



ADMINISTRATION REPORTS JUNE 2026

ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES AND HUMAN RESOURCES

by: Shawn Kirkeide

Bluejacket Celebration

The annual Bluejacket Celebration was once again a meaningful opportunity to recognize and honor the outstanding individuals who make Cambridge-Isanti Schools such a special place. This year, we celebrated 13 retirees and thanked them for their many years of dedicated service, commitment to students, and lasting contributions to our district.

We also recognized the many staff members nominated for the Bluejacket Way – Above & Beyond Award, Support Staff of Excellence, Teacher of Excellence, and Leader of Excellence awards. In addition, we honored JoJo Spencer as the recipient of the Friend of Cambridge-Isanti Community Award for his continued support and dedication to our schools and community.

The evening also included recognition of more than 40 employees who reached significant service milestones, celebrating 15, 20, 25, 30, and 35 years of service to the district.

The Bluejacket Celebration continues to be a wonderful tradition that highlights the dedication, excellence, and positive impact of our staff and community members. We are grateful for all those who help make Cambridge-Isanti Schools a great place to learn, work, and grow.

Red Rover Implementation

We are excited to announce that Cambridge-Isanti Schools will officially transition to Red Rover on July 1. Red Rover will serve as the district's new platform for absence management, substitute placement, and employee time tracking, replacing both Frontline (AESOP) and TimeClock Plus (TCP).

District staff have been working behind the scenes to prepare for a smooth implementation. Training materials, login information, and additional resources will be provided to employees prior to launch. We look forward to the efficiencies and improved user experience Red Rover will bring to our staff and operations.

FINANCE AND OPERATIONS

by: Christopher Kampa, CFA

Finance

The preliminary budget for FY 2026-27 will be presented to the School Board this month. Based on current projections, the district remains in a stable financial position and is well-positioned to

navigate future challenges. This reflects several years of careful financial planning, stable enrollment, and ongoing efforts to align resources with district priorities.

While our financial position remains stable, challenges remain. School districts continue to face rising costs, increasing operational requirements, and uncertainty surrounding future state funding. As we move through the budget and legislative process, we will continue to balance these realities while focusing on our long-term goal of maintaining financial stability and supporting student success.

Transportation

Transportation continues to focus on staffing, safety, and operational readiness. Efforts are underway to hire additional route and activity drivers, while the new Bus Driver Incentive Program has been implemented to recognize and reward drivers who demonstrate reliable attendance, professionalism, and support for student success. The program also includes incentives for recruiting and mentoring new drivers. The department successfully completed its annual State Patrol and DOT inspections and celebrated drivers at several year-end appreciation events, including partnerships with the Rotary Club, Cambridge Bar & Grill, and the district's annual Pancake Breakfast. Looking ahead, staff are preparing for the arrival of new buses for the 2026-27 school year and finalizing routes and driver assignments for summer school programming.

Food Service

The Food Service department has largely completed its year-end procedures, including employee evaluations, transferring food inventories to our two primary kitchen locations to improve energy efficiency, and conducting end-of-year inventory counts. In the office, staff are finalizing the district's response to the Minnesota Department of Education review and preparing for the annual financial audit, which begins in July. We appreciate the hard work and dedication of our Food Service team throughout the year and wish everyone a safe and enjoyable summer.

Building & Grounds

As we discussed last month: we are replacing the bleachers at the high school competition gym. The existing bleachers have experienced repeated operational failures, the supporting wall structure continues to deteriorate, and it is only a matter of time before the system fails completely. Although this failure does not present a safety concern, we felt the timing was right based on recent irreversible deterioration of the rail system.

Complicating the situation, there had previously been concerns from the fire marshal that a full replacement would not meet current clearance requirements between the roof structure and the top row of bleachers, which could have resulted in the loss of six rows of seating on both sides of the gym. For those who attended graduation earlier this month, that is the biggest event we hold and plays an important role in our students' journey at Cambridge-Isanti. As is, we don't have enough seating to fulfill the demand and the loss of capacity would significantly impact our students and families.

After receiving a favorable ruling from the State Building Inspector, the district determined it was important to move forward now while replacement under the current configuration remains possible. Delaying the project could have resulted in both a greater operational risk and the potential loss of

significant seating capacity in a facility that serves as an important gathering space for our students and broader community.

Technology

June is a busy month for the Technology Department as the team wraps up the school year and begins preparations for the next. Staff are collecting and processing Chromebooks, laptops, iPads, and other district devices, ensuring they are functioning properly, enrolled in the appropriate management systems, and repaired as needed. The summer months also mark the start of several key projects, including technology recycling, Chromebook preparation and enrollment for incoming sixth-grade students, and device deployment planning for summer programming. In addition, the recent addition of two technicians provides an opportunity for the department to focus on training and professional development, helping ensure the team is well-positioned to support students and staff in the coming school year.

COMMUNITY EDUCATION AND ENGAGEMENT

by: Christina Thayer Anderson

Year-Round Learning Through Community Education

Summer is one of the busiest seasons in Community Education and an important example of how Cambridge-Isanti Schools continues to serve students, families, and community members beyond the traditional school year. Learning and engagement continue across the district through enrichment, recreation, Adventure Center, ECFE, Adult Education, driver education, aquatics, and other summer opportunities for learners of all ages.

These programs reflect our strategic commitment to positive relationships, student growth and well-being, and strong partnerships with families and the community. Throughout the summer, Community Education staff create welcoming environments, support academic and life skills, and provide meaningful opportunities for people of all ages to learn and grow together. Thank you to our dedicated staff teams who choose to spend their summers engaged in this meaningful work!

We Look Forward to Seeing You This Summer

District teams look forward to connecting with families and community members throughout the summer months. As part of the larger community, participating in local events is one more way we continue to build relationships, strengthen connections, and celebrate Bluejacket pride.

Families and community members are welcome to stop by and see us at several upcoming events, including the Jubilee Days Parade and Kids Day, Kids Day at the Fair, and Night to Unite celebrations. We look forward to seeing students, families, and neighbors out in the community this summer.

TEACHING AND LEARNING

by: Dr. Jason Bodey

The District Instructional Leadership Team will convene on June 10 for its end-of-year retreat to reflect on the 2025–26 school year and prepare for key instructional priorities for the year ahead. A significant portion of the day will focus on strengthening our approach to data-informed

decision-making. Team members will engage in conversations around district achievement data, including growth and proficiency measures, and examine practices that support impactful and productive data discussions at both the district and building levels.

The leadership team will also continue its work to align the measurable outcomes identified in the district Strategic Plan with each school's Site Continuous Improvement Plan. This effort is intended to strengthen coherence across district and building priorities and ensure that improvement efforts remain focused on student outcomes.

Additional work during the retreat will include finalizing common Professional Learning Community (PLC) team agendas that will be implemented across the district beginning next fall. The team will also conclude its review of the Teacher Development and Evaluation Plan. Through collaboration with union leadership, teachers, and administrators, consensus has been reached on updates to the plan, which will be implemented during the 2026–27 school year.

STUDENT SUPPORT SERVICES

by: Rachel Kasper

Summer often brings staffing transitions, particularly within special education. We are pleased to report that we have successfully filled most of our open positions and continue to attract candidates for the few remaining vacancies. As a result, we are in a very positive position as we prepare for the start of the 2026–27 school year.

In late May, the Special Education Leadership Team met to reflect on the past year, identify opportunities for continuous improvement, and begin planning professional learning and support for staff this fall. These planning efforts are focused on strengthening systems, building staff capacity, and ensuring high-quality services for students across the district.

We are also putting the final touches on our 2026 Extended School Year (ESY) program, which begins June 15. ESY provides important opportunities for students to maintain critical skills and continue learning throughout the summer months. We always look forward to welcoming students back and supporting their continued growth during this special summer session.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

by: Dr. Nate Rudolph

As we conclude another successful school year, I would like to extend my sincere appreciation to our students, staff, families, and community for their partnership and support throughout the year. The final weeks of school have been filled with celebrations that reflect the many accomplishments of our students and the dedication of the adults who support them.

One of the most meaningful events this spring was the Legacy Walk, where members of the Class of 2026 returned to the elementary and middle schools that helped shape their educational journey. Seeing our graduates walk the halls in their caps and gowns while being celebrated by younger

students, former teachers, and staff served as a powerful reminder that graduation is the culmination of years of learning, encouragement, and relationships built across our district.

We recently celebrated several significant milestones, including Riverside Academy Graduation, the Academic Lettering Ceremony, National Honor Society Induction, and the Cambridge-Isanti High School Graduation Ceremony. These events highlighted not only academic achievement, but also the character, compassion, and commitment demonstrated by our students throughout their time in Cambridge-Isanti Schools.

This spring also brought statewide recognition for our Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports (PBIS) efforts. All eight eligible Cambridge-Isanti schools earned recognition from the Minnesota Department of Education, reflecting our ongoing commitment to creating positive, supportive learning environments where students can thrive.

As we shift into summer, district leaders and staff are already preparing for the 2026-27 school year. Summer work includes staffing, professional learning planning, curriculum implementation, operational preparations, facility projects, and continued work aligned to our Strategic Plan priorities. We also continue to evaluate feedback gathered throughout the year as we refine our efforts to support student success and strengthen community engagement.

Finally, I would like to thank the Board of Education for your continued leadership and support throughout the school year. Together, we have navigated challenges, celebrated accomplishments, and remained focused on our mission of educating, empowering, and inspiring every student, every day.

I hope everyone has an opportunity to enjoy a safe, restful, and well-deserved summer.