



Report to Osseo Area Schools Weaver Lake Feasibility Study

ECMAC Meeting September 23, 2019

Presenters:

Kelly Bucherie, NIMSL Director

Beth Cochran, NIMSL Lead Consultant



Who We Are



Kelly Bucherie, Director for the National Institute for Magnet School Leadership, MSA. Former Assistant Superintendent, Supervisor, and Principal in Clark County School District. Kelly consults with districts providing program evaluation and action plans.



Beth Cochran, NIMSL Consultant, Current Senior Director of Magnet and Curriculum Enhancement Schools and MSAP Project Director, Wake County Public School District. Served as a magnet teacher, principal and project director.



Billie Rayford, NIMSL Consultant, Former Associate Superintendent, Clark County School District.



Background

- District contracted with the National Institute for Magnet School Leadership (NIMSL) to assist in analyzing the feasibility of the recommendation from ECMAC to move the STEM magnet program from Weaver Lake to Oak View Elementary
- NIMSL is a leadership development platform and technical assistance arm of Magnet Schools of America



Process

- In May of 2019, a NIMSL Consultant conducted site visits at Oak View Elementary School and Weaver Lake STEM Elementary School
- Additionally, a NIMSL Consultant conducted a parent input session at Weaver Lake STEM Elementary School and a review of their STEM magnet program based on the 5 Pillars and 10 Standards of National Magnet School Excellence
- Two NIMSL consultants met with central administration from Osseo Area Schools and Northwest Suburban Integration School District

- *Facilities & Maintenance
- *Magnet School Budgets
- *Transportation
- *Human Resources
- *Research & Development
- *Equity & Diversity
- *Curriculum & Professional Development
- *Special Education
- *English Language Learners
- *ECMAC recommendations



National Magnet Schools Pillars and Standards

Diversity

1. Student Recruitment and Selection
2. Diversity and Equity

Innovative Curriculum and Professional Development

3. Theme and Curriculum Fidelity
4. Professional Development

Academic Excellence

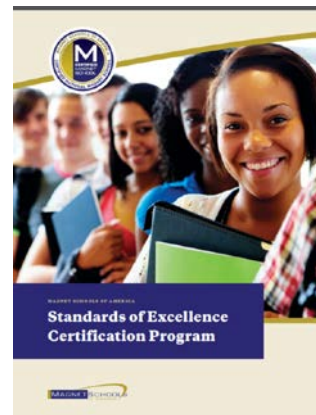
5. Instructional Fidelity
6. Student Achievement

High Quality Instructional Systems

7. Leadership & Educator Development
8. District and Specialty Program Relations

Family and Community Partnerships

9. Community Engagement and Partnerships
10. Family Engagement and Communications



Findings

- ✓ Never in NIMSL's experience has a district moved a successful and operating magnet school to another location. Instead, districts replicate successful magnets in other schools in the district
- ✓ In the review of all magnet schools in the district, Weaver Lake was the only magnet school that met or exceeded expectations in all of the National Standards of Magnet School Excellence
- ✓ Weaver Lake is one of two magnet schools in the district that reflects the demographic makeup of the district
- ✓ Both Weaver Lake and Oak View are based on the Minnesota Academic and Osseo Area Schools curriculum standards



Findings

- ✓ Over a period of 12 years, Weaver Lake has developed a “Value Added” set of standards to support the STEM theme and attract students to the school. For example, conducting scientific investigations, solving real problems in their community
- ✓ Staff at Weaver Lake has been trained over the past 12 years to deliver the “Value Added” curriculum to implement their STEM theme
- ✓ All of the Weaver Lake parents, that attended the parent input session at Weaver Lake, had major concerns about moving the STEM program to Oak View



Recommendation

NIMSL strongly encourages Osseo Area Schools to have Weaver Lake STEM Magnet remain at the current location and to explore other options to address student growth and facility use in Osseo Area Schools



Recommendation (Cont.)

Based on the site visits, interviews, document review and our professional experiences, moving Weaver would have an immediate and significant impact on the quality of the academic program.

- Quality educational programming is deeply intertwined with the location and culture of the Weaver staff
- Amenities of the Weaver site are unique and contribute to the “Value Add” of the STEM program
- These amenities are an integral part of the success of the program and the draw for parents, students and staff of the Weaver Lake community
- There is significant concern that the diverse student body achieved at Weaver Lake would be compromised with a move to Oak View which would undermine equity work in the district
- Moving Weaver Lake would jeopardize the high-quality program that is currently recognized by Magnet Schools of America as a Nationally Certified Magnet School



Thank You!

