



MONONA GROVE
SCHOOL DISTRICT

September 13, 2023 Board Meeting



4K-2 School Grade Configuration

- **August 8, 2018:** the School Board voted to adopt a transition model which would make Taylor Prairie School grades 4K-K and Cottage Grove School grades 1-2, upon the opening of Granite Ridge School (grades 3-5) in 2021.
 - **September 1, 2021:** New grade configuration in Cottage Grove begins (Taylor Prairie as 4K-K, Cottage Grove School as Grades 1-2, Granite Ridge School as Grades 3-5).
 - **February 27, 2023:** the Teaching, Learning and Equity Committee received an update from administrators and held discussion on the impact of grade transitions in elementary schools.
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4K-2 School Grade Configuration

- **May 24, 2023:** the Teaching, Learning and Equity Committee discussed the evaluation process for grade configuration of 4K-2 elementary schools in Cottage Grove.
 - **June 14, 2023:** the School Board received an update on the Teaching, Learning and Equity Committee's work on evaluation process for grade configuration of 4K-2 elementary schools in Cottage Grove.
 - **August 22, 2023:** the Teaching, Learning and Equity Committee continued the discussion on the evaluation process and came to a consensus on a recommendation to the School Board for consideration at the September 13, 2023 meeting.
 - **September 11, 2023:** the Teaching, learning and Equity Committee met and reached consensus on a revised timeline for implementation of the grade configuration proposal.
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4K-2 School Grade Configuration

- Review of Key Considerations:
 - Student Experience
 - Financial Impact
 - Communication & Engagement (Families, Staff, Community)
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Key Consideration: Student Experience

- Teaching & Learning
 - Social Emotional Learning
 - Students as Peer Support in School Community
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Student Experience: Teaching and Learning

- Co-planning remains consistent in any grade-configuration
 - Foundational Curriculum remains the same
 - Specialists and relationships over four years would strengthen; contribute co-planning by knowing students and their needs more deeply
 - Academic Trends over time and discussion among teachers - increased knowledge across larger grade span rather than so specialized
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Student Experience: Social Emotional Learning

- Relationships between students and adults
 - Relationships are important for all students, critical for some
 - Specialists and Student Services staff would be consistent for four years, classroom teachers would be familiar faces in the building and available for relationship-building and connection
 - Continuity with SEL instruction and Co-Planning
 - Comfort with the school environment - familiarity and consistency over four years
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Student Experience: Students as Peer Support in School Community

- Role models: older students w/ younger students available in 4K-2
 - Students gaining opportunities for leadership and “buddies” in 4K-2
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Key Consideration: Financial Impact

- Staff FTE
 - No changes in total FTE
 - School Facilities
 - 4K Wrap care program
 - Cubbies
 - Bathroom adjustment
 - Kitchen / Cafeteria
 - Playground
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Key Consideration: Financial Impact

- 2023-2024 Sections/Enrollment
 - Taylor Prairie - 278 students
 - 4K - 8 sections
 - 5K - 8 sections
 - Cottage Grove School - 310 students
 - 1st - 8 sections
 - 2nd - 7 sections
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Key Consideration: Financial Impact

- 2024-2025 Projected Sections/Enrollment
 - Taylor Prairie - 290 students
 - 4K - 8 sections
 - 5K - 8 sections
 - Cottage Grove School - 320 students
 - 1st - 8 sections
 - 2nd - 8 sections
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Key Consideration: Financial Impact

- 2025-2026 Projected Sections/Enrollment
 - Taylor Prairie - 310 students
 - 4K - 4 sections
 - 5K - 4 sections
 - 1st - 4 sections
 - 2nd - 4 sections
 - Cottage Grove School - 310 students
 - 4K - 4 sections
 - 5K - 4 sections
 - 1st - 4 sections
 - 2nd - 4 sections
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Key Consideration: Financial Impact

- Transportation
 - Grade configuration would not lead to an increase in number of routes or cost increase
 - Similar or shorter travel times
 - Will consider adjusting bell times by 5-10 minutes for efficiency (student experience will be priority)
 - Instructional Materials/Supplies
 - Potentially costs for school library
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Key Consideration: Communication & Engagement

- Message to elementary staff June 1, 2023
 - Meeting with elementary staff, focus on detail with CGS and TPS staff, week of 8/28
 - Meeting with all elementary CGS and TPS staff 9/12
 - Plan for additional follow-up after September 13 Board meeting

 - Message to families September 6, 2023
 - To families currently 4K-1, and any families whose data we can pull who have a child 0-3 years old
 - To all other district families
 - Follow-up to families after September 13 Board meeting if warranted by Board action
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Key Consideration: Communication & Engagement

- Webpage, including FAQs and tentative plan for second phase, will begin to be published and promoted following Board decision
 - Information and consultation with community to follow for second phase (ie., how the Board's decision will be planned for and implemented)
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Key Consideration: Communication & Engagement

- Need to remain flexible on communication and calendar to align with decision making touchpoints and so we can best respond to community feedback.
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TLE Committee Recommendation

The committee recommends implementation of the 4K-2 Grade Configuration Proposal for Cottage Grove School and Taylor Prairie School to begin in the 2025-2026 school year.

