



### **Early Childhood:**

Registration Update as of February 18th:

We have 68 students enrolled in Early Childhood Classes:

- Little Miners AM: 11
- Little Miners PM: 8
- Little Rangers 3 Day: 25
- Little Rangers 5 Day: 24

Enrollment has remained steady with the start of the 2nd semester. The VPK seats have been awarded and we are currently at 4 families utilizing bussing.

We opened registration for the 2026-27 school year including our Little Rangers, Little Miners, and ECFE classes for next year. We already have 2 families registered and will be pushing out the registration in other ways to get the word out across the district.

Early Childhood and Kindergarten will be hosting a registration night at CRES on Wednesday, April 15th from 5:00-7:00pm.

### **Community Education Updates:**

- Our March Community Movie is a special Saturday matinee featuring is “Spongebob: Search for Squarepants” on Saturday, March 21st at 2:00pm.
- Our February movie night had a record attendance of 86 people!
  - Remaining Community Movie opportunities will be:
    - April 17
    - May 8
- The Spring Catalog has been published and is a “live link” digital catalog that can be edited and updated throughout the spring without changing the access link. It also allows us to track visitors and obtain meta data to show us how it’s performing. Since Friday at 5pm we have had a little over 350 visitors!
  - Information on how to access the new catalog platform will be going out on an Every Door mailing postcard and published in the Courier.
  - The new catalog is also accessible from our website and is being promoted on social media channels.
  - Here is the link for you to check it out: [Spring Catalog](https://www.ci.k12.mn.us/page/community-education-catalog) or go to <https://www.ci.k12.mn.us/page/community-education-catalog>
- Storybook Theatre will be back March 23 - 28th to produce the production “The Little Mermaid”. We are currently at 36 registrations and will be promoting a “last call” for registrations leading up to auditions on Monday.

- The performances will be Friday, March 27th at 7pm and Saturday, March 28th at 2:00pm. Admission is \$5 for adults, \$3 for students, and preschoolers are free. We would love to see you there!
- The Advisory Council met on March 2nd and primarily discussed the options for community ed restructuring. Notes will be shared as soon as our secretary has them completed. Our next meeting will be on May 4th at 4:30pm in the Media Center Flex room.

Respectfully Submitted by: *Abby Geotz*

**Crosby-Ironton School District**  
**Community Education Advisory Council**

**Meeting Minutes Dated:** Monday, January 5, 2026

**Attendees:** Abby Geotz, Kristine Booth, Barb Neprud, Nadine Schiffler-Albrecht, Andrea Gressman, Becky Pakarinen, Nikki Coler, Abby Smith

1. AI Meeting Notes Tool

An AI meeting notes tool was introduced and had been recently shared by Aubrey Koop, council secretary. The tool is intended to enhance documentation and improve the efficiency and accuracy of meeting records. Those notes were used to generate these meeting minutes.

2. Community Education Leadership Transition

Abby Geotz formally announced her intent to resign from her position as Community Education Director, effective on or before June 30, 2026, due to her upcoming relocation to Arizona.

Key points discussed:

- The importance of planning for a smooth transition to ensure continuity of Community Education programming.
- The requirement that the district hire a licensed Community Education Director, or alternatively collaborate with another district.
- Potential interest from Community Education coordinators in areas of the state who may be open to relocation.
- Ms. Geotz reaffirmed her commitment to supporting the transition process during her remaining time with the district.

3. Community Education Catalog & Communication Strategies

- The current approach to Community Education catalogs was reviewed and raised concerns regarding:
  - The high cost of printing and mailing catalogs.
  - Minimal revenue generated relative to expenses.
- Proposed strategies included:
  - Transitioning to digital communication methods.
  - Utilizing postcards via every door mailing with QR codes directing residents to online content.
  - Reallocating some of the publishing funds toward online advertising and more frequent digital updates.
  - Nadine Albrecht shared her experiences with traditional catalogs and expressed support for moving toward more efficient and accessible communication methods.
- Programming & Marketing Approach
  - Discussion focused on improving program delivery and marketing strategies:
  - Shifting to quarterly digital catalog cycles to keep information fresh and timely.
  - Increasing use of email marketing to stay within budget while maintaining community engagement.

4. Online Registration & Payment Systems

- An update was provided on the new online registration and payment system utilizing Square payments and JotForm.

- This new system was launched today with the opening of registrations for the March play. Three registrations have already been received.
- Highlights included:
  - Continued flexibility for families to pay via cash or scholarships.
  - Plans to streamline early childhood registration through the district's transition to Infinite Campus.

## 5. Early Childhood & VPK Updates

- The district secured 23 Voluntary Prekindergarten (VPK) seats through a reallocation process.
- Transportation will be provided for eligible students beginning January 18, with collaboration from the bus company and support from district administration.
- Families responded positively to second-semester tuition cancellation refunds, resulting in \$85,000 in savings for families.
- Future expansion of the program was discussed as a possibility for the following year.

## 6. ECFE Staffing Update

- Ms. Geotz addressed staffing challenges within the Early Childhood Family Education (ECFE) program:
  - The parent educator position has been posted for six weeks with no applicants.
  - A current employee has expressed interest in a restructured part-time position with flexible teaching options.
  - Ms. Geotz and Superintendent Rick are working with guidance from the Minnesota Community Education Association to finalize a compliant job description.

## 7. Early Childhood Registration & Upcoming Events

- Plans and timelines discussed:
  - Targeting February 2026 for opening early childhood registration for the 2026-2027 school year.
  - Potential March registration open house, dependent on Infinite Campus implementation.
    - The goal would be to combine this event with a larger CRES open house offering tours highlighting CRES updates and also a time to identify children needing to register for Kindergarten for fall of 2026.

8. Discussion of adding more spring community events, including a possible community job fair in April and community garage sale in June.

## Action Items

- Abby Geotz will submit her formal resignation to the School Board at the January meeting.
- Ms. Geotz will develop an annual Community Education calendar and present it at the next Advisory Council meeting.
  - Other council members will also bring relative community calendars to add to the CE calendar to identify areas where programming is needed and important dates to avoid overlap in offerings.
- Ms. Geotz will collaborate with Superintendent Rick to finalize and post the revised part-time ECFE position by the end of the week.

- Ms. Geotz will explore planning a community job fair with Aubrey Koop, council member and Chamber Director.
- Ms. Geotz will begin planning a community garage sale for June including logistics, marketing, and volunteers.

The meeting concluded following discussion of upcoming events and initiatives, with continued emphasis on community engagement and program sustainability.

**The next meeting will be held on Monday, March 2nd at 4:30pm.**