

ENVISION SPPS

REPORT TO BOARD OF EDUCATION

March 21, 2023

CONTENTS

[Envision SPPS Implementation Phases](#)

[Phase 4 \(SY22-23\)](#)

[Program Renaming](#)

[LEAP Program Move](#)

[Phase 2 \(SY22-23\)](#)

[Barack and Michelle Obama](#)

[Fact finding to provide qualitative data](#)

[Spanish/English Two-Way Immersion Workgroup](#)

[East African Language and Culture Workgroup](#)

Envision SPPS Implementation Phases

Phase 1: Individual school communities build understanding/healing + support personal choices	Winter	Spring	Summer	Fall+
Phase 2: Sending and receiving school communities jointly plan for change, build relationships and community	Winter	Spring	Summer	Fall+
Phase 3: Staff/administration develop and implement financial, instructional, and operational plans	Winter	Spring	Summer	Fall+
Phase 4: School communities implement new programs, assess and plan next steps, and continue building together.	Winter	Spring	Summer	Fall+

Phase 4 (SY22-23)

Program Renaming

Two Envision SPPS schools are seeking to rename their program to better reflect their new identity.

1. The lower and upper campuses of **Phalen Lake Hmong Magnet** (lower) and the **Hmong Language and Culture Middle School** (upper) are in the process of renaming their schools. The name-change committee, composed of stakeholders from both school communities, is collecting input from staff and families about name suggestions. In March, the team will narrow down choices to five names and leverage conferences as a time to gather input from families. Once the choices are narrowed down to two names, the staff and students will vote on March 30. Both principals will present the name to the Board of Education for the first reading on April 18 with a final vote scheduled for June 20.
2. **Riverview West Side School of Excellence** has selected a new tagline of “Spanish/English Dual Immersion Program,” which was presented to the Board of Education in February 2023, constituting the first reading. The school administrator will present the second reading of the proposed tagline change in March for a final board vote in April.

LEAP Program Move

The LEAP move to the J. A. Johnson building for fall 2024 is on track and is being facilitated by a project team that meets monthly. Minor building construction improvements will be made this spring to accommodate older learners at the site.

Phase 2 (SY22-23)

Barack and Michelle Obama

The current elementary program at Barack and Michelle Obama will close at the end of the SY22-23 school year (its closure was delayed a year from that of other school closures/mergers). This year, the Obama staff, along with Student Placement Center staff, are working closely with each family to empower their active participation in choosing the best SPPS school for their child for next school year; see the [transition plan](#).

All students/families (100%) received written communication both in the fall and again when school choice season was launched with their fall reserved-seat information. The Student Placement Center is giving Obama students priority consideration for schools that are not their community school. To date, 66% (of 135 students) have submitted applications or confirmed that they want to proceed with their reserved seat. Student Placement staff continue to reach out to the remaining 34% via phone, text and email to identify whether there are other choices they would like to make.

Obama school staff also continue to engage individual families through email, text and phone calls, as well as school events. Plans are being made for possible on-site welcoming events from the receiving schools during the remainder of the school year.

On March 14, a Human Resources representative met with staff at Obama to review the application process for interview and selection and answer questions. The project manager assigned to Obama to help staff with the packing and moving process has conducted a site visit and will continue to engage staff throughout the spring months to ensure packing/moving is on track.

Fact finding to provide qualitative data

Spanish/English Two-Way Immersion Workgroup

The workgroup is composed of stakeholders from the Riverview and Wellstone school communities who have participated in three of four meetings to date. Group discussions are focused on the essential question of how can SPPS develop a strong academic experience for two-way language PreK-5 programs given the district's parameters around what constitutes a well-rounded education? Topics also covered include program articulation, enrollment and growth assessments. A report of the workgroup's findings will be provided to the Board of Education in May.

East African Language and Culture Workgroup

In February, a workgroup was formed to determine the feasibility of establishing a new elementary program focused on East African languages and cultures. The interest in the program was initiated by the Highwood Hills Elementary School community and its nearby Somali community. While Highwood Hills has launched a polytech program focus as of fall 2023, the workgroup is exploring if there is the population density and interest for SPPS to establish and sustain an East African program in SPPS. Workgroup findings will be finalized in late May and presented to the Board of Education shortly after.