

SUPERINTENDENT'S UPDATE

SEPTEMBER 29, 2023



Dear CPU Families, Staff, and Community Members:

I believe one of the (many) responsibilities a school superintendent has is informing and providing educational information to the patrons and stakeholders of a district. This can be for a variety of topics including student achievement, operations and management, finances, or as with this update, delivering information relevant to the role of the school board and its members along with general information on the upcoming election.

A school board has many responsibilities and is essentially the governing body for the district. Major roles/activities include: (1) Establish the vision, goals, and priorities of the district; (2) Annually approve the budget; (3) Set sound policy; (4) Hire and evaluate the superintendent. There are of course many other activities school board members engage in but a primary action is to consider and vote on school district matters (versus my role as the superintendent which is to recommend and implement the board's collective will).

At the September 14, 2023, Regular CPU School Board Meeting, board members reviewed the board's August 2022 Work session with the Iowa Association of School Boards (IASB). The document for that work session can be found by clicking the IASB logo below and focused on two major questions: **"(1) Two years from now, what do you want the public and staff to be saying about the school board? (2) What is one big contribution you want the public and staff to be able to say this board has made to the school district?"**

All CPU board members then shared out their focus in the past year and included:

- Work sessions that emphasize data, particularly on student achievement, to ensure all students learn at high levels including supporting the Professional Learning Community (PLC) process the district has implemented
- Communications including seeking input from the parents, staff, and the public
- Aligning systems within the district which helps teachers feel supported
- Student safety (emotional and physical)

This highlights some of the great, reflective work our school board has done to fulfill the district's mission statement *"...to develop successful, life-long learners by providing a safe and caring environment, a stimulating curriculum, and a dedicated staff working with supportive parents in a friendly, small-town atmosphere."*

A school board position is unpaid but in principle is priceless for its focus and impact on students. I would like to publicly thank all current and prior school board members along with school board candidates for their commitment to CPU. On November 7th, 2023, school board elections will take place and the Center Point-Urbana CSD has six candidates running for three seats including:

- **District 2:** Nick Larson and Aaron Maue
- **District 3:** Sarah Eikenberry and Alan Marshall
- **At Large:** Amber Hoskins and Ann Wooldridge

A cornerstone of our great country is voting and the ability to participate in democracy, so I encourage all district stakeholders to vote in the upcoming elections. Thank you all for your continued support!

Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "John W. Elkin".

John W. Elkin



#CPUNation