



Envision SPPS: Responses to Board of Education directors’ questions from November 15, 2021, special meeting

Director Ellis asked for clarity on how affected/merged schools will get a well-rounded education and what the base offerings will be.

Response: Please reference this summary explaining how a minimum of 3 sections per grade level provides the optimal base for [delivering a well-rounded education program](#).

Director Carillo asked for clarity if 251 or 300 students provide the baseline for a 3 section grade level in order to deliver a well-rounded education program.

Response: While 250 students do not provide a 3-section grade-level baseline, it does provide a starting point for a trajectory toward providing 3 sections which is closer to the 300+ enrollment point. It should be noted that 3 sections may not be feasible for a school with 300 students at every grade level, but 3 sections in certain grades, especially the early grades can help build and sustain a school.

Director Carillo asked about facilities criteria for prioritization ([the “petal” diagrams](#) at the top of each school’s project page in SPPS Builds) and if Facility Condition Index information for LEAP High School could be shared.

Response: Please see the table below for Facility Condition Index (FCI) for all ALC sites, including LEAP, for reference. The table includes both true calculated FCI values for each site as well as a conversion of that value to be consistent with the “petal” diagrams for all other SPPS buildings (scale of 1-5, with 5 being best).

School	Facility Condition Index (FCI)	Petal Score Equivalent
LEAP	0.13	3
Gordon Parks	0.06	4
AGAPE	0.12	3

Director Vue requested a list of those schools with an enrollment of 300+ students delivering a well-rounded education.

Response: Please [reference this table](#) with the list of schools.

Director Vue requested more details on what will be made available in fall 2022 at Parkway for the Hmong Dual Language and Culture program upper campus to serve grades 6-8.

Response: Parkway would reopen as the upper campus for Phalen Lake Dual Language and Culture program that would serve grades PK-5 while Parkway would serve grades 6-8, first opening with grades 6 only and then adding additional grades over the next two years; [see more details here](#).

Director Brodrick asked if it is possible to leave Highwood Hills open while an envisioning process takes place to determine how best to serve the local community and attract more families to the school. In addition, whether there are other alternatives that can be considered for LEAP High School such as finding a different location.

Response: The Envision SPPS team will take this under consideration and follow up with more details as to whether these options are feasible.

Director Allen would like to know if there's a way to minimize disruption to students at Obama by phasing out the program rather than closing it.

Response: Phasing out the current students at Obama is not feasible due to the related recommendation that the Obama site is needed to house the district-wide Montessori PK-5 program and a middle grades program for those students. Though it would take at least one full school year before renovation of the Obama building would start, shortly thereafter the site will be fully under construction and not conducive to hosting a program. Depending on several programmatic and functional decisions by the District and the JJ Hill program, it is possible that a portion of the building would be able to accommodate a program by the fall of 2024, with the full building being ready the next fall.

However, with the exception of level 3 special education students, students who currently attend Obama and live in the JJ Hill attendance areas (Areas C-West, D, E and F) would be prioritized if there is interest in moving together to JJ Hill with their current peers and then move back to Obama once the remodeling of one of the two towers is complete. Currently, there are 145 of 249 (58%) Obama students living in the JJ Hills attendance area. **The number of Obama students that would be able to attend JJ Hill would be dependent on the number of Cherokee students who choose to transition to JJ Hill.** Based on Cherokee's community feedback, most parents are choosing to remain at Cherokee.

Director Kopp would like to ensure that District Councils are included in school community engagement processes and discussions at affected sites.

Response: SPPS apologizes for the oversight and will officially invite District Councils to school community engagement sessions as District Councils are key partners with invaluable insights into the needs and growth aspirations of St. Paul neighborhoods.

Clarification on the ["2021-22 Funding Per Student w/Budgeted to Actual Enrollment" chart:](#) The chart shows data comparing projected (red line) to actual (yellow line) enrollment at school sites and how enrollment compares to the funding cost per student (gray bar) at particular schools. In

instances where the enrollment falls below the top of the gray bar, that shows a funding shortage while enrollment at or above the top of the gray bar shows funding if stable/efficient. **The chart does not show school's academic outcomes.**

Schools with 300+ students delivering a well-rounded education program					
School number	School Name	SY 18-19 K-12 Enrollment	SY19-20 K-12 Enrollment	SY 20-21 K-12 Enrollment	SY 21-22 K-12 Enrollment
410	Adams Spanish Immersion	616	544	494	475
579	American Indian Magnet	606	604	587	493
422	Battle Creek Elementary	465	473	465	450
424	Benjamin E. Mays	399	385	353	335
449	Bruce F. Vento	435	416	378	357
494	Capitol Hill	1254	1229	1193	1091
425	Chelsea Heights	445	413	378	330
431	Como Park Elementary	442	409	372	350
465	Crossroads Montessori	257	231	239	188
466	Crossroads Science	284	258	245	199
435	Expo	659	634	545	481
458	Farnsworth Lower	477	467	475	410
460	Four Seasons	456	423	349	311
464	Frost Lake	497	501	478	444
476	Groveland Park	401	383	356	350
518	Horace Mann	432	405	384	388
493	J.J. Hill Montessori	400	391	382	357
483	Jie Ming Mandarin Immersion	293	373	371	380
527	Mississippi	564	534	504	494
533	Nokomis Montessori North	359	356	355	315
552	Paul & Sheila Wellstone	531	528	512	482
541	Phalen Lake Hmong Studies	648	609	626	508
551	Riverview	386	396	387	348
557	St. Anthony Park	515	555	536	482
558	St. Paul Music Academy	598	562	526	520
488	The Heights Community	450	417	363	301

Parkway: Recommended to close current program and reopen as a Hmong Dual Immersion – Upper Campus (grades 6-8)

- The Envision SPPS recommendation is to close Parkway Montessori and Community School at the end of the SY2021-22 school year and reopen the school to serve as the Upper Campus of a two-campus Hmong Dual Immersion and Culture program.
- Parkway would serve grades 6-8, first opening with grades 6 in fall 2022 and then adding additional grades over the next two years: 7th grade in fall 2023 and then adding grade 8 in fall 2024.
- The Lower Campus serving grades PK-5 would be at the current Hmong Dual Immersion program at Phalen Lake Elementary.
- However, please note that the HDL school community may decide on different grade configurations for each site such as PK-4 at the lower campus and grades 5-8 at the upper campus. In this case, a **facilities assessment would need to be conducted by the Facilities Department to assess if this is feasible.**
- Engagement and discussions with the HDL school community will also need to be conducted to determine how best to align operational supports and shared resources, e.g., transportation, specialists, administrative staff.

Keeping building vibrant: Parkway

Objective to repurpose: Repurpose the building to serve as the upper campus for the Hmong Dual Immersion and Language and culture program. Phalen is the lower campus and Parkway will be the upper campus.

- Campuses will share start times so that families can ride the bus together.
- Decision regarding program design and specific facility capacity at each campus will determine which grades will be served at each campus.

Timeline:

- Middle school will begin with 6th grade in fall of 22 and will grow by one grade each year
- Facilities will begin meeting with program staff and Asst. Superintendent in Jan/February of 22 to determine ideal grade configurations

Chart:

2021-22 Funding Per Student w/Budgeted to Actual Enrollment

Saint Paul Public Schools

2021-22 School Budget Allocations

Funding Per Student w/Budgeted & Actual Enrollment

(allocations exclude: Title I, Comp Ed, ESSER, Spec Ed, MLL & Other Districtwide programs)

