

General Meeting of the Board
Thursday, September 14, 2023 6:30 PM

Boardroom / Teleconference
1820 Xenium Ln N
Minneapolis, MN 55441-3790

Agenda

1. **CALL TO ORDER** (*Action*)
2. **APPROVAL OF GENERAL MEETING AGENDA** (*Action*)
3. **AUDIENCE OPPORTUNITY TO SPEAK** (*Information*)
4. **APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA** (*Action*)
 - 4.1. General Board Meeting Minutes from August 24, 2023
 - 4.2. Approval of Farm to School First Bite Grant from MN Department of Agriculture
5. **SHARE THE SUCCESS & RECOGNITION - (15 minutes)** (*Information*)
 - 5.1. Introduce New Communication Specialist
 - 5.2. Introduce New Human Resource Senior Manager
6. **SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT - (30 minutes)** (*Information*)
 - 6.1. Right to Read Update
 - 6.2. Welcome Back Staff & First Day of School Video
7. **INSTRUCTIONAL REPORT - None**
8. **BUSINESS SERVICES & LABOR RELATIONS REPORT - None**
 - 8.1. Facilities Report - None
 - 8.2. Financial Report - None
 - 8.3. Human Resource Report - None
9. **BOARD BUSINESS - (30 minutes)**
 - 9.1. Policy Review & Revision (*Action*)
 - 9.1.1. BOO 200 Policy Development, Adoption, Implementation, and Review (*Action*)
 - 9.2. District News
 - 9.2.1. School Board Planning Calendars
 - 9.2.2. September 14, 2023, Board Event Calendar
 - 9.2.3. 2023-2024 Get on the Bus/Local 2209 & Board Meeting Schedule
 - 9.3. Once Around the Table
 - 9.4. Board Reports
 - 9.4.1. AMSD Report
 - 9.4.1.1. September 2023 AMSD Connections Newsletter
 - 9.4.2. Chair Report (*Information*)
 - 9.4.2.1. **Closed Session** - Condo
10. **ADJOURNMENT**

Racial Equity Impact Analysis Tool

287 RACIAL EQUITY IMPACT ANALYSIS TOOL



Purpose

This tool ensures that racial equity is front-and-center in discussions and prompts leaders to examine how BIPOC and low wealth communities may be affected by a proposed action or decision of the district.

Instructions

Use the Tool: Have this tool available during any meeting where decisions are being made

- **Part 1 - Discussion:** Use the guiding questions to facilitate the racial equity discussion
- **Part 2 - Answer Racial Equity Impact Analysis Questions:** Before a decision is made, respond to the four equity impact analysis questions within your meeting agenda
- **Part 3 - Reflect:** Reflect on and recognize your own racial bias, as well as the presence and role of whiteness

Part 1: Discussion

Use the below guiding questions to facilitate a discussion about race equity impact

Guiding Questions

1. Are multiple racial perspectives involved in the planning? Are participants racially diverse? Were the groups most impacted by the decision included in the discussion?
2. In what ways are we maintaining status quo or advancing race equity? What could be done differently to better support or advance racial equity efforts?
3. Who is advantaged? Who is disadvantaged? Are decisions based on the majority or those at the margins?
4. In what ways does colorblindness exist?
5. How do you know the audience is communicated with in ways that will make sense through *their* lens?
6. In what ways are other marginalized people impacted?

Part 2: Answer Racial Equity Impact Analysis Questions

1. **Who participated in completing this analysis?**
2. **What are the racial equity impacts of this decision?**
3. **Who will benefit from and/or be burdened by this decision?**
4. **Are there strategies to mitigate any unintended consequences of this decision?**

Part 3: Reflect

1. Place yourself on the Compass. What feelings came up for you during the planning?
2. What role did your race, experiences, or bias have in the conversation?
3. What aspects of whiteness showed up for you or were observed in others? ([Bellevue Guide](#))

DISTRICT 287 GENERAL MEETING OF THE BOARD
Intermediate District 287
August 24, 2023
MINUTES

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Brakke called the general meeting to order at 6:30 PM in the District Service Center Boardroom and by the use of District 287 Teleconferencing. Board Director Andreson recited Intermediate District 287 mission statement "The mission of Intermediate District 287 is to be the premier provider of innovative specialized services to ensure that each member district can meet the unique learning needs of its students."

A Roll Call was taken, and a quorum was declared with 8 member districts represented and the following Board members in attendance:

273	Eden Prairie	Kim Ross
270	Hopkins	Shannon Andreson
280	Richfield	Crystal Brakke
281	Robbinsdale	ReNae Bowman
278	Orono	Michèle Kunz
279	Osseo	Jackie Mosqueda-Jones
283	St. Louis Park	Anne Casey
284	Wayzata	Sarah Johansen
279	Westonka	Heidi Marty

Absent: 286/ Dallas and 273/Birdman

Guests: Anne Becker

287 Administration: Superintendent Doud, Tonya Allen, Melissa Brateng, Mae Hawkins, Elisabeth Lodges Rogers, Ben Magras, Kiarra Zackery, Kevin Witherspoon, and Wauneen Denson-Mgeni

287 Staff Members: Aislinn Dwyer and Shawn Garvey

2. APPROVAL OF GENERAL MEETING AGENDA

The general meeting agenda was presented for approval. *Motion by Kim Ross, seconded by Sarah Johansen, approve the meeting agenda. All in favor. No votes against. Motion carried.*

3. OPEN FORUM FOR COMMUNITY COMMENTS - None

4. APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA

The Consent Agenda was presented for approval. The Consent Agenda included the General Meeting of the Board Minutes from June 22, 2023, Routine Human Resources Activities for August 24, 2023, 2023-2024 Organizational Chart, Wilder Contract - Embedded Mental Health Services, Hennepin County Care & Treatment Contract, Vehicle Lease Agreement, Employee Recognition Plan, Authorization of Issuance of Individual Procurement Cards (P-Cards), The National School Lunch Program Equipment Grant, Authorization of Comprehensive Literacy State Development Grant, Carl D. Perkins Education Act - Basic and Reserve Funds, Title II –Part A, Teacher and Principal Training and Recruiting, Title III –Part A, English Language Acquisition, Language Enhancement and Academic Achievement Funding, and Plan for District-Wide Compensatory Education Revenue Utilization FY2023-2024. *Motion by Jackie Mosqueda-Jones, seconded by Heidi Marty, to approve the Consent Agenda as presented. All in favor. Motion carried unanimously.*

5. SHARE THE SUCCESS & RECOGNITIONS

Ben Magras, Executive Director of Leadership and Learning introduced Aislinn Dwyer as the new Principal of the North Education Center. Aislinn thanked the Board, Superintendent Doud and Administration on her new positions.

6. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Superintendent Doud presented an update on the proposed Minnetonka Public Schools request for membership. *Motion by Anne Casey and seconded by Michèle Kunz, to approve the Minnetonka Public Schools membership back into Intermediate District 287 by roll vote. The following voted in favor: Ross, Andreson, Brakke, Bowman, Kunz, Mosqueda-Jones, Casey, Johansen, and Marty. There were no abstentions or no votes cast. Motion carried unanimously.*

Superintendent Doud presented an update on the District's Strategic Plan.

Superintendent Doud present her goals for the 2023-2024 School Year. At the recommendation of Board Chair Brakke, *a motion was made by Shannon Andreson, seconded by Sarah Johansen to approve the 2023-2024 Superintendent Goal as presented. All in favor. Motion carried unanimously.*

7. INSTRUCTIONAL REPORT

Elisabeth Lodge Rogers, Assistant Superintendent provided a summary report on 2022-2023 Strategic Priorities.

8. BUSINESS SERVICES & LABOR RELATIONS REPORTS

Facilities Report - None

Financial Report

Mae Hawkins, Executive Director of Business Services, presented the monthly financial report for June 2023. *Motion by Heidi Marty, seconded by Michèle Kunz, to approve the monthly financial reports as presented. All in favor. Motion carried unanimously.*

Human Resources Report - None

9. BOARD BUSINESS

Policy Review & Revision

Superintendent Doud present BOO 200 Policy Development, Adoption, Implementation, and Review as a first read.

AMSD Report

Board Chair Brakke provided an update on the upcoming AMSD meeting.

Once Around the Table

Chair Report

At the recommendation of Board Chair Brakke, *a motion was made by Heidi Marty, seconded by Kim Ross; the school board may hold a closed meeting to consider a strategy for labor negotiations, pursuant to Minn. Stat. §13D.03. All in favor. Motion carried unanimously. The meeting was closed to the public at 7:33 PM. A motion was made by Michèle Kunz, seconded by Anne Casey, to reopen the general meeting. All in favor. Motion carried unanimously. The general meeting reopened at 8:30 PM.*

10. ADJOURNMENT

Motion was heard and seconded to adjourn the meeting. Meeting adjourned at 8:31 PM.

The next general meeting will be held on September 14, 2023, at 6:30 PM in the District Service Center Boardroom and by Teleconference.

Submitted by
Wauneen Mgeni
Secretary to the Board

Signed: Chair _____

Clerk _____

Date _____

Date _____

CONSENT AGENDA - RECOMMENDATION



Intermediate District 287
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Recommendation for Board Acceptance of the Farm to School First Bite Grant from the Minnesota Department of Agriculture (MDA)

September 14, 2023

Author

Mae Hawkins, Executive Director of Business Services

Summary

Intermediate District 287 has been awarded \$4,000.00 from the Minnesota Department of Agriculture (MDA) to increase purchases of Minnesota grown and raised foods. This grant is support by funding that the MDA received from the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA)'s Local Food for Schools (LFS) Program to strengthen food systems for schools and expand local and regional markets, with an emphasis on purchasing from historically underserved producers and processors. The funds are available from July 1, 2023 – February 21, 2024.

Recommendation

It is recommended that the Board approves this award.

INTERMEDIATE DISTRICT 287
PLYMOUTH, MINNESOTA
BOARD OF EDUCATION

Regular Meeting – September 14, 2023

AGENDA SECTION: BOARD BUSINESS

ITEM: Policy Development, Adoption, Implementation, and Review

PRESENTED BY: Superintendent Doud

1. Background Information

The BOO 200 Policy Development, Adoption, Implementation, and Review Policy is presented for a second read and approval. A motion is necessary to approve this policy as presented.

2. Fiscal Impact/Funding Source: None

3. RECOMMENDED ACTION: The Board approves the BOO 200 Policy Development, Adoption, Implementation, and Review (BOO) Policy as presented.

Motion by: _____ Yes ____ Passed ____

Second by: _____ Yes ____ Failed ____

Abstentions: _____

Intermediate District 287

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Policy Summary

Board Officers & Operations

Date: August 2023, September 2023

Policy Reviewed: [BOO 200 - POLICY DEVELOPMENT, ADOPTION, IMPLEMENTATION AND REVIEW](#)

Process Overview:

The school board enacted an AD HOC Policy Committee to discuss the development and review of District policies. The AD HOC committee met and agreed that the process for developing/reviewing policies would include:

- The Superintendent and administration would gather a subgroup of key audiences that are impacted by the policy to provide input on development and/or revisions. This subgroup would review the equity audit recommendations, MSBA model policies, legislative or statutory updates, District 287 Bylaws, and other relevant resources. They would also use the Equity Review Protocol and provide a summary of impact.
- The drafted policy and a cover sheet outlining the recommended changes and the equity summary of impact, would be developed by administration.
- The developed/revised policy with recommended language changes and the cover sheet would then go to the AD HOC committee for review. The AD HOC will use a Equity Review Protocol.
- Upon the AD HOC committee approval, the policy would be placed on a board agenda.

Summary of Changes:

- II. - [New language in blue was drafted after the first reading.](#)
- III. - Changed title to combine the development and review process.
- III. - Developing and Reviewing
 - Title change to include reviewing.
 - New language to indicate who can propose a policy and who can determine it moving forward.
 - New language to outline the process and use of equity tool.
- III. Effective Date
 - New language to align with language in IV - per request from Board retreat
- V. - Emergency Conditions
 - New language to align with MSBA recommendation regarding new legislative changes

- VII. - Superintendent Role
 - New language per requirement to review specific policies on an annual basis
 - [In Blue, Employee Harassment and Violence was added after the first reading.](#)

Equity Impact:

Based on the equity audit and considering “who's at the table” when developing or reviewing policies, the process now includes a subgroup of key audiences that are impacted by the policy to provide input on development and/or revisions.

The process also now includes the use of a District Equity Tool and a summary of impact being on the cover sheet.

The committee also agreed to use MSBA’s model policies, however, keep District 287’s practice of making the language more accessible for audiences.

Intermediate District 287

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DISTRICT POLICY

SECOND READ

POLICY SERIES: Board Officers & Operations

SUBJECT: Policymaking Process

BOARD APPROVED: October 2012

REVISION DATE: August 2023

BOO 200 Policy Development, Adoption, Implementation, and Review

I. PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to establish guidelines for Board policymaking.

II. GENERAL STATEMENT OF POLICY

The Board believes that ~~creating and governing of~~ policies is ~~the Board's most important work of the Board function.~~ Through the development and adoption of written policies, the Board exercises its leadership in the District. Board policies shall be clear, concise, accessible, and follow a consistent format. Policy implementation, ~~as well as the development and approval of procedures,~~ is delegated to the Superintendent.

Policies will be reviewed on an ongoing basis to ensure their compliance with new laws, Board priorities, District needs, and circumstances. When possible, policy reviews will be staggered throughout the year.

III. DEVELOPMENT AND REVIEW OF POLICY

All Board policies shall comply with applicable state and federal laws, rules, and regulations.

Development and Review

New policies may be proposed by a school board member, employee, student, or guardian of a currently enrolled student. Requests for a proposed policy shall be submitted to the Superintendent for review and determination.

In developing and revising policies, the Superintendent will gather key audiences impacted by the policy to review language and implement an Equity Review Protocol prior to being placed on a Board agenda.

Notice

The Board shall give notice of proposed policy changes or adoption of new policies by placing the item on the agenda of two Board meetings, except as provided in Parts IV and V.

Adoption

Policies and policy revisions introduced at a Board meeting shall not be adopted until a subsequent meeting of the Board. At the first meeting, the policy proposal shall be presented for a first reading and discussion, and at the second meeting, the proposal shall be presented for a second reading, discussion, and vote. Board members may propose amendments to policy proposals at either of the two readings.

Effective Date

A policy is effective upon adoption by a majority vote of a quorum of the Board at a regular meeting unless another effective date is specified.

IV. SUSPENSION OF POLICIES

Any section or sections of Board policies not required by law or contract may be temporarily suspended by a majority vote of a quorum of the Board at a regular or special meeting. The suspended sections may be reinstated by the same process.

V. EMERGENCY ADOPTION OF POLICIES**Emergency Conditions**

Under unusual and rare circumstances, the Board may temporarily approve a policy to meet emergency conditions. A majority vote of a quorum of the Board is required to adopt an emergency policy. A statement regarding the emergency and the need for immediate adoption of the policy shall be included in the minutes. The school board has the discretion to determine what constitutes an emergency.

Expiration of Emergency Policies

The emergency policy shall expire within one year following the emergency action or when there has been Board action to adopt, revise, or repeal the emergency policy under the regular policy adoption process, whichever occurs first.

VI. IMPLEMENTATION OF BOARD POLICY**Superintendent Role**

The Superintendent is responsible for the administration of the District under applicable laws and Board policies. Board policies shall be the basis for the Superintendent's formulation of procedures.

Development of Administrative Procedures

It is the Superintendent's responsibility to develop administrative procedures to provide greater specificity and consistency in the process of policy implementation. The Board reserves the right to review all administrative procedures; however, it will revise them only when, in the Board's judgment, they are inconsistent with policies adopted or guidelines set by the Board.

Administrative Action in Absence of Policy

In the event that a situation demanding a decision is not covered by an existing policy or administrative procedure, the Superintendent or his or her designee is empowered to act as needed and report such action or decision to the Board.

Policy and Procedure Dissemination

The Superintendent shall establish and maintain an orderly plan for disseminating and making accessible the policies adopted by the Board and the administrative procedures necessary to implement them.

VII. POLICY REVIEW

Superintendent Role

The Superintendent, on a continuing basis, shall bring to the Board's attention all policies that are out-of-date or otherwise in need of revision. In addition, the school board shall review the following policies on an annual basis: [Employee Harassment and Violence](#), Student Discipline; Public Data requests, and Crisis Management Policy.

Board Member Role

Any Board member may request that a policy be reviewed at any time for any reason. The Board shall decide, by a majority vote of the Board present at a regular meeting, whether to initiate the requested review.

Review Schedule

The review process shall be structured so that each policy is reviewed annually for compliance with current law and for suitability and effectiveness at least once every four years.

Consent Agenda

Board policies scheduled for routine review that are not in need of any substantive change shall be placed on the Board's consent agenda.

Intermediate District 287

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Board Calendar (Second & Fourth Thursday of the Month)

Start Time: 6:30 PM

January 2023 – December 2023	
January 26, 2023	
February 9, 2023	February 23, 2023
March 9, 2023	March 23, 2023
April 13, 2023	
May 11, 2023	May 25, 2023
June 8, 2023	June 22, 2023
No July Meeting	
August 24, 2023	
September 14, 2023	September 28, 2023
October 12, 2023	October 26, 2023
November 9, 2023	
December 14, 2023	

Intermediate District 287

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Board Calendar (Second & Fourth Thursday of the Month)

Start Time: 6:30 PM

January 2024 – December 2024 <i>TENTATIVE</i>	
January 11, 2024 Conflict MSBA Meeting January 25, 2024	
February 8, 2024	February 22, 2024
March 14, 2024	March 28, 2024
April 11, 2024	
May 9, 2024	May 23, 2024
June 13, 2024	June 27, 2024
No July Meeting	
August 22, 2024	
September 12, 2024	September 26, 2024
October 10, 2024	October 24, 2024
November 14, 2024	
December 12, 2024	

INTERMEDIATE DISTRICT 287
September 14, 2023
SCHOOL BOARD CALENDAR

September 2023

14	Thursday	General Board Meeting	6:30 PM	DSC
28	Thursday	General Board Meeting	6:30 PM	DSC

October 2023

12	Thursday	General Board Meeting	6:30 PM	DSC
12	Thursday	General Board Meeting – <i>Board Retreat</i>	7:30 PM	DSC
17	Tuesday	Get on the Bus – Ann Bremer Education Center	8:30 AM	DSC
24	Tuesday	Local 2209 & Board Meeting	1:00 PM	HYBRID
26	Thursday	General Board Meeting	6:30 PM	DSC

November 2023

09	Thursday	General Board Meeting	6:30 PM	DSC
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December 2023

05	Tuesday	Get on the Bus – Itinerant Services	8:30 AM	DSC
12	Tuesday	Local 2209 & Board Meeting	1:00 PM	HYBRID
14	Thursday	General Board Meeting	6:30 PM	DSC

TENTATIVE 2024 DATES**January 2024**

25	Thursday	General Board Meeting	6:30 PM	DSC
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February 2024

06	Tuesday	Get on the Bus – Hennepin Technical College	8:30 AM	DSC
08	Thursday	General Board Meeting	6:30 PM	DSC
20	Tuesday	Local 2209 & Board Meeting	1:00 PM	HYBRID
22	Thursday	General Board Meeting	6:30 PM	DSC

March 2024

14	Thursday	General Board Meeting	6:30 PM	DSC
14	Thursday	General Board Meeting – <i>Board Retreat</i>	7:30 PM	DSC
28	Thursday	General Board Meeting	6:30 PM	DSC

April 2024

11	Thursday	General Board Meeting	6:30 PM	DSC
23	Tuesday	Local 2209 & Board Meeting	1:00 PM	HYBRID

May 2024

09	Thursday	General Board Meeting	6:30 PM	DSC
23	Thursday	General Board Meeting	6:30 PM	DSC

June 2024

13	Thursday	General Board Meeting	6:30 PM	DSC
18	Tuesday	Get on the Bus – West Suburban Summer School	8:30 AM	DSC
27	Thursday	General Board Meeting	6:30 PM	DSC

◆ General Board Meeting – Date Change

◆ New Event

◆ Event Date Change

Intermediate District 287

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Get on the Bus & Local 2209 Breakfast Schedule 2023-2024

Get on the Bus

Tuesday, October 17th
Ann Bremer Education Center
Bus leaves 287 DSC @ 8:30 AM

_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

Tuesday, December 5th
Itinerant
Bus leaves 287 DSC @ 8:30 AM

_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

Tuesday, February 6th
Hennepin Technical College
Bus leaves 287 DSC @ 8:30 AM

_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

Tuesday, June 18th
West Suburban Summer School
Bus leaves 287 DSC @ 8:30 AM

_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

Local 2209/Board Meeting

1:00 PM

Tuesday, October 24th
District Service Center
(3rd Floor – Room 316)

_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

Tuesday, December 12th
District Service Center
(3rd Floor – Room 316)

_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

Tuesday, February 20th
District Service Center
(3rd Floor – Room 316)

_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

Tuesday, April 23rd
District Service Center
(3rd Floor – Room 316)

_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

CONNECTI NS

News from the Association of Metropolitan School Districts

September 2023
Volume 20
Number 11

A Unique Focus on Dual Enrollment Courses at Buffalo High School

September 8, 2023 Board of Directors Meeting

7 a.m. - 9 a.m.
Quora Education Center
NE Metro 916
Little Canada

September 29, 2023 Executive/Legislative Committee Meeting

7:30 a.m. - 9 a.m.
Anderson Center
Bethel University
Arden Hills

October 6, 2023 Board of Directors Meeting

7 a.m. - 9 a.m.
Quora Education Center
NE Metro 916
Little Canada

October 27, 2023 Executive/Legislative Committee Meeting

7:30 a.m. - 9 a.m.
Anderson Center
Bethel University
Arden Hills

Coming from the smallest school in the mighty Lake Conference, Buffalo High School student-athletes are no strangers to an underdog role in competition. In the classroom, however, the opportunities available to them rival any in the state thanks to a unique focus on dual enrollment courses that deftly balance career as well as college preparation. "My impression is that we are an anomaly, a standout in that area," said BHS Principal Mark Mischke.

A survey of course offerings at numerous metro-area schools confirms that statement. Not only do the number of college credit-bearing courses (40) rival and even exceed many of Buffalo High School's larger peers, which tend to favor Advanced Placement (AP) courses over College in the Schools (CIS) offerings. What is truly remarkable is the variety of options available and, in some cases, their practical, vocational orientation.



Instructor Gary Wirkus helps students in the CIS Landscaping class construct a precise mulch bed border at Buffalo High School.

Alongside the typical assortment of advanced math, science, engineering, social studies, English and foreign language offerings, BHS students can also choose CIS classes that are not part of the AP catalogue, like Animal Science, Auto Service & Maintenance, Landscaping, Wood Technology, Mechanical Drawing and Child Development.

Those options reflect a partnership with seven institutions of higher learning, from large four-year

Continued on page 2

Students and staff returning for another school year, filled with great anticipation, is always exciting! It is also the time of year that we start to think about legislative priorities for the next session. This month's research article highlights progress made on one of AMSD's top legislative priorities — reducing the special education cross-subsidy. The advocacy of AMSD members was vital to the increased special education funding approved in the 2023 session and is an excellent reminder that your voice makes a difference. The AMSD Legislative Committee has begun the work of developing the platform for the 2024 session and will seek AMSD members' input over the next few months. Please feel free to reach out to me, members of the legislative committee, or AMSD staff with your priorities and ideas as we develop the platform. Thank you for your continued advocacy for our students, and I wish everyone a successful start to the school year!

From the AMSD Chair, Marcus Hill, West St. Paul-Mendota Heights-Eagan Board Member

Buffalo-Hanover-Montrose Families Saved More Than \$1.5 Million in Tuition Expenses Last School Year

Continued from page 1

universities to smaller technical and community colleges, and the course list's foundation in the Minnesota Transfer Curriculum ensures that all credits earned by BHS students will be accepted by any of Minnesota's state colleges and universities.

The variety also reflects the broader Buffalo-Hanover-Montrose School District's conviction that a BHS graduate must have the skills necessary to absorb additional training and excel in the next step of their development after high school, whether they choose college or a different path. "The goal is to have challenging coursework in all interest areas, not just where we think it's important, but where their interests lie," Mischke said. "We want to challenge students in each of the areas that they are passionate about."

Providing motivated students with a realistic opportunity to finish most general college courses before high school graduation is one step. The next is to help them see the tremendous intellectual and financial value in voluntarily challenging themselves with more rigorous school work before those classes carry college-level costs. BHS senior Zoe Donofrio said she was initially intimidated by the idea of CIS coursework, but has since embraced the growth those classes require. "I enjoyed the structure and pace of it all," she said. "These classes teach you productivity in things like note-taking, independent work time, work quality, and study effort."

Fellow senior Abigail Urick had the advantage of seeing an older sibling save money and time in college by taking advanced courses at BHS, and decided to follow the same path. "The opportunity to take CIS courses is one of my favorite aspects about Buffalo High School and I'm very grateful for it," she said. "It is rewarding to know that I took a more challenging class and benefited from it in multiple ways. While I'm in high school, I'm also getting ahead in college – that's amazing!"



BHS students have a variety of CIS science classes to choose from.

While many high schools reserve college-level material for juniors and seniors, 12 percent of ninth-graders and nearly 40 percent of sophomores took CIS classes at BHS last school year. Over the past seven years, an average of 66 percent of seniors have participated.

Mischke said that process of registering for a dual enrollment course is another factor that sets CIS classes apart from AP or International Baccalaureate (IB) options, which offer the opportunity to test for college credit but ultimately remain high school classes. "When a student sees they actually have a transcript from St. Cloud State and they've passed college algebra, they realize that they might be capable of more than they may have initially thought."

The financial aspect is significant as well. BHS students earned over 5,000 college credits last school year, collectively saving more than \$1.5 million in tuition expenses. "The preparedness and the savings that come with it are real," said Mischke. "When a student doesn't have money at home to pay for college but gets almost all of his generals done for free, there's a legitimate equity component there. I want to make sure students at Buffalo High School don't sell themselves short in terms of what their opportunities are, and we're creating opportunities that they might not have otherwise."

This month's member feature was submitted by Paul Downer, Communications Coordinator, Buffalo-Hanover-Montrose Schools.

Education Bill Makes Progress to Close Special Education Cross-Subsidy

One of the highlights of the 2023 Omnibus Education Bill was the significant progress made to address the overwhelming special education shortfall. The shortfall is referred to as the special education cross-subsidy because school districts are forced to subsidize the shortfall by redirecting general education revenue to cover the difference.

Addressing the special education cross-subsidy has been one of AMSD’s top legislative priorities for many years. In the 2019 session, AMSD successfully advocated for the establishment of special education cross-subsidy reduction aid. The 2019 bill set cross-subsidy reduction aid at 2.6 percent for FY 2020 and 6.43 percent for FY 2021 and later. While this was a relatively modest effort to address the growing cross subsidy, it set the stage for a significant breakthrough in the 2023 session.

As the chart below shows, the 2023 Education Bill increased special education cross subsidy reduction aid from 6.43 percent to 44 percent for the next three years. In FY 2027, cross-subsidy reduction aid will increase to 50 percent. This came at a cost of \$662.823 million for the 2024-25 biennium and \$821.218 million for the 2026-27 biennium.

E–12 Education Bills Special Education Cross Subsidy

Aid Factor Change:

FY24–26: 44%

FY27: 50%

Increase from FY23 at 6.43%

Cross Subsidy Reduction Aid:

FY24–25: \$662,823,000

FY26–27: \$821,218,000

- The “Initial Cross Subsidy” is defined as:
 - the nonfederal cost of special education, including transportation, minus
 - the state special education aid received after tuition adjustments, minus
 - the general ed revenue attributable to students receiving SpEd services outside of the regular classroom for more than 60% of the school day (portion attributable to instruction outside of the regular classroom).

Source: Minnesota Department of Education, May 2023

The recently released FY 2022 Special Education Cross-Subsidies report shows how important it was for the Governor and Legislature to make this investment. The Minnesota Department of Education (MDE) is required to annually submit the cross-subsidy report to the legislative committees having jurisdiction over K-12 Education on the amount each district is cross-subsidizing special education costs with general education revenue.

As chart 2 shows, MDE calculated the final overall FY 2022 statewide cross-subsidy at more than \$712 million — with more than half (\$477 million) specifically in AMSD member districts. The cross-subsidy was projected to rise to more than \$729 million in FY 2023. Following the passage of the 2023 education bill, MDE projects that the FY 2024 cross-subsidy will decline to \$410.6 million in FY 2024 then slightly

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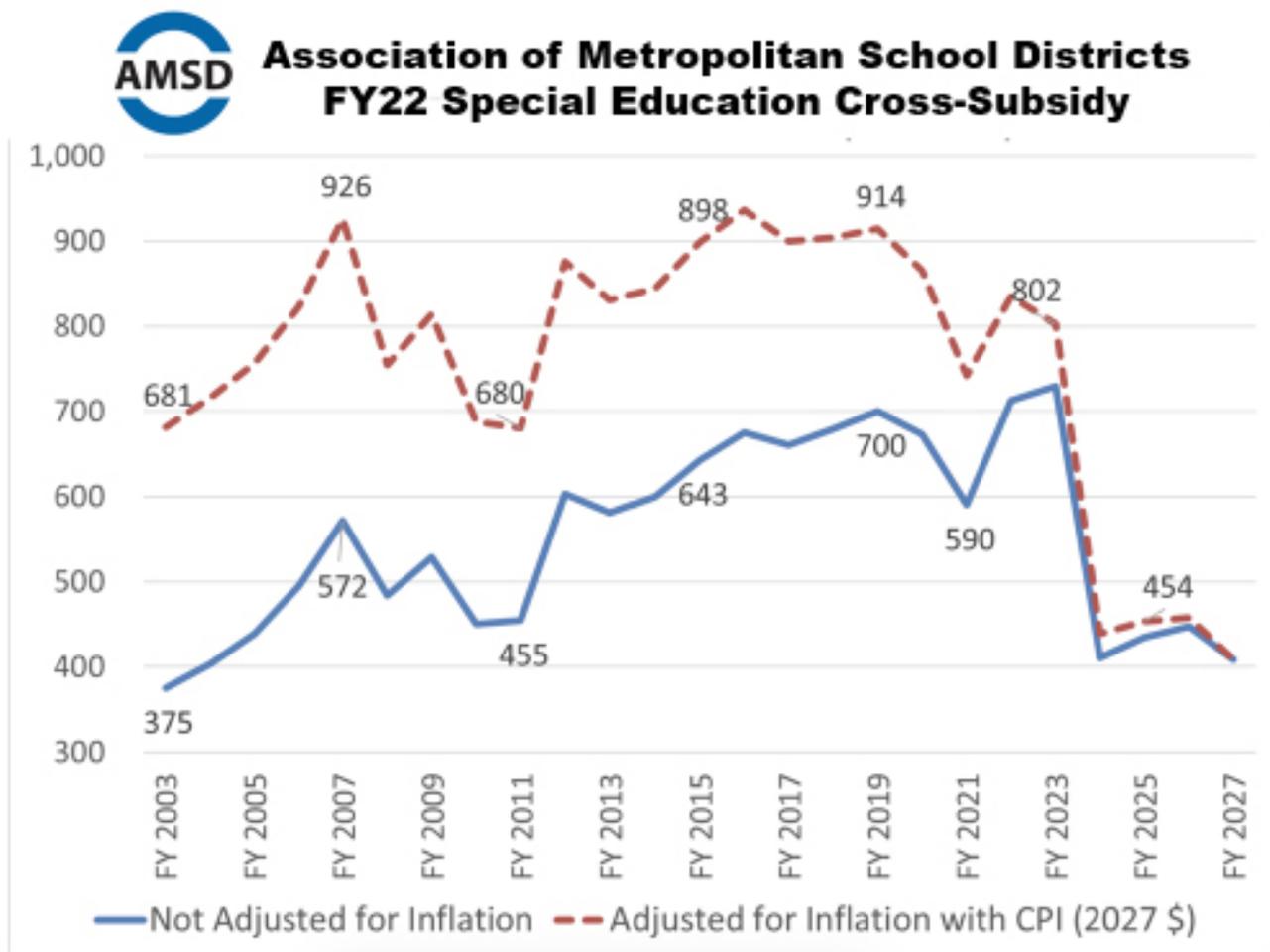
AMSD Members' Advocacy Makes a Difference for Special Education Funding

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increase in FY 2025 and FY 2026 before dropping to \$408.6 million in FY 2027 when cross-subsidy reduction aid increases to 50 percent.

The investments to address the special education cross-subsidy provide some welcome financial relief. At the same time, even after the 2023 education bill is fully implemented a significant shortfall will remain. AMSD members are committed to continuing to work with state policymakers to build on the progress made in the 2023 session.

- [LINK: View the FY2022 Special Education Cross-Subsidy Report](#)
- [LINK: View the AMSD FY2022 Special Education Cross Subsidies](#)



Source: Minnesota Department of Education, July 2023