



Board Update: Future of Bessie Rhodes

January 2024



EVANSTON/SKOKIE
SCHOOL DISTRICT 65

Every Child, Every Day, Whatever it Takes

Purpose of the Meeting



- ❑ Provide additional clarity and address the questions and concerns raised by board members during the December 18, 2023 Regular Meeting.
- ❑ Provide school board members with accurate information gathered by the District to aid in their understanding so that they can make an informed decision on the future of Bessie Rhodes.
- ❑ Understand the student assignment process and the data leveraged to make recommendations.
- ❑ Review the history of the D65 TWI Middle School Expansion, where we are to date and timeline for next steps.
- ❑ Review the two options brought forward for the future of Bessie Rhodes



Brief Snapshot: Student Assignment Process and Data

SAP Guiding Question and Considerations



The SAP committee created the proposed scenario based on six considerations and our “big question”.

The Big Question

How do we modernize the student assignment process with an equitable lens and create a system to review every five years?

Scenario Considerations

- Fostering community through neighborhood school.
- Modernizing our attendance boundaries to serve students better.
- Reducing District transportation expenses.
- Addressing historic inequities.
- Engaging community feedback.
- Incorporating master facilities plan and enrollment projection data.

SAP Phase I Scenarios and Considerations



The SAP committee reviewed over 50 scenario iterations. These are the high level considerations SAP Phase I reviewed and each had multiple scenarios.

- Fifth Ward - city boundaries or central core (West of Green Bay), K-5 or K-8, can Kingsley be the neighborhood school for the 5th ward?
- Consolidate Bessie Rhodes programs with Kingsley (K-5) and Haven (6-8) for middle school TWI.
- Consolidate King Arts and Rhodes to make 1 magnet school.
- Add Bessie Rhodes to the new Fifth Ward school.
- Magnets become neighborhood schools.
- More magnet schools; less neighborhood schools.
- Closing or repurposing schools with significant decreases in enrollment and low projected capacities.
- 7-8 grade middle schools (6 grade remains at elementary).
- Alternate middle school boundary lines based on capacity.
- Split current elementary lines to help address middle school overcrowding issues.
- Walker students attending Haven.
- Combining all TWI strands to double strands or moving TWI to single strands at more schools.
- Adding preschool to multiple schools with capacity.

Historical Votes - Board Approved March 2022



Scenario A 2.0

Boundary Lines

- Construction of a 5th Ward School (K-8)
- Bessie Rhodes School co-located inside the 5th Ward school (magnet school within a school)
- Elementary / Middle School Boundary Revisions
- No change to overall middle school feeder pattern (with exception of the 5th Ward school)

Programming

- Recommendations moved to the implementation phase with community input

Why Bessie Rhodes?

- Most underutilized building in D65 (lowest student enrollment)
- District commitment and community desire for neighborhood walkable schools
- A TWI program needed in the 5th Ward school (over 80 students qualify); do not have the Spanish EL student population to justify increase in TWI strands so these must come from another school
- ~40% of students live in the 5th Ward
- Master Facility Plan indicates Rhodes needing significant building repairs and more than any other D65 school (other than Park)

BR Enrollment Data



Grade	5 th Ward Student Enrollment Projections (Including students that live in the 5 th ward and attend BR)	Total Bessie Rhodes Enrollment	Bessie Rhodes Enrollments, who live in the 5th ward	Bessie Rhodes Spanish EL Students who <u>live in the 5th ward</u>	Bessie Rhodes Spanish EL Students who do not live in the 5th ward	Bessie Rhodes Non-EL students <u>IN the 5th ward</u>	Bessie Rhodes Non-EL students NOT in the 5th ward
K-5	450	198	79 (40%)	50 (25%)	58 (29%)	29 (15%)	61 (31%)
6-8	230	76	28 (37%)	7 (9%)	11 (14%)	21 (28%)	37 (49%)
Total	670	274	107 (39%)	57 (21%)	69 (25%)	50 (18%)	98 (36%)

(% are based on total BR enrollment)

Data Considerations

*39% of BR enrollments live in the 5th ward (new attendance boundary).

Student Assignment, Registration, and Records (SARR) team places students who qualify for TWI (Spanish EL) in the program closest to their home based on our desire for all students to have a neighborhood school and also in an effort to reduce transportation.

Of the current 57 Spanish EL students at BR who live in the 5th ward, 34 were placed by SARR; 23 applied (almost 70% did not apply for the BR program).

Based on enrollment projections, over 80 students live in the 5th Ward who qualify for TWI and 50 of these students currently attend BR (63%).

Project Shift and BR Community Transition



Due to the financial impact of a K-8 school, it is anticipated that the Board will vote on January 22, 2024 on a K-5 5th ward school. In anticipation of this vote, it is important that the Board makes a decision about the future of the Bessie Rhodes community. We engaged in a mini SAP process to review potential options.

Guiding Question and Data Used:

Where should Bessie Rhodes K-5 and 6-8 students transition once the new school opens?

Data Reviewed

- BR History
- BR enrollment
- Master Facility Plan
- Community Survey
- Virtual interactive Presentations
- Fall Discovery Tour
- Student Data
- Staff and Family Feedback
- SAP Phase I and II Recommendations

TregoEd Select Decision Making Process



<p>Alternative 1 Keep Rhodes Open <i>(Recommended by current BR families)</i></p>	<p>Alternative 2 Rhodes K-5 transition to new school Rhodes 6-8 transition to Haven (TWI Expansion) <i>(Recommended SAP Phase I and II)</i></p>
<p>Opportunities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">● Maintain commitment to a wall-to-wall TWI program● Provide continuity for currently enrolled students● Multiple magnet school options for families● Smaller school environment <p>Challenges</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">● Facility Cost Index is over 50%● Continued bussing for TWI services● Lowest building utilization of D65 schools● Implications of potentially operating 19 schools given declining student enrollment● Financial impact of not selling Rhodes	<p>Opportunities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">● Walkable TWI school for 39% of Rhodes families● Expansion of TWI to a larger middle school for scalability, and maximize the use of space at Haven● Reduces bussing (~10 routes) and environmental impact● Reduces pressure on non-operating budget <p>Challenges</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">● Does not honor the commitment for a wall-to-wall K-8 TWI program or keeping the entire school community together● Eliminates a K-8 magnet school selective enrollment option for families.● Increases transition for BR students● Potential financial considerations for Haven

TregoEd Select Decision Making Process



Alternative 3

Rhodes K-8 transition to an underutilized building after the new school opens

(Recommended by some board members)

Opportunities

- Maintain commitment to a wall-to-wall TWI program
- Provide more continuity for currently enrolled students
- Multiple magnet school options for families
- Smaller school environment

Challenges

- Potential costs to retrofit a building to serve K-8
- Implications of continuing to operate 18 schools given declining student enrollment
- The physical Bessie Rhodes building would have to remain open until another building is closed
- Given enrollment trends at Bessie Rhodes, moving the school community to another building may not meet desired building capacity utilization of 80%
- Do not have the Spanish EL student population to add additional TWI strands

Alternative 4

Close/Consolidate King Arts and move Rhodes to King Arts . Keep RISE program

(Recommended by SAP Mini Internal Committee)

Opportunities

- Maintain commitment to a wall-to-wall TWI program
- Maximize enrollment and building capacity
- Centralize magnet schools into one building

Challenges

- There isn't enough building capacity (space) at King Arts to combine both magnet schools.
- Bessie Rhodes student enrollment is significantly smaller than the capacity of the King Arts building.
- Closing King Arts is dissolving a magnet program whereas closing the Bessie Rhodes building is moving the program.
- Additional admin to manage all programs
- Do not have the Spanish EL student population to add additional TWI strands

Decision: Bessie Rhodes Transition Options



<p>Option A</p> <p>Rhodes K-5 transition to new school Rhodes 6-8 transition to Haven (TWI Expansion)</p>	<p>Option B</p> <p>Roll the Bessie Rhodes transition into SAP Phase 3</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Bessie Rhodes K-5 students assigned to the new 5th Ward School (two TWI strands).● Bessie Rhodes 6-8 grade students attend Haven Middle School.● 5th Ward School becomes an elementary feeder school to Haven Middle School.● Bessie Rhodes is closed starting in the 2026-2027 school year.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Wait to determine if Bessie Rhodes can occupy another existing D65 school as part of the process for consolidation and redistricting in SAP Phase III.● This phase will begin in spring of 2024 and likely last a year.



Dual Language Middle School Expansion

Updates and Timeline

Questions/Misconceptions



- Is TWI still expanding to middle school?
- What is the timeline for Middle School Dual Language expansion?
- Why is the proposed roll out for Dual Language Middle School so long if we know this is best for students?
- Who will have access to Dual Language middle school expansion?
- What work has already been done to expand the program to middle school?
- Can we hear the vision for the full rollout with timelines, financial impact, and staffing at other buildings?

Dual Language Middle School Program Implementation Timeline



SY24 2023-24	SY25 2024-25	SY26 2025-26	SY27 2026-27	SY28 2027-28
Bessie Rhodes 5th grade Dual Language	Enact Bessie Rhodes 6th Grade Dual Language	Bessie Rhodes 6th Grade Dual Language	Bessie Rhodes 6th Grade Dual Language	Bessie Rhodes 6th Grade Dual Language
Finalize Planning for Bessie Rhodes 6th Grade Dual Language	Finalize planning for Bessie Rhodes 7th Grade Dual Language	Enact Bessie Rhodes 7th Grade Dual Language	Bessie Rhodes 7th Grade Dual Language	Bessie Rhodes 7th Grade Dual Language
	Continue groundwork Bessie Rhodes 8th Grade Dual Language	Finalize Planning for Bessie Rhodes 8th Grade Dual Language	Enact Bessie Rhodes 8th Grade Dual Language <i>*Location TBD</i>	Bessie Rhodes 8th Grade Dual Language
	Analyzing middle school model based on Bessie Rhodes implementation	Planning for an additional middle school program	Continuing groundwork for expansion to another middle school	Expansion of an additional middle school program based on need 6th grade Dual Language

Proposed Roll Out For Dual Language Middle School



- Our Dual Language expansion timeline is consistent with the original plan approved December 4, 2017.
 - “Develop a multi-year plan for English Learner programs and services, including TWI, ESL, and bilingual at both elementary and middle school levels.” (p.13)
- Since 2017, expanded EL services from 4 to 18 sites
- Dual Language location analysis was moved into the SAP process
- Focused on strengthening our K-5 programming
 - Selected and implemented a Dual Language Literacy Curriculum
 - Increased building leader capacity through PLC process
 - Addressing the needs of newcomers

Before expanding across more sites, it is important that we have Site One operating effectively before moving to launch a second Middle School Site. This will include program evaluation metrics including the following:

- Rubric assessing program fidelity according to the *Guiding Principles for Dual Language Programming*
- Feedback from students and families regarding their experience in Dual Language program
- Collect baseline data (i.e. grades, assessments, language development) in both Spanish and English for all students
- Ability to staff dual language classrooms with highly-qualified and certified educators

Access To Dual Language Middle School



One Site:

- All Bessie Rhodes Dual Language students
- Students who are accepted through the lottery and have completed K-5 Dual Language with priority to Spanish English Language Learners
- Spanish speaking newcomers in middle school grades.

Any Future Sites:

- Students who are accepted through the lottery and have completed K-5 Dual Language with priority to Spanish English Language Learners
- Spanish speaking newcomers in middle school grades.

Current 5th Graders in TWI Districtwide			
TWE	TWS	TWX	Total
43	49	25	117

The number of Dual Language sections in any middle school site will be determined by our annual student enrollment projections, staffing and available space.

Completed Middle School Expansion Efforts



SY 17-SY21

- Strengthening of TWI curricular resources to make transition to middle school dual language attainable by providing curriculum that is available in English for our general population and Spanish for our TWI population.
- Providing professional development targeted to pedagogy and bilingual instructional practices.
- Implemented a dual language literacy curriculum that is English and Spanish Standards-based and grade specific
- Supporting K-5 TWI building leadership opportunities to continue to learn about dual language programs.

SY22-23 DL Middle School Committee Progress

- 50/50 Program Model
- Support two pathways of Advanced Placement (AP) coursework and Career & Technical Education courses offered at ETHS
- Provided middle school curricular resources to review for the 23-24 school year

Current Committee Objectives

- Determine 6th grade schedule and language allocation for each course (done)
- In collaboration with C&I, make a recommendation for curriculum resources (in process)
- Develop Professional Learning Plan (spring 2024)
- Determine Language Assessments/implementation plan (spring 2024)

Financial Impact of Middle School Expansion Rollout



- We do not foresee additional staffing needs, as there would be shifts within a building.
- There would be a need for additional funds for the first three years of each site's launch to support:
 - Professional Learning for educators (estimated \$20,000 per year)
 - Leadership Development (estimated \$5,000 per year)
 - New Instructional materials (minimal cost)

Next Steps



- **January 23-March 1, 2024:** Parent outreach and calls to 5th grade TWI families to determine interest in sending their students to Bessie Rhodes for 6th grade.
- **February 22, 2024:** TWI Parent Night to learn about expansion (All families and 5th grade students)
- **March 8, 2024:** Finalize number of strands for Bessie Rhodes 6th grade based on demand.



Bessie Rhodes

Facility Condition & Financial Impact

Master Facility Plan - Facility Condition Analysis



Building Name	Gross SF	CRV (Current Replacement Value \$350-\$400 sq ft)	2021 FCI (Facility Cost Index)	2021-2030 Deficiency Needs
Chute	112,898	\$42,336,750	41.25%	\$17,464,130
Haven	142,114	\$53,292,750	35.64%	\$18,993,370
Nichols	97,880	\$36,705,000	35.78%	\$13,134,800
King Arts	100,022	\$37,508,250	40.39%	\$15,150,830
Bessie Rhodes	50,661	\$18,997,875	50.28%	\$9,551,715
Park	35,367	\$13,262,625	52.40%	\$6,949,735
JEH	50,000	\$18,750,000	18.16%	\$3,404,840
Dawes	57,700	\$21,637,500	44.55%	\$9,639,100
Dewey	62,690	\$23,508,750	41.98%	\$9,869,750
Kingsley	63,427	\$23,785,125	44.25%	\$10,524,435
Lincoln	67,360	\$25,260,000	42.96%	\$10,850,900
Lincolnwood	61,039	\$22,889,625	43.22%	\$9,892,785
Oakton	95,470	\$35,801,250	39.60%	\$13,984,940
Orrington	46,933	\$17,599,875	44.68%	\$7,864,060
Walker	51,425	\$19,284,375	46.47%	\$8,960,920
Washington	76,798	\$28,799,250	46.98%	\$13,530,180
Willard	56,856	\$21,231,000	42.24%	\$9,005,960

All buildings have additional repair expenses not included in this chart.

Bessie Rhodes has over \$1M in additional deficiencies including asbestos abatement, flooring, masonry, mechanical, and asphalt needs.

Bessie Rhodes 2023 appraisal value estimated at \$4M-\$5M.



Bessie Rhodes Transition Options



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Questions ?