

**NORTH BRANCH INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 138**  
**NORTH BRANCH AREA EDUCATION CENTER, BOARDROOM**  
**SCHOOL BOARD WORK SESSION**  
**May 28, 2026**

The School Board of Independent School District 138 met in a Work Session on Thursday, May 28, 2026, at 5:30 p.m. in the Boardroom at North Branch Area Education Center.

Remote Participation Notice: One or more School Board members may participate in this meeting remotely pursuant to Minnesota Statutes § 13D.02 or § 13D.021, using interactive technology. This provision applies to both regular business meetings and work sessions.

Chair MacMillan called the meeting to order.

**Roll Call:** Sarah Grovender, Shelly Johnson, Trystyn Johnson, Jesse LaValla, Tim MacMillan, Heather Naegele, Superintendent Paul and Adam Trampe

**Absent:** None

**Others in Attendance:** Lucy Jacobson, Dana Johnson, Pakou Lee, Danica Porter, Kyra Shepard, Tamara Shepard, Pat Tepoorten, Todd Tetzlaff, David Treichel and Lindsey Wyttenback

The Pledge of Allegiance was said by all.

**Superintendent's Report**

Superintendent Paul shared the district vision and mission focused on inspiring students, partnering with families, and helping all students reach their full potential.

Highlights included several community engagement events including Hmong Family Engagement Night, the American Indian Drum and Dance Exhibition, Vehicle Fair, and Teddy Bear Band gatherings. A new Save Station with public AED access was installed at NBAPS (high school) through support from the Stacy-Lent Fire Station and Teddy Heart Foundation.

Superintendent Paul also announced Max Impact Day, the Maximizing Impact Endowment Fund and Golf Tournament honoring Max Malmquist and provided an update on the Viking Banner Project supported through the East Central Regional Arts Council and NBAEF, which will feature 16 student banners, 8 posters, and 5 framed artworks displayed throughout the district.

The district is honoring the Edelstein Family Foundation on June 1, 2026 during the High School Spring Concert for their many years of contributions providing over \$70,000 in scholarships to North Branch students and more than \$500,000 over the past 10 years.

## **Work Session Topics**

### **A. Spotlight: Distance Learning Academy**

David Treichel, Director of Teaching and Learning, invited a panel of students, parents and staff experts to answer some meaningful questions about the Distance Learning Academy program. Panel provided personal feedback on what's working and not working in the program or suggestions of changes to some of the program assignments.

Administration reviewed the mission, attendance, and academic goals of the Distance Learning Academy, noting current attendance averages 95% and academic goals target 80% of grades at a C- or higher. Staff continue supporting students through office hours, intervention services, tutoring, communication, and progress monitoring, with semester results showing approximately 73–74% of grades above a C-.

Family feedback emphasized the importance of strong staff relationships, extracurricular opportunities, real-life relevance, and clearer systems for assessments and student advocacy. Future planning includes expanded homeschool partnerships, strengthened parent orientation, entrance criteria review, and AI expectations and supports. Graduates, students, parents, and staff also shared positive experiences and success stories connected to the DLA program.

### **B. Math Curriculum Update**

David Treichel, Director of Teaching and Learning, shared plans to strengthen student confidence, critical thinking, communication, and real-world application in mathematics instruction. Staff reviewed revised Minnesota standards, curriculum evaluation timelines, instructional shifts, professional learning opportunities, and implementation planning. Proposed math acceleration pathways include compacted curriculum options beginning in 4th grade and advancement into Pre-Algebra by 6th grade while maintaining equitable access, support, and flexibility for student growth and readiness.

### **C. Budget Discussion**

Todd Tetzlaff, Director of Human Resources and Finance, gave a presentation on the revised FY26 budget information and the proposed FY27 budget. FY26 revisions were driven by enrollment adjustments, employee benefit increases, and interest earnings, while FY27 planning includes a 2.69% formula increase, compensatory revenue changes, teacher contract increases, and continued inflationary pressures.

Also reviewed were the Long-Term Facilities Maintenance planning requirements, including levy certification and SCRED facility maintenance support. Positive financial indicators included stable enrollment, expanded programming, grants, partnerships, and favorable audits and bond ratings.

June board action items will include approval of revised and proposed budgets, LTFM budgets, student fees, and meal prices.

Board members adjourned the meeting at 7:52 PM

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Heather Naegele, Clerk