



ADMINISTRATION REPORTS MARCH 2026

ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES & HUMAN RESOURCES

by: Shawn Kirkeide

Job Fairs

We will participate in the MN Educators Job Fair hosted by Saint Mary's University of Minnesota on Friday, March 13, 2026, at their Minneapolis campus. We are also excited to attend the Minnesota Educator Career Expo on Tuesday, March 31, 2026, in Eden Prairie. These events provide opportunities to connect with talented educators and highlight the district's commitment to attracting high-quality staff.

Bluejacket Celebration

We are excited to announce that the 2026 Bluejacket Celebration will take place on May 27, 2026! This annual event is an opportunity to honor and celebrate our extraordinary staff who exemplify the best of Cambridge-Isanti Schools.

Nominations for awards will open next week, and we look forward to recognizing the incredible dedication, talent, and contributions of our staff throughout the district. It promises to be a memorable celebration of the people who make our schools such a special place.

FINANCE AND OPERATIONS

by: Christopher Kampa, CFA

Finance

The Finance Department is preparing a revised budget that will be presented to the School Board for approval. The updated projection reflects an improved year-end financial outlook driven by stronger than anticipated investment performance, slightly higher enrollment, and the implementation of several cost-saving measures across district operations.

In addition to internal financial planning, the district continues to work with state leadership and legislative partners to advocate for improvements to Minnesota's school funding system. While this is not a formal state budget year, the recent improvement in the state's budget forecast provides an opportunity to begin discussions around establishing fairer and more sustainable funding measures for public education in Minnesota.

Transportation

Route coverage has been challenging due to seasonal drivers still away for the winter, an increase in employee time-off requests, and the anticipated impact of Minnesota Paid Leave, with two additional drivers expected to begin leave within the next month. At the same time, spring sports and activities are beginning to ramp up, increasing transportation demands. Following a couple of recent bus

accidents, Transportation leadership also met with district administration to review response procedures and strengthen communication protocols to ensure more efficient and coordinated responses moving forward.

Food Service

The Food Service Department has had a busy administrative month preparing for its upcoming Administrative Review with the Minnesota Department of Education in April, which has involved compiling and submitting numerous required documents. Staff have also finalized and published Requests for Proposals for both grocery and dairy providers for the upcoming school year. In addition, the team has begun familiarizing themselves with changes to the Point of Sale system as part of the district's upgrade to the newest version of Skyward.

Building & Grounds

The Buildings and Grounds Department has begun preparing spring sports fields and campus green spaces to ensure they are ready for the upcoming season. Staff have also started meeting with the district's roofing supplier to address ongoing roof leaks and review proposed repair plans. In addition, we are beginning the implementation of a preventative maintenance plan for district parking lots aimed at preserving their asset life. As winter conditions subside, the department will continue addressing any emerging facility issues to maintain safe and functional school environments.

Technology

The Technology Department continues to make progress on several key initiatives. Planning is underway for summer infrastructure work, including Phase 2 of the E-Rate project, which will complete the district-wide installation of Extreme network switches. The department also completed interviews for the Network Security Administrator position, resulting in the hiring and promotion of Tim Martin, and is continuing the hiring process to fill the District Technician position he previously held. Tech Director Ray Sperl recently attended the Brainstorm IT Conference, where sessions focused on the CoSN CTO Clinic, managing large district technology projects, and the use of AI to improve operational and instructional efficiency. Additionally, the department is working with the Minnesota Ed Tech Leaders group and vendor TechCheck to address industry-wide telecommunications challenges related to dropped calls and increased spam call tagging.

COMMUNITY EDUCATION

by: Christina Thayer Anderson

Spring and Summer Community Education Brochure Now Available

We anticipate the Spring and Summer Community Education Brochure to be in homes within the week! It is currently available on our website and registration opened March 16. The brochure highlights the wide range of programs, opportunities, and experiences available to community members of all ages throughout the spring and summer months.

The brochure includes important information on early learning classes and preschool registration for school year 2026-27, as well as youth enrichment classes, sports camps and recreation opportunities, aquatics, adult fitness and wellness offerings, day trips, adult enrichment classes, and Adventure Center programming for summer and school year 2026-27. It also includes important district

updates, volunteering information, and where you can expect to see us at Summer Events throughout the community. The newest brochure includes many opportunities to get involved, stay engaged, explore something new, and participate in upcoming classes, activities, and events, helping us continue to build and strengthen connections across our community.

Summer Hiring

Summer is one of the busiest and most rewarding seasons for Community Education, with programs offered across aquatics, enrichment, recreation, and Adventure Center. We are hiring for several key positions, including Youth Program Aides, Adventure Center Program Assistants and Student Supports, Building Monitors, Performing Arts Center Technicians, Lifeguards, and Community Education Instructors. Staff in these roles help create safe, engaging, and meaningful experiences for youth and adults, supporting both learning and connection in our community. Those interested in joining our team this summer are encouraged to visit our careers page on the website at www.c-ischools.org/about-us/careers

TEACHING & LEARNING

by: Dr. Jason Bodey

Summary of the February 13, 2026 Professional Learning Day

On February 13, district staff participated in a full day of professional learning and collaboration. These days give educators and staff dedicated time to strengthen instruction, align curriculum, and plan support for students across the district.

A major focus of the teachers' day was collaboration across grade levels and buildings. Teachers met in teams that included elementary, middle, and high school staff. They worked to align curriculum, grading practices, and expectations so students experience a more consistent learning path from kindergarten through graduation. Staff also discussed ways to better support students during key transitions, such as moving from elementary to middle school or middle school to high school.

Several teams spent time reviewing and preparing for Minnesota's new mathematics standards. Teachers examined upcoming changes in areas such as geometry and measurement and discussed how the updated standards place greater emphasis on real-world application. This work helps ensure the district is ready to select and implement a curriculum that reflects the updated expectations.

Teachers also spent time on curriculum planning and standards work across several grade levels and departments. Grade 3-5 ELA teachers worked in literacy teams to review books and plan lessons connected to standards related to Indigenous perspectives. Elementary specialists also collaborated on standards and benchmark work to strengthen alignment across specialist areas.

Staff also began training for the district's transition to the Qmlativ Skyward system. Teachers received access to the Skyward Knowledge Hub and training database, where they began reviewing introductory materials and role-specific modules. This self-guided training helps staff prepare for the district's upcoming system transition and ensures they are ready to use the new platform for grading, attendance, and student information management.

In addition to instructional learning, staff had access to a Wellness Fair designed to support employee well-being. Staff connected with benefits partners, participated in activities such as chair yoga, sound baths, and walking opportunities, accessed free health screenings, and reviewed vaccination options, with select vaccinations offered on site. The event provided a convenient opportunity for staff to learn about available wellness resources while supporting their own health.

Overall, the professional learning day provided dedicated time for staff to collaborate, review standards, analyze student learning data, and strengthen instructional practices. This work supports continuous improvement in teaching and helps ensure students receive a high-quality, well-aligned educational experience across the district.

STUDENT SUPPORT SERVICES

by: Rachel Kasper

As a department, we are beginning the annual planning process for Extended School Year (ESY) services. Under Minnesota Rule 3525.0755, school districts must consider ESY services for eligible students each year as part of the Individualized Education Program (IEP) process.

IEP teams are currently reviewing student progress and discussing ESY during spring IEP meetings. A determination is made based on specific criteria outlined in Minnesota rule, including:

- Evidence of significant regression in skills after breaks in instruction
- The need to maintain critical self-sufficiency skills
- Unique educational needs that require continued instruction beyond the regular school year

This early planning allows the district to ensure appropriate staffing, programming, and transportation are in place to support students who qualify for ESY services during the summer months.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

by: Dr. Nate Rudolph

Public Schools Week, observed February 23–27, provided an opportunity to reflect on the important role public education plays in strengthening communities and preparing students for the future. It also offers a moment to recognize the progress taking place across Cambridge-Isanti Schools.

Over the past several weeks, we have celebrated a number of outstanding student accomplishments at Cambridge-Isanti High School. Most recently, our Mock Trial team earned 4th place at the state tournament, the highest finish in program history. Student welders have also earned recognition at the regional level, and music and theater students have advanced beyond local competition to receive state honors. In addition, we have celebrated Triple ‘A’ Award finalists, state-qualifying athletes and teams, Culinary and FCCLA competitors, National Merit scholars, and Math League participants — all achieving success at the state or national level.

At the same time, we continue to see encouraging academic progress, particularly in literacy at the elementary and middle school levels. This growth reflects the focused work of our teachers, instructional leaders, and support staff to strengthen foundational reading skills for all students.

Operationally, the district is transitioning from Trimester 2 into Trimester 3, marking the final stretch of the 2025–26 school year. District and building leaders are maintaining instructional momentum while also beginning planning for the 2026–27 school year, including staffing alignment and leadership transitions.

District leadership also continues advancing implementation of our Strategic Plan. As we begin building Year 4 of the plan, we are incorporating feedback from our annual strategic review and community engagement efforts to help guide priorities moving forward.

Thank you for your continued leadership and support as we prepare for the final months of the school year.