



BRIDGE TO SUCCESS

Hastings Public Schools

INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT 200
1000 11TH STREET WEST
HASTINGS, MN 55033-2597
Phone (651) 480-7000
Fax (651) 480-7004

Joint Powers Meeting Summary

Date: August 5, 2026

Time: 5:30 - 6:30

Location: Conference Room A, District Office

Attendees

Dr. Wehrkamp Herman; Carrie Tate; Melissa Millner; Jen Seubert; LynDee Humble; Phillip Biermaier; Rod Weber (Douglas Township); Cindy Ladzun (Vermillion Township); Brent Anderson (Ravenna Township); Randy Arneson (Ravenna Township); Mayor Mary Fasbender (City of Hastings).

Purpose of the Meeting

The Joint Powers meeting was held to strengthen communication, collaboration, and partnership between the District and the cities and townships it serves. Representatives shared updates on community development, infrastructure, financial matters, and opportunities to expand partnerships that benefit students and the broader community.

Discussion Summary

1. Introductions

The meeting began with introductions and an opportunity for representatives from the District, cities, and townships to connect and learn more about one another's current priorities and activities.

2. Community and Infrastructure

The District shared that it serves approximately **160 square miles**, making communication and coordination with surrounding communities especially important.

Representatives discussed several current and upcoming transportation and infrastructure projects, including:

- Road construction near **180th and Goodwin**
- **Highway 50** construction in New Trier
- The **Highway 20 re-route**
- **Highway 91** south of Miesville
- The intersection of **250th and Highway 91**
- **Highway 61**, which is expected to involve approximately two years of construction

The group also noted a change in the Hastings bus transportation contact. **Jason** is now the primary contact for the Hastings Bus Company following the retirement of Terry Johnson.

3. Housing and Community Development

Representatives provided updates regarding current and anticipated housing development within their communities.

- **Ravenna and Vermillion Townships** reported that there is currently limited room for additional growth.
- **Douglas Township** reported three new housing permits.

-
- The **City of Hastings** provided several updates on planned residential development:
 - **Vermillion Valley Farms** includes approximately 387 homes, with anticipated prices ranging from \$600,000 to \$800,000. The development is planned near the high school and extends toward the Jefferson area.
 - Approximately 187 additional homes are planned near Highway 316, with anticipated prices ranging from \$400,000 to \$600,000.
 - Townhomes are planned near 15th Street.
 - Senior housing is planned in the area near Dugarel's.

These developments may have implications for future enrollment, transportation, infrastructure, and community planning.

4. Financial and Tax Matters

The group discussed several current financial and tax-related topics.

School District Levy

The District shared that the full School Board has not yet voted on a proposal to revoke all current levies and replace them with a single levy. If pursued, the proposal could potentially appear on the ballot in 2027 or 2028.

City of Hastings Levy

The City of Hastings reported that its levy increase was approximately **7.9% this year** and that the City is anticipating a levy in the range of approximately **7%–8% for 2027**.

Dakota County

Representatives discussed a potential **10%–24% increase** in Dakota County's levy. The group also discussed county staffing reductions, including 57 positions that were frozen the previous year.

Minnesota Permanent School Fund

The meeting included a discussion of Minnesota's Permanent School Fund and a proposed constitutional amendment related to how the fund supports students, schools, and communities.

Participants were encouraged to review the proposal and become informed about the measure prior to voting. The District noted that it intends to provide information to its communities regarding the proposal and its potential significance to schools. Noting that a vote for this constitutional amendment would not raise existing taxes.

5. Community Engagement and Student Opportunities

The District provided an overview of programs and partnerships designed to connect students with local businesses, health care organizations, and the broader community.

Topics included:

- **Pathways programming** helps students explore their interests, build real-world skills, and prepare for life after high school. Each pathway connects coursework, experiences, and career opportunities so students can discover what they love and where they want to go next.
- **Business partnerships** and opportunities for local employers to engage with students
- **Health care partnerships and related certificates** students can earn while in school
- **Culinary programming** and the District's partnership with food service provider **Taher**
- Construction of a **Tri-Shaw shed** in partnership with local businesses
- **District 917 paid internship opportunities**
- **Hydroponic grant opportunities**, allowing students to grow food and incorporate it into culinary classes and Science of Food programming

The District emphasized that it is actively seeking additional local businesses and organizations interested in partnering to expand student learning, career exploration, internships, and hands-on experiences.

Key Takeaways

The meeting provided an opportunity for District, city, and township representatives to share information and identify areas where continued communication and collaboration will be valuable.

Key themes included:

1. **Ongoing communication** regarding infrastructure, transportation, and community development.
2. **Awareness of housing growth and development** and its potential impact on schools and services.
3. **Coordination around financial and tax matters** affecting local communities.
4. **Expanded partnerships** between the District and local businesses, health care organizations, and community partners.
5. **Continued development of student opportunities**, including internships, certifications, career pathways, and hands-on learning experiences.

Next Joint Powers Meeting

All participants expressed interest in continuing to meet on a **quarterly basis**.

The date of the next meeting will be determined after a date poll is distributed to participants.