.org/community/school-board/measuringwhat-matters).

## How to engage with School Board?

Over the last year, the School Board made an investment to increase accessibility and visibility in the community. You may have sent us an email, reviewed the Measuring What Matters summary on the website, or perhaps spoke with us at a High School sporting event, elementary/middle school welcome back event, or participated in a "Listen and Learn" roundtable with board members. We want to emphasize the importance of your perspectives and experiences as we work together to deliver educational excellence. Your feedback helps us ask better questions, identify under-the-radar issues, improve accountability, and ensure academic excellence is delivered and recognized across our district. Please do not hesitate to email, call, or attend a school board meeting or event, as your input is critical to our oversight and monitoring responsibilities.

[edenpr.org/community/school-board](https://edenpr.org/community/school-board).

Learn more about how the School Board measures what matters!

