

EDUCATION FORWARD



THOUGHTS FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT



Prior to writing this message, I looked back on what I shared in last year's spring newsletter. Last year, I wrote that "2020/21 continues to be a school year unlike any other." Unfortunately, a good chunk of our current school year has also been impacted by the pandemic, but things have greatly improved over recent months. I am extremely hopeful this very positive trend will continue and allow us to focus our time and energy on student learning.

Regardless of obstacles, I continue to be awed by the outstanding efforts of our entire team – support staff, teachers, principals and district leaders. Serving our students and school community is challenging work in the best of times. Doing this work under the stresses of a worldwide pandemic and immediately following \$7.5 million in budget cuts makes this important work even more challenging. **I am incredibly proud of how our amazing team has dug in this school year, continued to move forward and gone above and beyond to serve our students and community under the most difficult circumstances I've ever witnessed in my educational career.**


As a district, our financial situation for the current school year hasn't yet been positively impacted by the operating levy that voters approved on November 2, 2021. Thus, when it comes to finances, our district is still in tough shape for the current school year.

We are marshaling all forms of our operating revenues– state funding, operating levy, one-time funding (I.e. Pandemic response funds)—towards building a much improved, well-constructed and ongoing financial reality in our district.

There are three reasons why this is the case: This year's budget was balanced by making \$7.5 million in budget cuts; money from the November 2021 operating levy does not arrive in the district until the start of next school year (the 2022/23 school year or more precisely July 1, 2022, which is the start of our next fiscal year); and we started this year with an unassigned fund balance of 1.46%, which is one of the lowest in the State. It is also well below the expected target for our district of 8-12%, as directed by school board policy.

However, that light at the end of the tunnel is a much brighter financial future beginning next school year. Next year, we will build a solid financial foundation that includes working towards the goal of an unassigned fund balance between 8-12%. Next year also marks a new financial reality in which we do exactly what we said we were going to do when talking about the operating levy: **Improve compensation of teachers and support staff, moving towards the mid-range of comparable districts.** In addition to the focus on compensation, we will be restoring class size targets for next school year to what they were last year, and in doing so bringing back a number of teachers and other support staff positions who work most closely with students. In other words, beginning next year, the financial future of Shakopee Public Schools is much improved as compared to this school year.

When I joined the district a little over three years ago, I knew our district was facing a set of very unique, perplexing and often frustrating challenges. I believed I was coming to a district filled with dedicated staff and a community who cared deeply about our students, schools and community. And this is most certainly the case. Our employees are second to none, and our community sent a very clear message about how much they care about our students by approving the operating levy this past November. I also believed that if we dug in and worked together, we would find a path to a better financial future. I am certain that we are now on the verge of that reality.


Superintendent, Mike Redmond

LIFELONG LEARNING IN SHAKOPEE

With spring on its way, our Shakopee Saber staff and students are gearing up for the fourth quarter/ third semester! 700+ Shakopee High School seniors are set to walk across the graduation stage in June along with a Tokata Learning Center fourth quarter graduation that same month. 1,800+ middle school students worked to register for 2022/23 classes and are ready to continue exploring their passions and strengths. Student projects at our five elementary schools continue to showcase the incredible heart and creativity of all involved while future Sabers are gearing up for the Kindergarten Roundup in April. Pearson Early Learning Center is also quickly filling classes for the 2022/23 Stepping Stones Preschool Program and providing critical early childhood screenings for the community, and beyond.

Roughly 180 students in our present Shakopee Online Program, which will end this school year, continue to collaborate and learn together. Planning efforts for Saber Online, a new program starting in September, are underway.

District community partners and volunteers also continue to support our students and staff in numerous ways, and will be honored during Volunteer Appreciation Week the third week in April.

Thank you to our support staff and educators, students, families and community partners who have consistently come together to make it a great school year! It's always a great day to be a Saber!

120+

High School student Internships
(CAPS) with community businesses

2,689

Volunteer hours in our schools
during the month of January; over
1,570 volunteers are approved
throughout the district



SABER ACTIVITIES & ATHLETICS HIGHLIGHTS

Check out the latest Saber Activities & Athletics end of season highlights! We also are proud of the many accomplishments of our elementary and middle school teams, organizations and events throughout the district, as well as others that may not be listed below. Stay connected by visiting ShakopeeSabers.com! #saberpride

Athletics Highlights:

- Girls Basketball won the South Suburban Conference and made it to State Quarterfinals at the time of this newsletter.
- Boys Basketball won the South Suburban Conference, received the #1 seed and will be in the Section 2AAAA Finals at the time of this newsletter.
- Wrestling won the South Suburban Conference and finished in 3rd place at the State Tournament. Joel Makem won the 1st Girls State Title for Shakopee. The team also sent 9 individuals to State and had two individuals finish in 2nd place, Jadon Hellerud and Jade Trelstad.
- Boys Swimming finished in 4th place in the South Suburban Conference. Four individuals qualified for the State Tournament: Landon Vaupel (100 free and 400 relay), Ben Thompson (100 free, 200 free and 400 relay), Kale Flemming (400 relay) and Bennett Burfeind (400 relay).
- Boys Hockey won the most games in Saber history as an AA team. They fell in the quarterfinals of the section tournament to Minnetonka, 3-1, but had an impressive season!
- Girls Hockey finished strong and won their 1st section game vs. Jefferson before losing in the section semifinal, 3-1, to Holy Family. Great season!
- The Saber Dance Team finished 8th in the South Suburban Conference and 10th at the section meet!

Activities Highlights:

- The LEAD, student organized Culture-Fest will be held on Mar 24 at SHS.
- 20 DECA students made State finals and 10 qualified for Nationals!
- Amazing theatre performance of the Middle School Musical Rodger's & Hammerstein's "Cinderella."
- Shakopee Drama presented various One Act Plays and competed in the Sectional & Sub-Sectional Tournaments.
- Over 250 attendees supported the student-led Black History Month Showcase with a portion of the proceeds benefiting The Leukemia & Lymphoma Society.
- Various band and vocal performances continue throughout the district.
- Girls Bowling finished 12-2 as conference champs and took second in State.
- Rube Goldberg teams continue to push boundaries; the East Middle School team is even collaborating with their school resource officer!
- 8 Speech students qualified for Nationals, with another qualifier at the time of this newsletter.
- Rehearsals have started for the spring play, Almost, Maine with 19+ cast members and a large crew.
- Shakopee teams took first in all three levels of the regional Japan Bowl - two teams will compete Nationals (May).

JOIN OUR TEAM!

While summer is almost here, critical vacancies are still open. Spread the word and make a difference! Visit bit.ly/SPSEmployment today!

NOW
HIRING

DON'T MISS THE POLAR PLUNGE

Noon - 4pm | March 29

Shakopee High School

This event supports the Special Olympics-MN, Shakopee GLOmies and the Human Services Academy at Shakopee High School. Plungemn.org



SOCIAL MEDIA & DIGITAL CHOICES



Coming Together to Support YOUth

Parents/Guardians: Join Shakopee Public Schools, the Shakopee Police Department and an expert guest speaker from LiveMore ScreenLess for the first event of an ongoing series focused on social media, digital choices, youth voice and digital wellbeing.

The event will provide:

- Awareness of online safety & the digital environment
- Tips on what to watch for with online student activity
- Talking points & ways to initiate positive conversations with children of all ages
- Tools, strategies and resources on parenting in a digital age
- Insight on student perspective
- Q&A opportunity and live audience survey



Why should you attend? You are looking to increase engagement with your child(ren), gain access to tools and better understand the relationship among students, the district and our community as it relates to social media and digital choices.

TUESDAY, APRIL 26, 2022

6-7PM

Shakopee High School

Main Auditorium

Free, open to all

Translation support provided

No livestream

A post-event video will be available



LiveMore ScreenLess™
DIGITAL WELLBEING AND BALANCE



Contact

Communications@Shakopee.k12.mn.us
with any questions.

SAVE THE DATE! KINDERGARTEN ROUNDUP

April 19, 2022

5:30 - 7 pm

*Eagle Creek, Jackson,
& Sweeney
Elementary Schools*

April 21, 2022

5:30 - 7 pm

*Red Oak & Sun Path
Elementary Schools*

These fun-filled Saber events allow families and children to tour an elementary school, meet teachers, engage with specialists and more! Scan the QR code or visit bit.ly/SPSKinderInfo2022 to RSVP.



STEPPING STONES PRESCHOOL

Stepping Stones Preschool, located in Pearson Early Learning Center, offers a wide-range of preschool options including half-day and full-day programming when combining preschool and extended care through a partnership with the River Valley YMCA. Spots are still available for the 2022/23 school year. Scan the QR code or visit bit.ly/SS2022Reg to learn more.



SHAKOPEE SUMMER PROGRAMS

As Shakopee Public School continues to innovate and diversify, so do the needs of students. We are proud to continue to offer specialized summer programming for all students who meet Targeted Services or Credit Recovery criteria in the summer of 2022. Registration begins late April/early May. Visit Shakopee.K12.mn.us/SummerPrograms for more info.



ONLINE LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES TO SUPPORT TODAY'S LEARNERS

The Saber Online Program provides full-time opportunities for select K-8 grade levels and both full-time and part-time online learning for students in grades 9-12 starting in the 2022/23 school year. Scan the QR code or visit Shakopee.k12.mn.us/SaberOnline for more information.



THE PATH AHEAD

When voters approved the November 2021 operating levy, Shakopee Public Schools was able to take a large financial step forward. While the district's financial situation for the current school year has not changed, all forms of operating revenues including federal and state funding, operating levy and one-time funding (I.e. pandemic response funds) will help build an improved, well-constructed and ongoing financial reality. Take a look at the latest update of how the operating levy funds are working for you, the community and taxpayers of Shakopee Public Schools.

YOUR FUNDS WORKING FOR OUR STUDENTS

See how levy dollars from the November 2021 election will soon fund educational programs and day-to-day operations of our schools, as relayed prior to voter approval. All actions noted start in the 2022/23 school year as funds are not available until July 1, 2022.

QUESTION #1



Restore teachers, counselors, paraprofessionals positions and class size targets to previous levels

- ✓ Smaller class sizes
- ✓ More student services and greater mental health support



Eliminate projected structural budget deficits

Goal is to have 8-12% in the unassigned fund balance per school board policy

- ✓ 2022/23 school year budget is balanced
- ✓ Actual June 30, 2021 unassigned general fund balance was \$1,450,808, 1.46%
- ✓ Projected June 30, 2022 unassigned general fund balance is \$4,135,195, 4.17%
- ✓ Draft projection of the June 30, 2023 unassigned general fund balance is \$7,973,123, 7.46%



Restore 5th Grade band, College in the Schools/ Concurrent Enrollment Courses and ACT student fee payments

- ✓ Restoring the following CIS courses:
 - Intro to Literature
 - University Writing
 - American Democracy in a Changing World
 - Spanish 1004
 - Public Speaking (for both 11th and 12th graders)
- ✓ Restoring the following Concurrent Enrollment courses (earn college credit):
 - Healthcare in the U.S.
 - Intro to Hospitality Management
 - Internship in Graphic Design
- ✓ Restored student ACT support
- ✓ Examining programming and schedules to provides better specialist learning services and experiences
- ✓ Restoring 5th Grade Band

QUESTION #2



Make additional improvements to class size target

- ✓ Due to COVID-19 pandemic disruptions, the most recent metro average classroom size comparison data (ESCU) is not applicable in the current school year. It will be advantageous to analyze ECSU data for the 2022/23 school year in order to make class size target adjustments beginning with the 2023/24 school year.



Shorten walking distances for grades 9 – 12 to 1.5 miles

- ✓ Shorter walking distances begin September 2022



Increase fine arts and activities offerings

- ✓ Planning with stakeholders group which includes teachers, students, school board and community members
- ✓ Parent/guardian feedback opportunity in March
- ✓ New activities starting in the 2022/23 school year

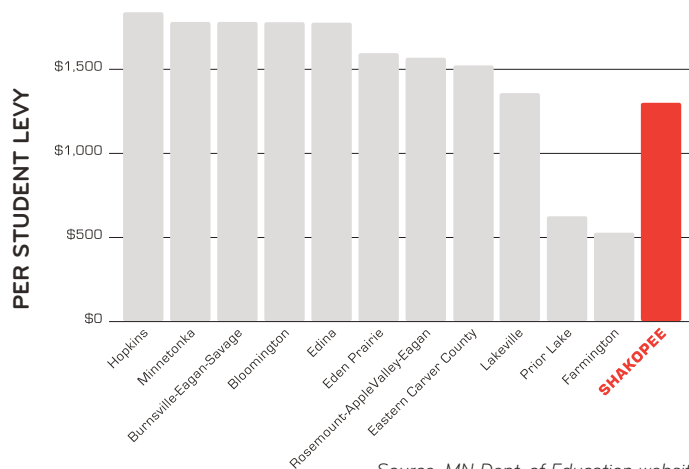


Improve compensation of teachers and support staff moving towards the mid-range of comparable districts

- ✓ Approved adjustments to teacher salary schedules
- ✓ Revamped schedule puts salaries of Shakopee teachers in the mid-range of comparable districts starting April 2023
- ✓ Working with support staff on future agreements to create new pay rates and schedules

VOTER APPROVED OPERATING LEVY COMPARISONS

As of July 1, 2022, Shakopee is no longer the only metro school district without a voter-approved operating levy. Funding allowed for \$1,266 per pupil to be provided, which is roughly equal to the \$1,267 metro average.



Source: MN Dept. of Education website



DID YOU KNOW?

JULY 2022

Funds from the November 2021 voter-approved operating levy will be realized and incorporated into operating funds starting July 1, 2022.

66.4%

of voters approved question 1 on the November 2, 2021 ballot;
62.7% voted yes on question 2.



"Starting July 1, a new financial reality will begin thanks to the support of our community. This new reality is exactly what the school board said we were going to do when sharing the need for an operating levy. We are pleased to be on this positive path forward."

- Kristi Peterson, School Board Chair

ACTUAL LEVY TAX IMPACT PAYABLE IN 2022 WILL BE LESS THAN EXPECTED

The tax impact on an average priced home in Shakopee of \$317,000 had an original estimated 2022 annual tax impact of \$598 for questions one and question two combined; both of which were **approved** by taxpayers during the November 2, 2021 special election. The **actual** annual tax impact on this household will be a total of \$409. This is \$189 less than expected.

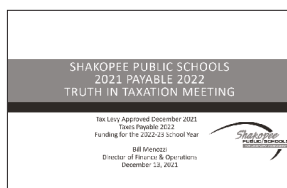
“The main variables that impact property taxes are changes in market values and class rates/history, voter approved referendums/operating levies and State adjustments,” shares Bill Menozzi, Director of Finance and Operations at Shakopee Public Schools. Per Menozzi’s presentation at the Hearing, the referendum market value increase of 7.99%, residential homestead inflationary increase of 3%, district bond refunding savings of \$8.06M (through 2035) and adjustments to the debt service excess fund balance all positively impacted the actual tax impact payable in 2022. “We are pleased to offer the community and our taxpayers savings on the approved operating levy, and for taxes payable in 2022,” shares Menozzi.

~~\$598~~
Projected 2022
Annual Tax Impact

\$409
Actual 2022
Annual Tax Impact

\$189
Less than
expected

On an average priced Shakopee home of \$317,000



The full Truth in Taxation Hearing presentation can be found online in the School Board agenda by scanning the QR code or visiting [Shakopee.k12.mn.us/DistrictFinance](https://shakopee.k12.mn.us/DistrictFinance). Additional finance information, such as enrollment projections and budget updates, can also be found online in District Finance Updates.



Thank you, again, to our community for supporting Shakopee Public Schools. Together, we will continue to educate lifelong learners and make a positive impact in the community, and beyond!



Facility Rental

With 11+ buildings, 1.7+ million square feet of space and 350+ acres of land, Shakopee Public Schools' facilities has something for everyone!

- ✓ State-of-the-art auditoriums with superior audio/visual systems
- ✓ Various gymnasium and cafeteria spaces
- ✓ Meeting rooms with reliable WiFi, AirPlay presentation features and flexible seating
- ✓ Outdoor turf and grass fields and indoor fieldhouse
- ✓ Ample parking and various ADA compliant features



Scan the QR code with your smartphone for rates and to request a space or visit bit.ly/SPSEFacilities

Additional questions? Contact Jaime Grossman at jgrossman@shakopee.k12.mn.us

Shakopee Public Schools is also a proud partner with the Shakopee Chamber & Visitors Bureau for lodging and tourism-related support for any event.

MULTI-CULTURAL FESTIVAL

Students, families and community members are invited to attend a multi-cultural festival this spring! Attendees are welcomed to dress in cultural attire. Food samples, dances and other unique activities will be available and made possible thanks to donations, volunteers and grants.

Tuesday, May 10
5:30-7:30pm
West Middle School, Cafeteria
 200 10th Avenue East, Shakopee

No RSVP required
 Questions? Please contact Myrène Schenck at 952.496.5042.



TEACHER APPRECIATION MONTH



Mark your calendar for Teacher Appreciation week & month in May! Stay tuned for ways to get involved!

TUNE INTO THE LATEST SABER SPORTS!

shakopeesabers.com/live



SABER SPOTLIGHTS

Saber pride moments happen every day in Shakopee. From committed educators and support staff to community partners, volunteers and most importantly, students, there's a lot of positive stories to share. Check out the below highlights and follow "Shakopee Schools" on social media for more Saber stories.

Lily Pad Project

For 23 Engineering & Manufacturing High School students, a unique project request from healthcare equipment designer and manufacturer CentiCare led to an exciting solution for pediatric hospital patients. bit.ly/LilyPadSPS



Students Educating Students

When a student has the chance to help inspire and educate their peers, it's truly an incredible moment. Learn more about how a West Middle School student, who is one of many, is leaving her mark. bit.ly/BHM_SPS2022



Family Heritage

Recently a Sweeney Elementary parent presented to a second grade class on his family's Native American heritage as part of an American History unit. The parent shared his family's membership with the Lac Courte Oreilles Ojibwe tribe in Hayward, Wisconsin while providing background on their native language, clan and history. There's nothing more impactful than a family sharing their heritage directly with others!





CELEBRATION of CHILDREN



\$20 • Color Run
\$30 • 5K

Online registration
closes June 1

Scan for details or visit
bit.ly/2022ShakoChildRun



UPCOMING IMPORTANT DATES



Mar 17 | Coffee with the
Superintendent
District Office Welcome Center

Mar 21 | School Board
Business Meeting
Shakopee High School

Mar 25 | K-12 2-Hour Early Release

Apr 1 | No School – K-12 Students

Apr 4 - 8 | No School – Students & Staff
Spring Break

Apr 11 | School Board Work Session
District Office Board Room

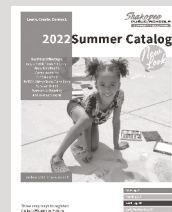
Apr 14 | Coffee with the
Superintendent
District Office Welcome Center

Apr 25 | School Board
Business Meeting
Shakopee High School

BECOME A SABER

Come experience the Shakopee difference by enrolling in Shakopee Public Schools today. Various options are available at Stepping Stones Preschool and applications are being accepted for 2022/23 Kindergarten programs. Additional PreK-12 enrollment support is provided by the district Welcome Center.

Visit [Shakopee.k12.mn.us](https://shakopee.k12.mn.us) and click Enroll for more information! You can also scan the QR code above with your smartphone.



COMMUNITY EDUCATION

Shakopee Community Education is a partnership offering lifelong growth opportunities for everyone in a supportive environment. The Summer 2022 catalog will be arriving at homes soon and includes various adult, youth, family and early learning opportunities that you won't want to miss! Visit [Shakopee.k12.mn.us/CommunityEd](https://shakopee.k12.mn.us/CommunityEd) to learn more!

3 Easy Ways to Register:
Online, in-person or by phone!