From Road Map to Reality: Where Madelia's Strategic Goals Stand Today

What Does a School Board Do?

In Minnesota, public schools are governed by the elected body known as the Board of Education. More commonly known as the "school board," there are four core responsibilities that this team of community members has:

- Strategic vision and planning
- Hiring and evaluating the superintendent
- Fiscal management
- Oversight and adopting district policies

While all four of these are important, let's dive into the strategic vision set by Madelia's School Board.

The Road Map: Our Mission, Vision, and Values

Along with the School Board, community members and school staff developed a Road Map. Included in this document is a formal mission statement and a vision statement. There is also a list of values that drive the words and actions of the Madelia School District. But it is the strategic directions that create the real work being done to sustain and improve the education and experiences on behalf of our students. Here's that list, with a comment added by me about where the district currently stands on each item.

Well-Being and Academics Go Hand in Hand

Infrastructure for Continuous Improvement: Provide an equitable, social, emotional, behavioral, and strong academic outcome for all students and staff. *This goal is at the heart of everything we do as we walk into our buildings each day. Paying attention to the well-being of our students and staff provides for a stronger base for learning and increasing academic outcomes. I have witnessed the care the adults have for our students which then translates into a safe place to learn and grow.*

Extra Support When Students Need It

Multi-layered Practices and Support: Provide sustainable tiered service facilitation of a multi-layered system of practices that intensifies instruction and supports needed so all students meet educational benchmarks. *The District Leadership Team (DLT) set two goals for the staff this year which connect directly to continuous improvement. One of these is Tier 2 instruction, meaning that students who need extra support get that in our general classrooms as well as in smaller settings. We are being purposeful in our adult learning and planning that this stays*

central to our work with our students.

Partnering with Families

Family and Community Engagement: Family Engagement opportunities will be provided to build trust and equitable partnerships between families and the school staff by promoting shared responsibility for student outcomes. *This was the second goal set by the DLT for 2026-2027. Connecting with families, providing for events and experiences such as the Family Activity Night during Homecoming, promoting Parent-Teacher Conferences and open houses and communicating via social media, newsletters and the local newspaper continue to be a focus of the administrative team and staff.*

Using Data to Help Every Student

Assessment: Make educational decisions that improve learning conditions for every student by using data with the intended purpose and **Data-based Decision Making:** Utilize data to solve problems and make decisions that impact student academic, behavioral, social and emotional well-being by creating a continuous cycle of systems of improvement including educator support, policy, procedures, and instructional improvement. *All grade levels at the elementary and departments in the high school have formal meetings with administration to dive into student data and make decisions about how to improve individual student's learning. We utilize standardized assessments combined with our own knowledge of the students to make these decisions.*

What the Bond Referendum Is Making Possible

Facilities and Maintenance: Ensure that all district areas, assets, and structures are operating for maximum safety and efficiency in order to provide educational and social emotional growth for all. *This strategic goal has gotten much attention lately. With the generous "yes" vote on the bond referendum in 2025, we have already updated the HVAC system at the elementary. Beginning in the Spring of 2027 through September of 2028, our buildings will have safe and secure entrances, cameras installed throughout both buildings for safety, updated and compliant restrooms, new parking lots and simply a 'face lift' in our high school that reflects the statement that our kids and staff are worth investing in.*

It Takes Everyone

While it is the School Board that formally adopts the vision and strategic directions for the Madelia School District, it is the work and commitment from the staff and connected families that make all the good things happen.