

Modified Envision Proposal

Over the last two months school board members have been listening to community members, parents, teachers, students and administrators about the Envision proposal to close and merge several Saint Paul Public Schools.

Throughout this time, the school board has discussed Envision at length through many public meetings, as well as having conducted site visitations to impacted school buildings, and have held many conversations among one other to come to a consensus towards a modified proposal for which we will present today.

At this time, LEAP, Highwood Hills, and Wellstone along with its subsequent merges including Riverview, Cherokee Heights, J.J. Hill and Obama will be removed from the proposal. This will leave L'etoile du Nord upper and lower campuses, Phalen, Jackson, Maxfield, Parkway, John A Johnson, Bruce Vento, Hamline, Galtier and Capitol Hill on the proposal.

The purpose of tonight's special meeting is to discuss with administration the ramifications of this modified proposal.

Before we begin, there are two points of context that the school board would like administration to understand.

First, for the schools that remain, the board would like to discuss how this modified version of the proposal will be supported.

Secondly, for the schools that the board would like removed from the proposal, the board would like to discuss how best to continue to work with those schools and communities.

Finally, the board would like the public to understand that for the schools that were removed from the proposal, that there remain certain limitations and constraints that these schools and communities must work within. The school board intends to work with these communities and administration to identify these limitations and constraints in order to determine the best course of action going forward.

Adjusted Wellstone Recommendation

Wellstone/Riverview merge is paused until October 2022 while the district works with the Riverview and Wellstone communities to discuss how to build the strongest possible Spanish Dual Language program. Because this pause impacts additional district programs, the following work is also paused: moving Riverview Community to Cherokee Heights, moving Cherokee Heights Montessori program to JJ Hill, and moving Obama students to new programs in anticipation of Obama complex remodel for JJ Hill Montessori and future 6-8 program. What follows are specific directives to support important conversations in each of these communities during the following year, in anticipation of a future action.

1. District will hold monthly meetings beginning in January 2022 to discuss the future of the Spanish DL program, understanding that the district will be in the best position to support a high quality, robust, desirable program if it is housed in one building.
2. Cherokee Heights will be supported to begin a West Side specific recruitment and engagement plan within their community.
3. During the next 12-18 months, Obama families will have the opportunity to learn about the Montessori model through in-person and virtual information sessions as well as site visits to JJ Hill.
4. A committee will be formed to begin to envision the future 6-8 program at Obama.