



Independent School District 625
360 Colborne Street
Saint Paul, MN 55102-3299

Facilities Department
1930 Como Avenue
Saint Paul, MN 55108

Phone: 651-744-1800 | spps.org/facilities

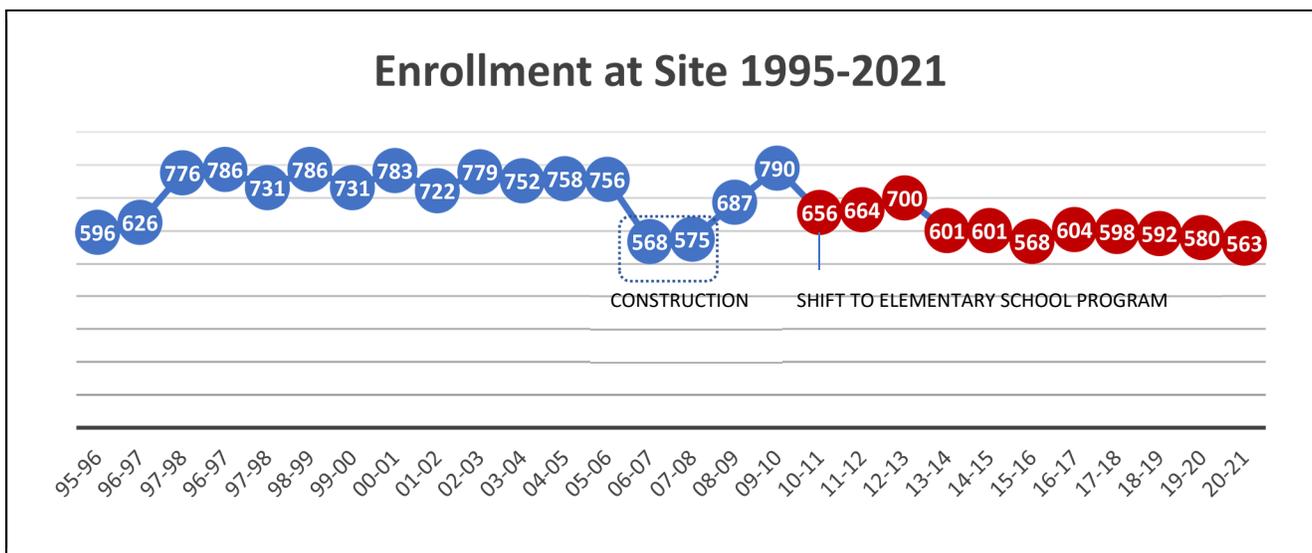
Paul and Sheila Wellstone – Building Capacity Context

As Jene T. Sigvertsen pointed out in *“From the Past to the Present: An Inventory of Saint Paul Public School Facilities”*, population trends are the major dictate that identify the need for school facilities. The student population began to decline in the late 1960’s and early 1970’s and the school district began closing and consolidating school facilities to adjust to the decline in student population. The following will look briefly at Paul and Sheila Wellstone Elementary, past and present.

Wellstone Elementary was originally built as Washington Senior High in 1926. The original building was 64,297/SF. In 1930, a four level 22,618/SF classroom addition was built. In 1971, a four level 75,476/SF addition was built. The 1971 addition contained labs, art rooms, music rooms and gyms. That was the last major addition made at the site. The city added a gymnasium in partnership with the school district in 1977 and the recreation center was added in 1979. In 1998 and 2006 significant internal renovations were made to mechanical spaces as well as the media center and restroom upgrades, and the total SF is now 162,391. Wellstone housed 800 students in 1926 as a senior high.

Generally speaking, the number of students per classroom drops for lower grade levels. The younger the scholar, the more square-footage they require. Today, we also require space in all buildings for partners, support programs and specialized learning needs. Over the last century, the way we teach and learn has changed, and across grade levels the number of students per educator has decreased. All these factors contribute to the current capacity assessment of 700 at Wellstone for an elementary school program.

As the graph below shows, a drop in number of students at the site accompanies the shift from Washington Middle School to Wellstone Elementary (represented in color change from blue to red).



In the Criteria for Prioritization, as adopted by the BOE, a comprehensive look at the alignment of the Wellstone building provides a summary of all the factors that represent its strategic needs. The first four petals comprise 80% of the overall prioritization score. Portions of Wellstone’s building systems need renewal, resulting in a low Building Condition score. Other than those systems, the building is well aligned with what is desired for St. Paul Schools in the 21st Century.

LEGEND X

PRIORITY for Improvements



Larger circle is higher priority i

BUILDING INFORMATION

Growth Align.

Learning Spaces

Overall Align.

Core Space

Building Cond.

Main Entries

Meets/Exceeds Standards



Does Not Meet Standards i

Wellstone Elementary



Criteria for Prioritization - Overall Prioritization Score

- A. Growth and Alignment - 25%: Alignment to projected programmatic and enrollment needs are addressed.
- B. Learning Spaces - 20%: Quality of instructional space that supports student learning.
- C. Identifiable Main Entries - 18%: Safe and respectful main building entries that welcome students and community into our buildings.
- D. Building Condition - 17%: Condition of building systems, as determined by the [Facility Condition Assessment](#), support healthy student and staff environments.