PLC Meeting 5.12.2025

1. Welcome & What's Happening:
    a. What is PLC overview for those joining
    b. Introductions
    c. Dan Bittman
        1. American Indian Ceremony at the high school
        2. Academic Honor Ceremony
        3. Shark Tank with Chamber of Commerce- would like help getting more 5th grade students involved next year
        4. Budget/LAC
            a. 80% of the budget is related to people (staff)
            b. Inflation component: is discussion about taking it away again
            c. Cross Subsidy: state and federal government don't provide those funds (require services to be provided but not the funds to do it).
            d. Edina Specific Priorities that potentially cost more, reviewing to make sure that it aligns with our strategic plan and goals:
                i. Class size keeping them small
                ii. Media Specialists; legislation just requires one at the district level so what do we want. Continuing to look at the model and where things are and make sure things are consistent.
                iii. Nurses
        5. Class Sizes: https://resources.finalsite.net/images/v1741802463/edinaschoolsorg/wmpjvhbrrp15igle0emj/617.pdf
            a. Para hours: things could be changing in specific things because para hours are based on student levels
        6. Unique programming; French; SDL programming thinking about what it looks like for after school/summer etc. Also class size recommendations might be different for these programs given their unique nature.
        7. Physical Plan Updates: Other budget dollars that cannot be used for instructional content
            a. 2 and 10 year plans
            b. Current nearer term plans:
                i. High school mechanicals
                ii. ECC tennis courts
                iii. Cornelia restrooms/brick work
                iv. Valley View lighting upgrades (particularly LED)
        8. Could there be more opportunities to have more flexibility in the budget

    d. Anne Marie LeLand
        1. Kids Club Update
            a. Childcare is an issue across all districts
                i. 2021/2022 was the first big wave: 540 contracts 750 on wait list
                ii. 2023: around 1,300 applied; 950 accepted in spring

            iii. 2024: around 1,300 applied; 985 accepted in spring
            iv. 2025: 1,400 applied; 1,000 contracts in spring
                1. Still working through who will actually show up, what will it look like on a day to day basis to offer an opportunity to get off the waitlist. Processing the contracts now.
        b. Main limiting factor is staff currently (require is to have 15:1 ratio)
        c. Lottery system works similar to open enroll
        d. Childcare needs in Edina is tough
            i. Que Tal: after school care
            ii. A2D: after school care
            iii. YMCA closed during COVID

e. Karen Gabler: School Board Update
    i. Retirement celebration
f. AAPI festival this Saturday
g. Give & Go: Give to Grow event; surpassed fundraising goal by about 130%
h. Ed Fund:
    i. Be a Hornet day first annual day, felt good energy, able to raise about $12,000 with the day
    ii. 25 for 25: giving words of encouragement for the graduating class

i. LAC comments; please take action if you feel called to

Email 1:

Hello PLC members,

Thank you for your continued support of Edina Public Schools and our Legislative Action Committee! We know you have previously expressed a willingness to do advocacy work on behalf of the district, so we need your help (please share this with your networks as well).

We are fast approaching the end of the 2025 legislative session (May 19th) and we need some help to reach out to legislators. We spoke with our reps and there is some momentum around the education finance bills that could be very detrimental to public education in MN. One of the larger issues looming is the potential removal of the automatic inflationary adjustment that was added to law in the 2023 session.

Right now, the House Education Finance committee preserves the inflation adjustment in their version of the bill, but the belief is that the Senate will include language to remove the inflation adjustment. If the Senate does include the removal language, this will be a potential negotiating point in conference committee as the legislators attempt to reconcile and come to a final bill. There appears to be members from both sides of the aisle (particularly in the Senate) who potentially would support the removal.

Call to Action:

- We need people to contact members of the 1) Senate Education Finance Committee, 2) Senate members and 3) Governor Walz. This campaign is not limited to our representatives, we are trying to blanket as many legislators as possible!

  Here are contact links:
  [Education Finance and Policy Committees]
  [Governor Walz]
  [Senator Roster]

- We ask that you just create a short personal statement about the importance of supporting public schools and how stabilizing education funding by not removing the inflation adjustment helps open opportunities for you and/or your children to be able to thrive and succeed now and in the future. You can also mention how program and personnel cuts impact you as a student or as a parent or how we need to invest in schools to help school safety and mental health initiatives.
- Phone calls and emails are encouraged - let's show how much support there is out there!

  Thanks,
  Dan Arom
  EPS School Board, Member
  Legislative Action Committee, Chair

Email 2:

Good morning. As we approach the end of the session, we want to continue to encourage legislative decision makers to address concerns that would impact our students, staff and families in public education. Interim Superintendent Dr. Bittman in partnership with the Board has drafted the email below as a template to use to contact key leaders in the Legislature. Please feel free to use this to reach out to them and hear the voices of the state who support public education! Thank you for your continued support of our students and staff!

Emails:
[Governor Walz]

Sen. Mary Kunesh
Sen. Heather Gustafson
Rep. Ron Kresha
Rep. Cheryl Youakim
Speaker Lisa Demuth
Speaker Emerita Melissa Hortman
Majority Leader Erin Murphy

Support Long-Term, Sustainable Investments in Public Education

Dear Governor Walz, Speaker Demuth, Speaker Emerita Hortman, Majority Leader Murphy, Minority Leader Johnson, Chair Youakim, Chair Kresha, Chair Kunesh, and Vice Chair Gustafson,

As you complete your work this legislative session, I urge you to make long-term, sustainable funding for public education a top priority. Even during tight budget years, bold leadership is essential to protect the future of our schools and our students.

The 2023 session took an important step by indexing the general education formula to inflation. However, the 4% and 2% increases have not kept pace with the rising costs districts now face. New mandates—like expanded unemployment eligibility and earned sick and safe time—while well-intentioned, have added pressure to district budgets without permanent funding to support them.

Across Minnesota, districts are being forced to cut teachers, programs, and student support. To reverse this trend, we ask you to consider increasing the per-pupil funding formula beyond the current inflationary cap and/or raising local optional revenue, which has remained unchanged since 2014. These investments are essential for stability and equity across all schools.

Additionally, the one-time House funding for the READ Act is critical for its successful implementation—please ensure it remains part of the final package.

Finally, if mandates cannot be fully funded by the state, they should not be required. Unfunded obligations shift the burden to local districts, undermining the goals of the very policies you've worked to pass.

Minnesota has long led the nation in educational quality. Please continue that legacy by giving public schools the resources they need not just to survive—but to thrive.

Thank you for your leadership and your commitment to Minnesota's students.