

TOPICS AND PRESENTERS

MAYOR/SCHOOL LEADERSHIP CONVERSATION

Mayor Jim Hovland welcomed everyone to the July 12, 2021 RCM meeting.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

- **September 13th Meeting, 11:30-1:30PM** will be held in-person at the Minneapolis Club: Economic Recovery with Peter Frosh, Greater MSP. Parking and lunch will be provided.
- **October 18th Meeting, 11:30-1:30PM** will be held in-person in St. Louis Park*
 - *Please note, this is the third Monday, some cities are closed on October 11

MAYOR/SCHOOL LEADERSHIP CONVERSATION

Mayor Jim Hovland welcomed [Curt Johnson](#) as facilitator of the Mayors/School Leadership conversation.

Questions to guide the discussion:

1. **Covid: Cities and schools had to pivot fast. What did your district learn from the pandemic experience? What changes will students see next fall from what you learned?**

COVID - What did we learn?

- We have to work together – the only way is through and together.
 - Have grace with others and ourselves.
 - Adaptability is a critical human skill.
 - Tolerate the unknowns and ambiguity.
 - Be able to effectively communicate – even if the answer is “we don’t know right now”.
 - Importance of leading, being present (visible), and responsive in the face of imperfect information.
 - You cannot communicate enough - found new ways for communication and outreach (social media, town halls, translation services)
- Covid was first a health crisis - deep cleaning, looking to the county and school nurses for expertise.
- Education has a reputation being slow to change. We proved that can change quickly when the focus was entirely on the new delivery.
 - Organizations and systems have much greater agility than we ever thought possible.
- Need to equip the system and our students to be prepared for change
 - Prepare vs equip – nobody was prepared. There were organizations and people that were equipped. Shift from a prepare mindset to equip mindset.
- Different teaching skills – online or in-person
- Interpersonal relationships are essential
- Family support system is a must
 - Teachers had to be able to identify where the gaps in support were.

- Distance learning brought class into the living room
- Going forward, the goal most certainly still includes engagement with families.
- Communities rely on public schools (meals, activities, workday care, ect...)
- Not all schools are the same. There is not a once size fits all approach.
- Students of color felt they were seen more, and were called on more.
- Safer from bullying and micro-aggressions

2. Race / Diversity / Equity: We are all learning. Both the extreme left and the extreme right attract criticisms. How do we navigate between these extremes?

Race/Diversity/Equity

- Anything that exists in our communities, exists in our schools
- Stop politicizing race
- Discipline/law enforcement/school resource officers collaborate
- Schools/cities are not monolithic
- Success of democracy – critical thinkers who can wrestle w/differing views
- It's harder to have difficult conversations – must learn how to bridge across differences
- Key to have students that are critical thinkers by providing multiple points of view and diverse perspectives.

3. Mental Health: We know that more leaders are exhausted and suffering from burnout. Reports suggest that students are experiencing more mental health issues. How big a problem is this in your district? How can we work together?

UPCOMING EVENT: [REGISTRATION LINK](#) - Wednesday, Aug. 4 at 2PM CDT, Partnering for Success – to explore how states can use Medicaid funds to expand their mental health supports in K-12 schools.

Mental Health

- Advance a stronger mental health system
 - Build a system that is responsive to their students and families.
- Need state facility for children
- There is a real increase and a real need for support.
- Schools and cities are interwoven in how schools discipline and how law enforcement is done. (School Recourse Officers).
- Student mental health is also impacted by housing and food insecurity
- Collaboration is important between county, school districts and city.

4. **Broadband:** The need for universal robust broadband has become a top, non-partisan priority. Hopeful, new investments in a state network are waiting in the wings – yet to be dispersed. As the new school year begins, what preparations are in place to overcome inequities?

Broadband

- Metro and rural issue
- Cost and family income – barriers
- Trapped by the provider system
- Must be a utility

5. **Let your mind fast forward: what will schooling look like in 10 years?**

Looking out ten years

- Funding security – focus on how to teach better, not keeping the system afloat; education is not getting cheaper.
- Things really haven't changed, same model
- What is our purpose for education?
- Make sure we don't go backwards.
- Meet needs of students – teaching to different shifts (time slots)
- Equip students to create their success
 - Student centered teaching.
- Whatever it takes for our students dreams to become reality. Learning happens outside of the 4 walls
- Will we see increased specialization, ie STEM specialization, foreign language, etc...?
- Less “competition”, more collaboration across the board!! Including the way we resource often through “grants”, but also through a collective sense of capacity building towards a joint vision.
- Flexibility re: seat time
 - Legislative and policy change to allow for more partnerships, internships and different models.
- Year round vs summer break?
- Focus on funding takes up so much time – are there new ways to go about funding?
- We also need to reimagine how people get into the teaching profession (their why), how they are prepared for the future of teaching and learning, and how they grow and thrive
- Global or regional virtual classrooms – great idea!

ATTENDANCE

MAYORS

James Hovland	City of Edina (co-chair)
Doug Anderson	City of Lakeville (co-chair)
Kirt Briggs	City of Prior Lake
Anne Burt	City of Woodbury
Ron Case	City of Eden Prairie
Jason Gadd	City of Hopkins
Joshua Hoyt	City of Farmington
Courtney Johnson	City of Carver
Marvin Johnson	City of Independence
John Keis	City of Little Canada
Stephanie Levine	City of Mendota Heights
Chris Lund	City of Hamburg
Julie Maas-Kusske	City of Maple Plain
Amáda Márquez Simula	City of Columbia Heights
Deb McMillan	City of Victoria
Kari Niedfeldt-Thomas	City of New Brighton
Jake Spano	City of St. Louis Park
Randy Stille	City of St. Anthony Village
Janet Williams	City of Savage
Brad Wiersum	City of Minnetonka
Jeff Wosje	City of Plymouth

CONVERSATION FACILITOR

Curt Johnson

SCHOOL LEADERSHIP

Erica Allenburg, School Board Chair, Edina Public Schools; Todd Anderson, Roseville Area School Board; Theresa Battle, Superintendent, Burnsville, Eagan, Savage; Jason Berg, Superintendent, Farmington Area Schools; Anne Casey, St. Louis Park School Board; Rose Chu, Roseville Area School Board; Kristine Flesher, Superintendent, Orono Schools; Kitty Gogins, Roseville Area School Board; Curtis Johnson, Roseville Area School Board; Jenny Loeck, Superintendent, Roseville Area Schools; Julie Nielsen, Superintendent, South Washington County Schools; Peter Olson-Skog, Superintendent, West St. Paul, Mendota Heights, Eagan Area Schools; Astein Osei, Superintendent, St. Louis Park Public Schools; Christine Osorio, Superintendent, North St. Paul, Maplewood, Oakdale; Teri Staloch, Superintendent, Prior Lake, Savage Area Schools; Mike Redmond, Superintendent, Shakopee Public Schools; Josh Swanson, Superintendent, Eden Prairie Schools

GUESTS

Andrea Inouye, City of Minneapolis, Mayor Frey's Office; Charlie Yunker, City Manager, City of Saint Anthony Village

ULI MINNESOTA

Caren Dewar, Stephanie Brown, Rachel Keenan, Cathy Bennett

UPCOMING MEETINGS

- **Monday, September 13, 11:30-1:30PM – Minneapolis Club**
- **Monday, October 18, 11:30-1:30PM** – please note, this is the third Monday, some cities are closed on October 11