

May 2017
vol 14 ♦ no 8

**May 12, 2017
Executive/Legislative
Committee Meeting**

7:30 a.m.
Lexington Room,
TIES Conference Center
St. Paul

**May 26, 2017
Board of Directors
Meeting**

7:00 a.m.
Grand Hall,
TIES Conference Center
St. Paul

**June 9, 2017
Executive/Legislative
Committee Meeting**

7:30 a.m.
Lexington Room,
TIES Conference Center
St. Paul

SAVE THE DATE

**October 11, 2017
AMSD Annual
Conference**

8:00 a.m.—1:00 p.m.
Grand Hall,
TIES Conference Center
St. Paul

Inver Grove Heights Schools Sets Sights on Secondary Design

With rising college costs, college and career readiness has become increasingly important for high school students. Within the past five years, many schools have started offering programs such as AVID and Advanced Placement (AP) courses to prepare students for graduation, but Inver Grove Heights Schools has taken steps to educate the whole student for success in their personal and professional life. After achieving higher graduation rates with supportive programs and staff, the district began to develop Secondary Design with Core Life Skills to help students tackle obstacles outside the classroom.

Preparing Students for Academic Success

For years, ISD 199 has aimed to personalize learning for students, implementing programs to challenge and support students when they need it. In addition to offering well-known programs such as AVID and a wide selection of honors and AP courses, the district provides advanced coursework for students at every level through partnerships with local community colleges and technical schools. For students who need more support, Simley High School offers award-winning programs such as its Academic Enhancement Program and its Alternative Learning Program to help students attain grade-level mastery and graduate on time.

While ISD 199 emphasizes high standards for academic achievement, staff realize content knowledge is not the only factor in helping students graduate. Simley High School Principal Jerry Sakala said staff further help students graduate by building student-teacher relationships.

“Along with offering relevant and rigorous curriculum so students see the value of lessons, we have an excellent staff that focuses on developing relationships with the kids,” he said. “They let students know they care, and that is an important factor in motivating students to graduate, especially those who are at-risk.”



Both Simley High School and Inver Grove Heights Middle School offer AVID classes to help students in the academic middle achieve at their highest potential and learn lifelong strategies.

AMSD's Mission

To advocate for state education policy that enables metropolitan school districts to improve student learning.



Association of
Metropolitan School Districts

From the Chair

The 2017 Legislative Session is winding down with the May 22 adjournment date fast approaching. There are still huge budget decisions to be made by House and Senate leadership and Governor Dayton. The final budget negotiations will determine whether our schools and our students will have adequate resources for the next two years. The preliminary House and Senate conference committee agreement is inadequate and would result in significant reductions and staff layoffs for many AMSD school districts. Please make a phone call or send a few more emails today supporting the key priorities adopted by the AMSD Board. You can find AMSD's priorities and legislator contact information here: <http://www.amsd.org/advocacy/2017-legislative-session>. Thank you in advance for your help!

John Vento, school board member from Robbinsdale Area Schools, is chair of AMSD.

Continued on page 2

Secondary Design Gives Students a Chance to Explore

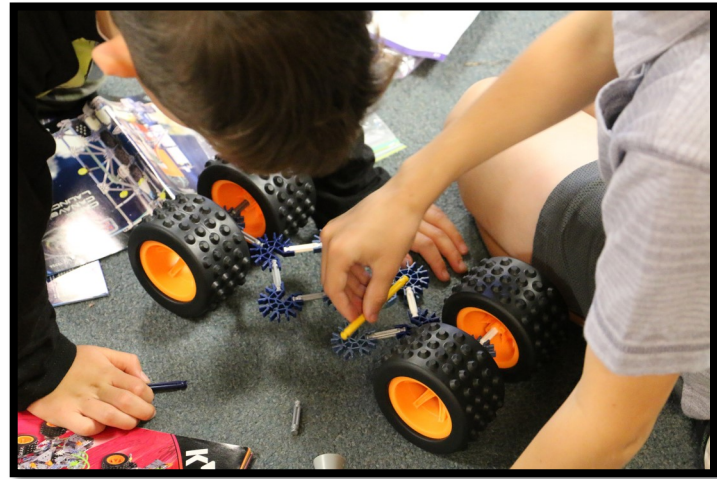
Continued from page 1

Academic Results in Data

Staff saw the result of their work implementing effective programs and cultivating positive relationships with students at the end of February when the Minnesota Department of Education released graduation rate data. Though graduation rates increased overall, Simley High School showed significant growth that far outpaced statewide gains in every student group. Multiple student groups even showed gains in the double-digits. The gains put each student group's graduation rates within 10 percentage points of each other.

Preparing Students for Lifelong Success

With an increasing percentage of students graduating from Simley High School and across the nation, ISD 199 began innovating ways to equip its students for lifelong success. School board members and district administrators wanted to address obstacles many current post-graduates face: insurmountable college debt, high college drop-out rates, and an inability to secure a job that provides opportunities, benefit, and a livable wage. The answer was Secondary Design with Core Life Skills.



Salem Hills Elementary School helps students explore their interests with Friday Genius Hours and a makerspace with supplies to nurture creativity.



Hilltop Elementary School students show support for their older peers as MCA testing begins.

Inver Grove Heights Schools is developing Secondary Design with Core Life Skills to teach students the skills they need for success as post-secondary students and graduates, job candidates, employees and everyday adults.

Secondary Design is meant to give students a chance to explore different career paths in depth long before graduation or college. The curriculum will help students gain a better understanding of their options, what they are interested in and what the requirements are for each path. With that knowledge, they will be better prepared to choose the college coursework or career that is right for them upon graduation. Secondary Design also ensures that, upon graduation, every student has the knowledge and skills to either:

- complete credit-bearing coursework at a two- or four-year degree at a college, technical school or university;
- OR
- secure employment in a career track that pays a living wage, provides benefits, and offers opportunity for advancement through education or training.

As part of Secondary Design, the district is aiming to develop students' core life skills and provide opportunities to explore career paths early. Core life skills equip students to effectively handle the challenges and demands of everyday life. Employers frequently cite core life skills, such as self-management, problem-solving, and interpersonal skills, as necessities for any potential employee, making ISD 199 candidates more attractive to employers.

"The district's achievements are a result of years of working together to build, improve and personalize curriculum to help every student succeed in life after graduation," ISD 199 Superintendent Dave Bernhardson said. "It takes all of us, every district staff member, to make that happen and we will continue to work closely to help our students achieve success in every aspect of life."

This month's member spotlight was submitted by Katie Sheridan, communications & marketing manager, Inver Grove Heights Schools.



E-12 Conference Committee Agreement Reached

The conference committee on HF 890, the Omnibus E-12 Education Finance Bill, has reached an agreement after receiving a \$303 million spending target from legislative leaders. A review of the agreement shows that there is still work to do to address the following priorities that were adopted by the AMSD Board of Directors:

- Invest at least \$713 million in E-12 Education;
- Increase the formula by at least 2.5 percent per year;
- Reduce the State share of the special education cross-subsidy by 25 percent;
- Increase funding for the English Learner Program;
- Expand programs and incentives to attract, develop and retain teachers, particularly teachers of color and teachers in shortage areas;
- Provide funding to cover any mandated increase in employer pension contributions; and
- Increase access to school-based pre-kindergarten programs.

The chart below offers a summary of how the House/Senate conference committee agreement and the Governor's E-12 budget proposal address AMSD's priority issues.

Figure 1: Minnesota E-12 Education Finance Proposals 2017

Issue	House and Senate May 2nd Agreement	Governor's E-12 Budget Proposal
Target	\$303 million	\$713 million
Formula	1.5% per year formula increase	2% per year formula increase
Special Education	No increase proposed	\$40 million increase
Pension	No funding proposed	\$68 million to offset the proposed increase in the employer contribution to TRA in the 2018-19 biennium
Early Learning	Eliminates the voluntary pre-kindergarten program. Districts currently receiving pre-kindergarten funding receive school readiness funding as a replacement Increases funding for Pathway I Early Learning Scholarships by \$9.5 million per year in 2018-19 biennium. Freezes Pathway II Scholarships at the number of scholarships awarded in FY 2017	\$175 million increase in the voluntary pre-kindergarten program Maintains Pathway II Scholarships and expands Early Learning Scholarships to children ages 0-5
Teacher Shortage	Increases funding for Teacher Loan Forgiveness, Grow Your Own Paraprofessional Program and Concurrent Enrollment Teacher Training Program	No increase proposed
English learner funding	No increase proposed	No increase proposed

The Governor's proposed E-12 budget is more than double the conference committee agreement. However, a recent budget survey of AMSD member school districts shows that even under a 2 percent formula increase, most school districts will face budget challenges. Inflation alone is projected to be higher than 2 percent. In addition, the basic education funding formula would be \$550 per pupil higher today if it had kept pace with inflation since 2003. The growing special education cross-subsidy also continues to strain school district budgets. The latest special education cross-subsidy report from the Minnesota Department of Education shows that school districts redirected nearly \$600 million in general education revenue to cover mandated special education programming in FY 2015.

Continued on page 4

AMSD Members: Anoka-Hennepin School District, Bloomington Public Schools, Board of School Administrators (Associate Member), Brooklyn Center Community Schools, Burnsville-Eagan-Savage, Columbia Heights Public Schools, Eastern Carver County Schools, Eden Prairie Schools, Edina Public Schools, Elk River Area School District, Equity Alliance MN (Associate Member), Farmington Area Public Schools, Fridley Public Schools, Hopkins Public Schools, Intermediate School District 287, Intermediate School District 917 (Associate Member), Inver Grove Heights Schools, Lakeville Area Public Schools, Mahtomedi Public Schools, Metro ECSU (Associate Member), Minneapolis Public Schools, Minnetonka Public Schools, Mounds View Public Schools, North St. Paul-Maplewood-Oakdale School District, Northeast Metro Intermediate School District 916, Northwest Suburban Integration District (Associate Member), Orono Schools, Osseo Area Schools, Prior Lake-Savage Area Schools, Richfield Public Schools, Robbinsdale Area Schools, Rochester Public Schools, Rockford Area Schools, Rosemount-Apple Valley-Eagan Public Schools, Roseville Area Schools, Shakopee Public Schools, South St. Paul Public Schools, South Washington County Schools, SouthWest Metro Intermediate District (Associate Member), Spring Lake Park Schools, St. Anthony-New Brighton Independent School District, St. Cloud Area Schools, St. Louis Park Public Schools, St. Paul Public Schools, Stillwater Area Public Schools, TIES (Associate Member), Wayzata Public Schools, West Metro Education Program, West St. Paul-Mendota Heights-Eagan Area Schools and White Bear Lake Area Schools.

Many School Districts Brace for Budget Reductions

Continued from page 3

Some AMSD districts will not experience a budget shortfall in the 2017-18 school year due to the recent passage of an operating referendum or growing student enrollment. Other districts recently made significant budget adjustments and will avoid further cuts in the 2017-18 school year, but will again face major challenges in the 2018-19 school year under a 2 percent per year formula increase.

AMSD also urges state policymakers to provide funding to cover the proposed increase in the employer contribution to the Teachers Retirement Fund. On average, each .5 percent increase in the employer contribution costs \$29 per pupil for AMSD members. If funding is not provided to cover the employer increase, school districts will be forced to use a significant share of whatever formula increase is approved.

With over two weeks to go in the 2017 Legislative Session, there is still time to urge legislators and the Governor to reach agreement on an E-12 Education Finance Bill that will meet the needs of our students. Please make your voice heard today!

Figure 2: AMSD Budget Survey May 2017

School District Name	2% Formula increase
	Projected Budget Shortfall for 2017-18
Anoka-Hennepin School District	\$0
Bloomington Public Schools	-\$2,800,000
Brooklyn Center Community Schools	\$0
Burnsville-Eagan-Savage School District 191	-\$4,152,554
Columbia Heights Public Schools	-\$1,000,000
Eastern Carver County Schools	-\$2,176,240
Eden Prairie Schools	\$0
Edina Public Schools	TBD
Elk River Area School District	-\$1,386,790
Farmington Area Public Schools	\$0
Fridley Public Schools	-\$250,000
Hopkins Public Schools	-\$939,511
Inver Grove Heights Community Schools	-\$1,200,000
Lakeville Area Public Schools	-\$3,356,258
Mahtomedi Public Schools	\$0
Minneapolis Public Schools	-\$22,100,000
Minnetonka Public Schools	\$0
Mounds View Public Schools	\$0
North St. Paul-Maplewood-Oakdale School District	\$0
Orono Schools	\$0
Osseo Area Schools	-\$6,013,767
Prior Lake-Savage Area Schools	-\$576,463
Richfield Public Schools	-\$2,100,000
Robbinsdale Area Schools	-\$6,066,121
Rochester Public Schools	-\$867,000
Rockford Area Schools	-\$199,759
Rosemount-Apple Valley-Eagan Public Schools	-\$5,478,338
Roseville Area Schools	-\$2,380,000
Shakopee Public Schools	-\$4,275,000
South St. Paul Public Schools	-\$1,795,000
South Washington County Schools	-\$2,421,072
Spring Lake Park Schools	\$0
St. Anthony-New Brighton Independent School District	-\$30,000
St. Cloud Area School District 742	TBD
St. Louis Park Public Schools	-\$1,200,000
St. Paul Public Schools	-\$21,000,000
Stillwater Area Public Schools	-\$105,000
Wayzata Public Schools	-\$1,550,000
West St. Paul-Mendota Heights-Eagan School District	-\$1,561,751
White Bear Lake Area Schools	\$0
Total	-\$96,980,624

Data as of 5/5/17, data updates will be posted on the [AMSD Web Page](#).