



**Association of Metropolitan School Districts**

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**Improving Outcomes Cost-Effectively For Struggling Students Including Those with Special Needs and English Language Learners**

AMSD Policy Conference  
Tuesday, November 15, 2016

**Speaker Bios (in order of presentation)**

**Keynote Address: Best Practices and Lessons Learned in Improving Outcomes Cost-Effectively For Struggling Students**

- **Nathan Levenson, President, District Management Council**  
Nathan's experience as a superintendent, school board member, and private sector CEO allows him to bring a unique perspective to his work at DMC. As President, he oversees all consulting activities and directs the development of tools and systems to facilitate the implementation of best practices. Nate works closely with superintendents and their leadership teams to create practical solutions to pressing challenges and to guide sustained efforts that turn opportunities into realities.  
Twitter: [@dmcouncil](https://twitter.com/dmcouncil)

**Breakout Sessions**

**Improving Elementary Literacy, Mounds View Public Schools**

Twitter: [@MoundsViewK12](https://twitter.com/MoundsViewK12)

- **Angie Peschel, Director of Curriculum and Instruction, Mounds View Public Schools**  
Angie Peschel began her career in Mounds View Public Schools as an 8<sup>th</sup> grade English teacher. She has also worked as an Instructional Strategies Facilitator, Curriculum Coordinator and now serves as the Director of Curriculum and Instruction for Mounds View Public Schools.  
Twitter: [@Pesch88](https://twitter.com/Pesch88)
- **Shannon Roney, Literacy Coach, Mounds View Public Schools**  
Shannon Roney has had the privilege of teaching students for 18 years in grades K-3 and intervention in both Brooklyn Center and Mounds View. The last five years she has been working with teachers as a Literacy Coach for Mounds View Public Schools.
- **Andrea Johnson, Teacher, Mounds View Public Schools**  
Andrea Johnson has been a teacher in Mounds View Public Schools for 10 years. She's taught kindergarten, second and third grade. She's been excited and inspired by her experience implementing the balanced literacy approach in her second grade classroom.

## **Rethinking Support for Struggling Students, Fridley Public Schools**

Twitter: [@FPS\\_District14](#)

- **Laura Seifert-Hertling, Director of Special Services, Fridley Public Schools**

Laura Seifert-Hertling is the Director of Special Services at Fridley Public Schools, a position she has held since 2014. Laura began her career in special education as a setting 3 Emotional Behavioral Disorders (EBD) teacher in the Osseo Area Public Schools. She also served as the director of a Setting 4 EBD program in the Chisago Lakes School District, and was the Special Education Coordinator at Sherburne Northern Wright Special Educational Cooperative. Laura is a graduate of St. Cloud State University where she completed her BS in Special Education with licenses in EBD and Learning Disabilities (LD). She continued her education at St. Mary's University where she received her Masters in Education degree in 2005. She was inspired by a former professor to pursue her administrative license and completed her Director of Special Education License and K-12 Principal License at St. Cloud State University in 2009, then went on to complete her Superintendent License in 2014.

- **Imina Oftedahl, Director of Educational Services, Fridley Public Schools**

Imina Oftedahl currently serves as the Director of Educational Services for Fridley Public Schools working with curriculum, assessment and staff development. Imina earned a BA in English Education at the University of Northern Iowa and started her career in education as a language arts teacher for 10 years. After completing a MA in Curriculum and Instruction from the University of St Thomas and administrative licensures from Saint Mary's University and St Cloud State University, she served as the Director of Curriculum at Centennial Schools and Vice President-Publisher at Pearson Education.

Twitter: [@IOftedahl](#)

## **Managing Change, Spring Lake Park Public Schools**

Twitter: [@SLP\\_Schools](#)

- **Jeff Ronneberg, Superintendent, Spring Lake Park Public Schools**

Jeff Ronneberg has served as superintendent of Spring Lake Park Schools since January 2010. He previously served as the district's assistant superintendent, director of teaching, learning and accountability, and as an elementary principal. Prior to his time in Spring Lake Park, he served as a dean of students for Bloomington Public Schools, and as a teacher for Eden Prairie Schools and Minneapolis Public Schools. He holds an Ed.D in educational policy and administration from the University of Minnesota-Twin Cities, a Master of Science degree in educational leadership from Minnesota State University-Mankato, and a Bachelor of Arts degree in elementary education from Augsburg College.

Twitter: [@JRonneberg](#)

- **Hope Rahn, Director of Learning and Innovation, Spring Lake Park Public Schools**

Hope Rahn has served as director of learning and innovation since July 2015, and has spent her entire career in education in Spring Lake Park Schools. She previously served as the director of continuous improvement and learning analytics, and as a school psychologist, student support specialist and special education coordinator at

a district elementary school. She holds a Ph.D. in educational psychology from Capella University, a Master's Degree from the University of Wisconsin-River Falls, and a Bachelor of Arts degree in psychology and elementary education from Concordia University.

Twitter: [@HRahnSLP](#)

- **Mike Callahan, Director of Student Services and Special Education, Spring Lake Park Public Schools**

Mike Callahan has served as director of student services and special education for Spring Lake Park Schools since July 2014. He previously served as an elementary principal in the district. Prior to his time in Spring Lake Park, he served as an elementary principal in the School District of Hudson, Wisconsin, as an associate principal in the Mounds View School District and as a classroom teacher. He holds a Master's Degree in Education from St. Mary's University and a Bachelor of Science degree in elementary education from St. Cloud State University.

Twitter: [@mcalladlt](#)

### **Luncheon Panel Discussion: Measuring the Impact of Partnerships**

- **Moderator: Connie Hayes, Superintendent, NE Metro Intermediate District**

Connie began her career in education in 1979 when she graduated from Moorhead State University with an MA in School Psychology. It was on the rural roads of northern Minnesota, traveling to 11 different school districts and seeing the effects of deep poverty, she gained her greatest appreciation for the importance of public education in the lives of students and communities. Eventually her interest in school organizational development took her back to Mankato State University to become qualified as a superintendent so she could lead from the lens of recruiting and supporting the very best teachers for the classroom. Her work as a superintendent has spanned 18 years and four school districts across Minnesota. Coming to Northeast Metro 916 Intermediate School District in 2006 felt somewhat like returning to her roots at the very beginning of her career where meeting the needs of special needs children is one of several services provided to the 14 member school districts.

Twitter: [@chayes916](#) [@916schools](#)

- **Dan Hoverman, Former Superintendent, Mounds View Public Schools**

Dan Hoverman's career with Mounds View Public Schools spanned 41 years of management experience at all school levels. In 2007, the School Board named him Superintendent. During his tenure Hoverman championed a variety of efforts to enhance the personalization of public school education through innovation and data-driven decision-making that allowed Mounds View to consistently rank among the Top 10 highest-performing districts in the state. As Superintendent, Hoverman launched a comprehensive effort aimed at post-secondary success for all students, including an Equity Promise that all students will be prepared for success after high school regardless of race, class or disability. Part of this initiative was Mounds View's award-winning, first-of-its-kind Early College program that allows students

in the academic middle the opportunity to earn an associate degree on campus for free. Hoverman also spearheaded an effort that enabled all district juniors to take the ACT exam onsite and free of charge. The District also has provided every middle and high school student with an online Personal Learning Plan. Hoverman retired from Mounds View Public Schools in 2016.

- **Dr. Teri Staloch, Superintendent, Prior Lake-Savage Area Schools**

Dr. Teri Staloch is the Superintendent of Prior Lake-Savage Area Schools, a suburban school district in the Minneapolis/St. Paul area. Her work has encompassed a wide range of teaching and instructional leadership from elementary school through post-secondary education. Dr. Staloch began serving as Superintendent of PLSAS in July 2015. Prior to assuming the position in Prior Lake-Savage, she served as the Assistant Superintendent for Osseo Area Schools and also held a position as Director of Curriculum, Instruction and Educational Standards in Osseo. Her professional experience also includes positions in both Minnesota and Wisconsin: Director of Instructional Services and Interim Principal of Holmen Middle School and Ventures Charter School (WI); Principal of Viking Elementary School (WI); Assistant Professor and Interim Director for the School of Education, University of Wisconsin-LaCrosse; and English Teacher at St. Charles Middle/High School (MN). Staloch holds a Ph.D. in Educational Policy and Administration and a M. Ed. Degree in Curriculum and Instruction from the University of Minnesota. She also holds a B.A. degree in English from Luther College.

11 SEP Twitter: [@DrTStaloch](#) [@isd719](#)

- **Jeff Ronneberg, Superintendent, Spring Lake Park Public Schools**

Twitter: [@JRonneberg](#) [@SLP\\_Schools](#)

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- **Peggy Flathmann, Superintendent, Fridley Public Schools**

Peggy Flathmann, Ed. D. is the Superintendent of Fridley Public School District in the Twin Cities area. She has held this position for the past 7 years. Peggy has a BA in English Education from Wartburg College in Waverly, IA, MA in Educational Administration from University of Northern Iowa, and Ed. D. in Educational Leadership from St. Thomas University in St. Paul, MN. With nearly 40 years' experience in education, Dr. Flathmann began her education career as a language arts teacher where she taught in middle and high schools for 9 years. She began her administrative career at Wausau West High School in Wisconsin, first as an assistant principal and then principal. While at Wausau West she was able to assume a variety of roles including assistant principal and high school principal. In 1993, she and her husband Drew and son, Reed, moved to Minnesota as she became the co-principal of Centennial Junior High School in Circle Pines, Minnesota. In 1996, Dr. Flathmann was asked to help with the building construction and programming for a new Middle School in the Centennial School District. The following year she moved into the new school as its first principal. In 1999, she accepted the position as assistant superintendent for the Centennial School District where she served in that

role for 6 years. In 2005, she accepted a new position as Director of Educational Services for Fridley Public Schools. She began this position as the district started its journey to become a full International Baccalaureate continuum district with all schools at all levels receiving authorization and becoming IB World Schools. In spring 2009, this goal was accomplished and Dr. Flathmann was hired as the Superintendent of Fridley Public Schools in July 2009. Her broad range of experience and collaborative leadership style has been evident as she has moved to new professional challenges. Since 2000 she has taught courses in educational leadership at several universities including the University of St. Thomas, the University of Wisconsin – River Falls, Hamline University, and Bethel University. Twitter: [@FPS\\_District14](#)

- **Nathan Levenson, President, District Management Council**

Twitter: [@dmcouncil](#)

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