



**Spring 2026 Leadership for Well-being Summit  
in partnership with [Minnetonka Public Schools](#)**

Wednesday, May 6 – Friday, May 8, 2026

Headquarters Hotel: [Minneapolis Marriott Southwest](#), 5801 Opus Parkway, Minnetonka, Minnesota, 55343

**Essential Questions:**

- ✚ **Measure what matters:** How are you measuring your mental health initiatives and monitoring progress?
- ✚ **Prioritize student centered learning-** How is your district prioritizing student belonging, mental health, and social, emotional, and life skill development?
- ✚ **Community partners-**How are you maximizing your partnerships in efforts to better support students and families to gain more traction?
- ✚ **Measurement-** What tools and strategic processes are you utilizing to measure and monitor progress at the student and system level?
- ✚ **Staff Well-being-** How do you proactively promote staff well-being? Have you cracked the code on identifying and supporting staff mental health and well-being?

**Wednesday, May 6**

**Location: HQ Hotel**

2:30 – 2:50 PM	Check-in at the Headquarter Hotel ( <i>room to be provided</i> )	
2:50-3:15 PM	Welcome, Introductions and <a href="#">AASA Public Education Promise</a>	<p><b>John Malloy</b> Senior Vice President, Center for Leadership and Learning, AASA (VA)</p> <p><b>Dawn Bridges</b> Associate Director of Professional Development, Illinois Association of School Administrators (IL)</p> <p><b>Tobin Novasio</b> Superintendent, Hardin Public Schools (MT)</p>

3:15-4:00 PM	Partnering for Well-Being: Creating Healthier Communities Together	<b>Joyce Larkin</b> Head of the <a href="#">Centene Foundation</a> Centene Corporation (DC)
4:00-4:40 PM	Introduction to Minnetonka - Who we are as a District - Overview of Summit Goals and Agenda	<b>David Law</b> Superintendent, Minnetonka Public Schools (MN) and AASA President
4:40-4:45 PM	Housekeeping	<b>Stephanie St. John</b> Program Manager, AASA (VA)
4:45-5:00 PM	Break	
5:00-6:00 PM	Reception Location: HQ Hotel	
<i>Link to Host District suggestions: <a href="#">Area dining and activities</a></i>		

<b>Thursday, May 7</b>		<b>Location: Minnetonka PS (depart - HQ Hotel)</b>	
<b><i>Breakfast on your own (Blue Birch Restaurant opens at 6:30 AM)</i></b>			
7:45-8:00 AM	Meet in the HQ lobby at 7:45 AM. <b>Address:</b> Minneapolis Marriott Southwest, 5801 Opus Parkway, Minnetonka, MN 55343  We will load and depart promptly at 8:00 AM for site visits. You have been assigned to either the blue or red group. We will travel together on one bus. Please follow instructions at each stop and remain with your group.		
<b>Group 1</b> 8:00- 8:20 AM	Travel to <a href="#">Minnetonka Excelsior Elementary School</a> Address: 441 Oak Street, Excelsior, MN 55331		
<b>Group 1</b> 8:20-8:50 AM	Welcome and Tour Minnetonka Excelsior Elementary School	<b>Jennifer Smasal</b> Principal, Excelsior Elementary School, Minnetonka Public Schools (MN)	
<b>Group 2</b> 8:20-8:30 AM	Travel to <a href="#">Minnetonka High School</a> Address: 18301 MN-7, Minnetonka, MN 55345		
<b>Group 2</b> 8:30-9:15 AM	Welcome and Tour <b>Minnetonka High School</b>	<b>Jeff Erickson</b> Principal, Minnetonka High School, Minnetonka Public Schools (MN)	

<b>Group 1</b> 8:50-9:20 AM	Load bus at <a href="#">Minnetonka Excelsior Elementary School</a> and travel to <b>Minnetonka Middle School West</b> Address: 6421 Hazeltine Blvd., Excelsior, MN 55331	
<b>Group 1</b> 9:20-10:15 AM	Welcome and tour <b>Minnetonka Middle School West</b>	<b>Freya Schirmacher</b> Principal, Minnetonka Middle School West, Minnetonka Public Schools (MN)
<b>Group 2</b> 9:15-9:35 AM	Load bus at <a href="#">Minnetonka High School</a> and travel to <a href="#">Minnetonka Middle School East</a> Address: 17000 Lake Street Extension Minnetonka, MN 55345	
<b>Group 2</b> 9:35-10:30	Tour <b>Minnetonka Middle School East</b>	<b>Pete Dymit</b> Principal, Minnetonka Middle School East, Minnetonka Public Schools (MN)
<b>Group 1</b> 10:15-10:30 AM	Load bus at <b>Minnetonka Middle School West</b> and travel to <b>Minnetonka Middle School East</b> , 17000 Lake Street Extension, Minnetonka, MN 55345	
<b>Group 2</b> 10:30-10:45 AM	Load bus at <b>Minnetonka Middle School East</b> , and <b>ALL</b> travel to <b>Minnetonka Education Center</b> , 18707 Old Excelsior Blvd., Minnetonka, MN	
10:45-11:00 AM	Break	
11:00 AM-12:00 AM	Developmental Relationships Framework <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Overview of the framework</li> <li>• Student data and trends over time</li> <li>• Measuring the impact of belonging-focused practices</li> </ul>	Dr. LaDue, Sara White, Jeff Erickson
12:00 AM – 12:45 PM	MTSS and Embedded SEL Systems <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• District MTSS framework overview</li> <li>• Embedding SEL into all classes</li> <li>• Supporting staff through systems design</li> <li>• Featuring work with Clay Cook</li> </ul>	Dr. LaDue, Dr. Breen
12:45-1:30 PM	Lunch <b>Location:</b> Minnetonka Education Center, 18707 Old Excelsior Blvd., Minnetonka	
1:30–2:30 PM	SAEBRS Screener / Early Warning System Overview <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• How staff are trained to use SAEBSRS data</li> <li>• Trends over time and early identification of student needs</li> <li>• Data to Responsive Action</li> </ul>	<b>Christine Breen</b> Exec Director Student Support Services, Minnetonka Public Schools, (MN)  <b>Matt Breen</b> Director Research Analysis Sys Improve, Enrichment Class Instructor, Assessment Coord, Minnetonka Public Schools, (MN)
<i>Cont'd</i> 1:30–2:30 PM		

		<b>Amy LaDue</b> Assistant Superintendent, Minnetonka Public Schools, (MN)
2:30-2:45 PM	Break	
2:45-3:30 PM	District Tools and Resources, Training, and Community Partnerships  Panel: Community partners & District mental health professionals  Focus areas: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Tools, Resources, Training</li> <li>● Current partnership efforts</li> <li>● Successes and challenges</li> <li>● Strategies for amplifying student and family support</li> </ul>	<b>Christine Breen</b>  <b>Courtney Davis</b> School Counselor Minnetonka Public Schools, (MN)  <b>Jonna Hirsch</b> School Psychologist Minnetonka Public Schools, (MN)  <b>Alex McCannel</b> Licensed Marriage and Family Therapist, Alex McCannel Consulting (MN) <b>Annie Lumbar Bendson</b> Director of Health Services Minnetonka Public Schools, (MN)  <b>Jess White</b> Director of Learning, Development, and Educator Effectiveness Minnetonka Public Schools, (MN)
3:30-4:00 PM	Reflection, Synthesis, and Teamwork Time <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Summary of learning from the day</li> <li>● Time for group discussion and application</li> </ul>	<b>Tobin Novasio</b>
4:00-4:30 PM	Load bus and travel to Headquarter Hotel.	
4:30-6:00 PM	Break	
6:00-8:00 PM	Dinner Hosted by Centene Location: Hotel ( <i>room to be provided</i> )	

<b>Friday, May 8</b>		<b>Location: HQ Hotel</b>
<b><i>Breakfast on your own</i></b>		
8:00-8:10	Welcome back ( <i>room to be provided</i> )	<b>Dawn Bridges</b>
8:10-8:20	Welcome from MASA	<b>David Law</b> (introductions)  <b>Deb Henton</b> Executive Director of the Minnesota Association of School Administrators (MN)
8:20-8:50	Wellness-Centered Leadership in Action: What Minnetonka Shows Us About Leadership for Learning & Well-Being	<b>Tobin Novasio</b> (introduction)  <b>Jennifer Reed</b> Senior Director, District Programs, The JED Foundation (NY)  <b>Sheril Menefee</b> Senior Consultant, Mental Health & Suicide Prevention, The JED Foundation (NY)
9:00-9:45 AM	Table Talk Topics <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Reflection on school visits</li> <li>● Follow-up questions and cross-district dialogue</li> <li>● Opportunity for roundtables or panel – roundtables would allow folks to dive deep into something they saw.</li> </ul>	<b>Minnetonka District Team</b>
9:45-10:40	Facilitated Discussion: Educator Wellness & Burnout Prevention <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Proactive strategies to support educator mental health</li> <li>● Systems to identify and address burnout early</li> <li>● Creating cultures where staff feel supported and able to thrive</li> <li>● Participant sharing and problem-solving</li> </ul>	<b>Minnetonka District Team</b>
10:40- 10:50	Break	
10:50-10:55	Staff Connection and Support	<b>David Law</b>  <b>Karen Borchert</b> Founder & CEO Alpaca (NE)

10:30-11:20	Bringing it all together <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Key takeaways and next steps</li> </ul>	<b>Dawn Bridges</b>
11:20-11:50 AM	2026-2027 Leadership for Well-being and Learning Cohort and Fall Site Visit Highlights	<b>Tobin Novasio</b>  <b>Brian Luizzi</b> Superintendent, New Canaan Public Schools (CT)
11:50 AM-12:00 PM	An original poem by Dana Bowser reflecting on the Leadership for Well-being and Learning Summit	<b>Dana Bowser</b> Director of Student Success and Engagement, Chester Upland School District (PA) and AASA LWL Advisory Member
12:00 PM	Adjourn	

**Registration for the 2026-2027 Leadership for Well-being and Learning Cohort is now open! Click link to learn more: <https://www.aasa.org/professional-learning/event/2026/09/09/default-calendar/leadership-for-well-being-and-learning-cohort>**

## Thank you to our Partners



**Summit partner:**  
**alpaca**

**We appreciate all the support and collaboration you provide to successfully impact students, staff, families, and communities!**