INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 625  
Saint Paul, Minnesota  
COMMITTEE MEETING OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION  
Administration Building  
360 Colborne Street  
Saint Paul, Minnesota 55102  

March 6, 2024  
4:30 PM  

AGENDA  

1. CALL TO ORDER  
2. AGENDA  
   A. Superintendent's Announcements  
   B. Onward SPPS  
      1. Introduction  
      2. Presentation  
      3. Discussion  
      4. Action (TBD)  
   C. Community Use of Facilities (Permits)  
      1. Introduction  
      2. Presentation  
      3. Discussion  
      4. Action (TBD)  
3. ADJOURNMENT  
4. WORK SESSION  
   A. Board Goals and Community Engagement Process  

#BoldSubject#
Onward SPPS
Committee of the Board
Jackie Turner, Executive Chief Administration and Operations
March 6, 2024
Agenda: Onward SPPS updates

1. Flexible Calendar Year Workgroup
2. Karen Culture and Language Workgroup
3. African American Program Workgroup
Inspire students to think critically, pursue their dreams and change the world.

Crossroads Montessori and Crossroads Science
Crossroad’s Year-round Calendar: Background

● Convened workgroup due to concerns over student outcomes and retention
  ○ Last summer alone, 24 students dropped out between Memorial and the last day of Crossroads calendar year

● Conducted deep dive on student outcome data

● Surveyed staff on what type of support they believe students, families and staff will need to transition to traditional calendar
Crossroad’s Year-round Calendar: Background

● Only elementary school in Saint Paul operating on a year-round calendar

● Roughly nine weeks on and three weeks off; same number of student days as a traditional calendar

● Extended summer break broken into 3-week breaks in November, February, and May

  ○ During two of those three weeks off, summer school-like program offered called “Intersession” for students with academic needs, program focused on math, reading and writing

  ○ Advantages cited to year-round calendar is availability of additional learning opportunities through “Intersessions”; however, data does not show significant academic gains or other student outcomes, e.g., consistent attendance
Crossroad’s Year-round Calendar: Background

Challenges posed by year-round calendar:

- Due to November Intersession and February Intersession, Crossroads loses 6 weeks of instructional time, but still have to take MCA tests putting students 6 weeks behind on instruction when taking the MCAs.

- Having to start and stop school three times a year more than other sites blunts momentum to establish and maintain classroom rituals and routines.

- Year-round calendar challenging to families with children at both Crossroads and other SPPS schools on traditional calendar.

Additional costs:

- To run Crossroads as a year-round, co-located program is $226K more.

- If Crossroads transitions to traditional calendar, amount closer to $48K more.
Flexible Calendar Year Workgroup members

- Craig Anderson, Executive Director, Office of Teaching and Learning
- Tracy Buhl, Principal, Crossroads Elementary Science + Montessori Program
- Andrew Collins, Executive Chief of Schools & Learning
- Dr. Heidi Dunlap, Assistant Principal, Crossroads Elementary Science + Montessori Program
- Patrick Thuente, Teacher, Crossroads Elementary Science + Montessori Program
- Jackie Turner, Executive Chief Administration and Operations, Facilitator
- Dr. Yeu Vang, Assistant Superintendent
Crossroad’s Year-round Calendar: Staffing

Intercession staffing challenges:

- Over past 10 years, significant reduction in total staff at Crossroads
- Staffed on a voluntary basis, making it challenging to fill positions for the program
- Only Crossroads staff can staff Intersession as rest of district is still in session
- Teachers on Call not able to staff as would be taking teachers away from subbing, already a shortage of subs
- Crossroads staff would need to write lesson plans for external teachers which is time consuming
- Crossroads does leverage their TAs/EAs and other staff who have bachelor’s degrees, but they are not licensed teachers
- Have reached out to retired staff but have not been able to get anyone to commit to any of the sessions
Crossroads Montessori and Crossroads Science: Data Review
Inspire students to think critically, pursue their dreams and change the world.

Enrollment Counts

- Montessori
- Science

Graph showing enrollment counts from 2019 to 2024.
Consistent Attendance: Percent of students attending 90% or more from Q1-Q4

- 2021: Montessori 62%, Science 40%, District K-5 66%
- 2022: Montessori 54%, Science 43%, District K-5 57%
- 2023: Montessori 54%, Science 57%, District K-5 69%
Percent Proficient, Math MCA/MTAS

Inspire students to think critically, pursue their dreams and change the world.
Inspire students to think critically, pursue their dreams and change the world.

Percent Proficient, Reading MCA/MTAS

- 2019: Montessori 39%, Science 32%, District 35%
- 2021: Montessori 32%, Science 20%, District 34%
- 2022: Montessori 19%, Science 16%, District 23%
- 2023: Montessori 16%, Science 19%, District 23%
Inspire students to think critically, pursue their dreams and change the world.

Percent Proficient, Science MCA/MTAS

2019: Montessori 20%, Science 28%, District 30%
2021: Montessori 7%, Science 19%, District 19%
2022: Montessori 12%, Science 24%, District 24%
2023: Montessori 0%, Science 13%, District 27%
Percent of Students Scoring College Pathway/Low Risk, Fast aReading Grades 2-5

Inspire students to think critically, pursue their dreams and change the world.
Percent of Students with Typical/Aggressive Growth in Fall to Spring, Fast aReading Grades 2-5

- SY20-21:
  - Montessori: 31%
  - Science: 33%
  - District: 48%

- SY21-22:
  - Montessori: 52%
  - Science: 54%
  - District: 59%

- SY22-23:
  - Montessori: 64%
  - Science: 59%
  - District: 58%
Inspire students to think critically, pursue their dreams and change the world.

Continuation Rates, PK-4

- Montessori
- Science
- District
Staff Retention

**Crossroad Montessori Retention (465)**
- 17-18: 63%
- 18-19: 78%
- 19-20: 83%
- 20-21: 65%
- 21-22: 76%
- 22-23: 76%

**Crossroad Science Retention (466)**
- 17-18: 79%
- 18-19: 82%
- 19-20: 76%
- 20-21: 79%
- 21-22: 73%
- 22-23: 76%

**Elementary Schools Retention**
- 17-18: 83%
- 18-19: 85%
- 19-20: 85%
- 20-21: 81%
- 21-22: 85%
- 22-23: 81%

**District Retention**
- 17-18: 85%
- 18-19: 85%
- 19-20: 87%
- 20-21: 77%
- 21-22: 86%
- 22-23: 84%

*Average: Crossroad Montessori 74%, Crossroad Science 78%, Elementary Schools 83%, District 84%*
Inspire students to think critically, pursue their dreams and change the world.

Crossroads Montessori and Crossroads Science: Next Steps
Next Steps

● March 19: BOE vote on Crossroads calendar to transition to traditional calendar
  ○ NOTE: Science and Montessori programs will remain intact
● Spring 2024 though spring 2025:
  ○ Support staff, families and students in transitioning to new schedule/calendar
QUESTIONS?
Inspire students to think critically, pursue their dreams and change the world.

Karen Culture and Language Workgroup
Karen Workgroup Members

1. Naw Bu, Wellstone Elementary, teacher
2. Lucas Blesser, SPPS staff
3. Tansini Detpraiwan, parent
4. Hsajune Dyan, Assistant Principal, Washington Technology Magnet
5. Kyaw Hoe, Midwest North, Chairman
6. Pawter Hsahtoo, Pastor and Chairperson, Nazareth Karen Baptist Churches
7. Nay Htoo, Karen Community of Minnesota, Vice Chairman
8. Hla Min, SPPS staff
9. Lighter Moo, SPPS staff
10. Nue Nu, Wellstone Elementary, teacher
11. Jeffry Saw, Humboldt High School, Educational Assistance; Karen Community of Minnesota, Chairman
12. Eh Tah Khu, Co-executive director of Karen Organization of Minnesota
13. George Thawmoo, Karen Parent Advisory Committee, Chair
14. Mischael Timothilay, Como Park High School
15. Saw Sunshine Timothy, Karen Cultural Specialist, Family Engagement & Community Partnerships
16. Hsakushee Zan, Educational Assistant on Special Assignment, Office of Multilingual Learning
17. Kawlahay Zan, SPPS Translation Services
18. Ehtalow Zar, SPPS staff
Karen Culture and Language Workgroup: Background

- Workgroup convened after Karen staff approached SPPS leadership about Karen elementary program to preserve language and culture.

- Workgroup recommendations:
  - Karen Culture and Language Program (rather than Karen Language Program)
  - Wellstone Elementary as preferred location

- Opens fall 2024 with Kindergarten, will add grades in subsequent years.

- Will create a K-12 Karen program pathway:
  - Currently, four high schools offer Karen language classes: Como Park, Harding, Humboldt, and Washington Technology
    - Online Karen language classes available at all other district high schools
  - Starting fall 2024, two middle schools will offer Karen language classes at Humboldt and Washington Technology.
Facilities Considerations

- Reviewed 5 potential sites for Karen program based on:
  - Proximity to density of Karen population
  - Capacity to co-locate program for next 3 years
  - Citywide busing
## WELLSTONE

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>PROS</th>
<th>CONS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>▪ Geographic location</td>
<td>▪ Spaces currently assigned, would need to move programs around</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>▪ Underutilized space: 73% current building utilization</td>
<td>▪ Projections for Fall ‘24 indicate some additional demand for</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>□ 3-6 classrooms potentially available</td>
<td>classrooms</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>▪ No change to bus scheduling</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>▪ Karen staff already onsite</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Where are Karen communities located in St. Paul by census data?

- The major Census Tracks according to the U.S. Census 2020 Decennial Census with more than significant numbers of Burmese alone or in any combination ancestry are located in the north end of St. Paul.
- Totals include all ages of Burmese ancestry.
- While significant clusters exist in Frogtown, Dayton’s Bluff, and North End, a wide distribution of 1-10 students clusters are prominent across the north east neighborhoods of St. Paul.
Next Steps: Marketing and Recruitment

Marketing and recruitment campaign to fill up to 2 Kindergarten sections = 48 students
Next Steps: Curriculum Development

- Phased curriculum development:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Suggested Phasing in of Program (subject to change)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Phase 1: Year 1</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Specialist <strong>Enrichment</strong> through a Karen language class</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Phase 2: Year 2</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Specialist <strong>Enrichment</strong> (# is dependent on enrollment; ideas include Karen language class, art, and performing arts, physical education)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Phase 3: Year 3</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Integration of Culture and Language</strong> (phase in by grade level or content)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
QUESTIONS?
African American Program Workgroup
African American Program Workgroup: Purpose Statement

Determine how SPPS can provide a well-rounded and sustainable elementary program focused on the African American experience, history, and culture while partnering with families to increase the educational outcomes and long-term success of African American students.
African American Workgroup Members

1. Chauntyll Allen, SPPS Board of Education, Director
2. Mary K. Boyd
3. Emmanuel Donaby, St. Paul City School, Director of Community Education
4. Zuki Ellis
5. Gevonne Ford, Network for the Development of Children of African Descent
6. Jeanelle Foster
7. Corey Frazier, Freedom School
8. Marcus Freeman, Capitol Hill Gifted & Talented Magnet, SPPS principal
9. Sharon Freeman
10. Dr. Darlene Fry, Irreducible Grace Foundation
11. Carita Green, Executive Director, College and Career Pathways and School Supports, SPPS
12. Dr. Darcel Hill, Freedom School
13. Yusef Mgeni, NAACP NAACP - Education Committee
   - Julie Borgerding
   - Dr. Cheryl Chatman
14. Patricia Pratt-Cook, Executive Chief of Human Resources, SPPS
15. Kea Sparkman, School Counselor, AGAPE High School
16. Tyrone Terrill, African American Leadership Council; African American Leadership Council - Education Committee:
   - Shantell Hutchinson
   - Dr. Tamara Mattison
   - Aquanetta Speed
17. Dr. Kenneth Turner, Benjamin E. Mays International Baccalaureate, SPPS principal
18. Erica Valliant, SPPS Board of Education, Director
African American Program Workgroup: Background

- Researching local and national Afrocentric programs for best practices to inform programming
  - Children’s Defense Fund - Freedom School
    - Met with local and national leaders to explore potential partnership agreement
  - Harvest Best Academy
- Location and timeline still being determined
  - Location informed by 70% African American student population criteria
  - Timeline informed by bargaining unit contractual obligation; program likely to open either fall 2024 or 2025
Next Steps

- Identify program location
- Determine when program will open
- Identify curriculum and professional development needs and timeline
- Outline budget
QUESTIONS?
THANK YOU!
Community Use of Facilities (Permits)
Committee of the Board Meeting

March 6, 2024
Today’s Objectives

The Board of Education will:

- Have a robust understanding of the policies, procedures, and practices that support community use of our facilities

- Learn of work underway to evolve the Permits program and preview upcoming Board-level actions to support that in the next year
Permits - A Wide Variety of Events

Woody Harrelson and Laura Dern filming “Wilson” at Highland Park Senior High School, 2017. Photo by Wilson Webb, courtesy of IMDB

Johnson High School basketball game. Photo courtesy of SPPS Communications.
Permits History & Structure
Permits - Policy, Procedure, and History

- Board **Policy** and **Procedure** set the foundation
- Focus over the last decade has been increasing rigor and adherence to policy and procedure to ensure:
  - Fair, consistent practices
  - Increasing equitable access
  - Financial stewardship
- Coordination is key - SPPS needs collaboratively addressed, partner and community access consistently supported
Profile of Permits - Volume of Events

Inspire students to think critically, pursue their dreams and change the world.
Profile of Permits - Categories (User Types)

Total Permits by Category Type (2023)

- Category I (SPPS): 4403
- Category II (Non-Profits): 189
- Category III (For-Profit): 26
- Category IV (Commercial): 1

Inspire students to think critically, pursue their dreams and change the world.
Profile of Permits - Organizations

The highest volume users of SPPS facilities are:

- St. Paul Parks and Rec
- YMCA
- Greater Twin Cities Youth Symphonies
- Minnesota Minghua Chinese School
- Breakthrough Twin Cities
- MN Youth Symphonies
- Twin Cities Chinese Language School
- School of India for Language and Culture
- MN Urban Debate League
- St Paul Urban Tennis
Permit Revenue & Expenses (2023)

89% of Permit revenue went to cover direct, out-of-pocket costs related to the event:
- Custodial and/or Grounds overtime
- Permits administrator
- Port-a-potty rental

Reductions in space costs shown are for Category II (Non-Profit) youth programming

Revenue & expenses do not reflect indirect costs associated with permits, such as:
- Regular Custodial or Grounds staffing
- Staff time coordinating events:
  - Athletic Directors
  - Permits Committee
  - Leadership
Establishing Fair Space Use Costs

School Facilities COST CALCULATOR
A Joint-Use Tool for Fair Fees

University of California, Berkeley, Center for Cities and Schools (link)
# Permit Categories, Fees, & Reduction Criteria

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>I (SPPS)</th>
<th>II (Non-Profits)</th>
<th>III (For-Profit)</th>
<th>IV (Commercial)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Auditorium</td>
<td>No Fee</td>
<td>$50 per hour (down to $10)</td>
<td>$100 per hour</td>
<td>Negotiated</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Classroom</td>
<td>No Fee</td>
<td>$10 per hour (down to $2)</td>
<td>$20 per hour</td>
<td>Negotiated</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gymnasium</td>
<td>No Fee</td>
<td>$35 per hour (down to $7)</td>
<td>$70 per hour</td>
<td>Negotiated</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stadium</td>
<td>No Fee</td>
<td>$265 per hour (down to $53)</td>
<td>$265 per hour</td>
<td>Negotiated</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Turf Field</td>
<td>No Fee</td>
<td>$75 per hour (down to $15)</td>
<td>$150 per hour</td>
<td>Negotiated</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

## Non-Profit Organization Reduction Criteria

Applicable to Category II youth programming permit holders

- 20% - Affordability
- 20% - Percent of SPPS Students
- 20% - Availability of Scholarships
- 20% - Uniqueness

*Inspire students to think critically, pursue their dreams and change the world.*
Work Underway & Upcoming
Items for Board Action / Consideration

- Board **Policy** and **Procedure**
  - Significant overhaul of procedure to reflect rigor
  - Updating of costs per category

- SPPS Achieves: Partnerships
  - Review and revise relationships with external organizations to better meet student needs (fka 2018 Initiative #9A)
    - Focus on youth athletics with St. Paul Parks and Rec
Questions?