

(ATTACHMENT 1) FOLLOW UP AND ACTION ON A RECOMMENDATION TO MERGE THE SIXTY-EIGHTH STREET EARLY CHILDHOOD SCHOOL EDUCATIONAL PROGRAM AND EIGHTY-FIRST STREET SCHOOL AT THE END OF THE 2011•12 SCHOOL YEAR

This item initiated by the Administration.

Attachments

BACKGROUND

1. In November 2011, the Administration brought the Long-Range Facilities Master Plan to the Board. Sixty-eighth Street School, located in the Northwest Region, was identified in the Long-Range Facilities Master Plan as a recommended closure option.
2. In December 2011, the Administration recommended the closure of the Sixty-eighth Street Early Childhood School educational program and facility located at 6720 W. Moltke Avenue effective at the close of the school year in June 2012. The Board took action to:
 - a. Keep Sixty-eighth Street School's early childhood program intact;
 - b. Direct the Administration to report back to the Board at its regular January 2012 meeting a plan to relocate or merge Sixty-eighth Street School's current program;
 - c. Close Sixty-eighth Street School's current facility at the end of the current school year; and
 - d. Direct the Administration to work with the school to conduct a "school fair" for K-5 students in order to present choices within the district to encourage them to remain in the district after they leave Sixty-eighth Street School.
3. The December 2011 action of the Milwaukee Board of School Directors to close the Sixty-eighth Street School facility in June 2011 saved \$109,094 in annual operational savings and estimated FY13 transportation savings of \$252,623. The total of \$361,717 in savings have been used to address the FY13 (2012-13) district budget gap.
4. In January 2012, the Administration recommended a merger of the Sixty-eighth Street Early Childhood School and Kluge Elementary School educational programs at the Kluge facility effective at the close of the school year in June 2012 and the designation of Kluge Elementary School as a neighborhood specialty school for early childhood education. The Board took action to send the item to the Committee on Innovation/School Reform in February 2012* for further consideration to allow the Administration time to vet the Community Proposal for a merger of Sixty-eighth Street and Eighty-first Street Schools and allow for community input at a February 2 community meeting planned by neighborhood associations and two aldermen. *As a result of the February 2, 2012 community meeting described below, the ISR committee chair authorized the Administration to bring the item forward in March.
5. On February 2, 2012, a community meeting sponsored by various neighborhood associations and two aldermen was held at Milwaukee School of Languages for the purpose of presenting a proposed merger of the Sixty-eighth Street Early Childhood educational program and Eighty-first Street School developed by community representatives which would result in a K3 through grade 5 neighborhood elementary school at the Eighty-first Street School site, 2964 N. 81st Street, to serve the local community. Community leaders, Aldermen James Bohl

and Michael Murphy, Sixty-eighth Street and Eighty-first Street School parent and staff representatives, Director Jeff Spence, Superintendent Dr. Gregory Thornton and Regional Executive Specialist Keith Posley spoke at the meeting. Milwaukee Board of School Directors Megan Holman, Larry Miller, and Annie Woodward also attended the meeting. Attendees had an opportunity to ask questions and provide comments.

6. Following an analysis of the community proposal as well as the collection of other information as described below, the Administration is recommending a merger of the Sixty-eighth Street early childhood educational program and Eighty-first Street School at the Eighty-first Street site, 2964 N. 81st Street, at the close of the 2011-12 school year. The merger will include two phases — the 2012-13 school year and the 2013-14 and beyond school years.

ADMINISTRATION'S ANALYSIS

7. Sixty-eighth Street Early Childhood School, located at 6720 W. Moltke Avenue, provides a three-year-old kindergarten through five-year-old kindergarten early childhood educational program. Three-year-old and four-year-old kindergarten students attend half-day. In September 2010, 47% of the students and in September 2011, 55% of the students were regular education three-year-olds for whom Milwaukee Public Schools receives no state aid. There is no established feeder pattern. Thirty-five percent of the June 2011 five-year-old students were not enrolled in Milwaukee Public Schools in September 2011.
8. Eighty-first Street K-8 School, located at 2964 N. 81st Street, provides an all-day four-year-old kindergarten through grade-eight traditional educational program. The school is located in the Northwest Region.
9. The official Sixty-eighth Street and Eighty-first Street September student enrollment data over the past ten years are detailed in the following enrollment count table:

<u>Year</u>	<u>68th St. Enrollment</u>	<u>81st St. Enrollment</u>
2002	221	404
2003	227	414
2004	222	380
2005	217	386
2006	225	415
2007	235	368
2008	231	335
2009	239	300
2010	230	308
2011	262	318

10. The Sixty-eighth Street School official September 2011 enrollment was 262 students, including 22 students with special education needs (8.4%). Sixty-eighth Street School is a neighborhood specialty school and does not have an attendance area. The students currently attending Sixty-eighth Street School live in 54 Milwaukee Public Schools attendance areas. Transportation is currently provided to regular education Sixty-eighth Street students at a cost of \$252,623. The average cost per regular education Sixty-eighth Street student transported is \$2,159 compared to the district average of \$631.
11. The Eighty-first Street School official September 2011 enrollment was 318 students, including 69 students with special education needs (21.7%). Ninety-nine of the

students are in grades 6-8 (31 %). Eighty-first Street School is an attendance area school. The students currently attending Eighty-first Street School live in 77 Milwaukee Public Schools attendance areas. Transportation is currently provided to regular education Eighty-first Street students at a cost of \$78,372. The average cost per regular education Eighty-first Street student transported is \$421 compared to the district average of \$631.

12. In December 2011, the Milwaukee Board of School Directors took action to close the Sixty-fifth Street School effective in June 2012. Two special education autism classes are scheduled to be relocated to Eighty-first Street School beginning with the 2012-13 school year to expand the autism continuum of service at Eighty-first Street School.
13. During the 2010-11 school year, 67% of the Eighty-first Street grades 3-8 students scored proficient or advanced on the WKCE reading assessment compared to 59% of MPS district grades 3-8 students and 48% scored proficient or advanced on the WKCE mathematics assessment compared to 48% of MPS district grades 3-8 students. The attachment provides a four-year history by grade level.
14. The value-added analysis provides information regarding a school's contribution to growth in student achievement for reading and mathematics adjusted for factors such as prior academic achievement, ethnicity, gender, mobility and eligibility for free and reduced lunch. The Eighty-first Street K-8 School WKCE value-added 2009-10 to 2010-11 reading performance tier is 2.0 (high value added, low attainment) and the mathematics performance tier is 2.0 (high value added, low attainment). The 2010-11 WKCE value-added performance tiers can be compared to the State of Wisconsin 3.0 average.
15. In response to the community proposal to merge Sixty-eighth Street School with Eighty-first Street School, focus groups were conducted with teachers and parents of both schools, along with students at Eighty-first Street and the Neighborhood Associations surrounding both schools. The Administration conducted the following six focus group meetings:
 - February 8 - Eighty-first Street School Staff
 - February 9 - Eighty-first Street School Parents
 - February 13 - Sixty-eighth Street School Staff
 - February 14 - Neighborhood Association Presidents
 - February 15 - Eighty-first Street School Students
 - February 16 - Sixty-eighth Street School Parents
16. Attendees at the focus group meetings were asked a series of questions regarding their involvement in developing the merger proposal, the potential benefits and drawbacks to the merger, potential issues to be resolved, and how the merger would affect future plans and families. All focus groups were conducted at their respective school buildings, while the Neighborhood Associations were invited to Central Services. Overall, results of the focus groups reveal a strong division between the two school communities. A summary of the focus group discussions is attached.
17. The Administration working with representatives from Facilities and Maintenance Services conducted another detailed analysis to determine the ability of the Eighty-first Street facility to accommodate the Sixty-eighth Street educational program

without displacing students currently enrolled and enrolled for 2012-13 at Eighty-first Street School. The school has 17 classrooms, a computer lab, and a dedicated library. A phase one plan was developed for the 2012-13 school year that maximizes the use of the 17 classrooms including converting SAGE classrooms from configurations of 18 students and one teacher to 30 students and two teachers. The Eighty-first Street facility capacity based on the standard of care identified in the Long-Range Facilities Master Plan is 334. This recommendation reflects a projected enrollment capacity of 425 by maximizing the space available to accommodate the students currently enrolled and enrolled for 2012-13 at Eighty-first Street School as well as expansions in K4, K5, and grade one. This reflects 127% utilization of the facility.

18. In response to the community proposal; feedback from the community meeting and focus groups; and detailed facility, transportation, and enrollment analyses, the Administration is recommending a merger of the Sixty-eighth Street early childhood educational program and Eighty-first Street School at the close of the 2012-13 school year. The merger will include two phases - the 2012-13 school year and the 2013-14 and beyond school years.
19. Phase one of the merger will have the following features:
 - a. The MPS Administration will work in collaboration with Eighty-first Street School parents, staff, and the neighborhood community during the 2012-13 school year to develop and implement programming, grade configuration, and transportation recommendations for 2013-14 and beyond at Eighty-first Street School. The plan will be presented to the Milwaukee Board of School Directors no later than November 2012 to allow for student assignment, budgeting, staffing, and facility modification activities on a timely basis.
 - b. There will be a one-year moratorium (2012-13 school year) on the enrollment of regular education 3-year-olds at the merged school.
 - c. All four-year-olds at the merged school will attend all-day.
 - d. Eighty-first Street School will continue to participate in the SAGE program in K5 through grade three. All SAGE classes will be configured with 30 students and two teachers.
 - e. Ninety-three additional seats will be added to the FY13 (2012-13) Eighty-first Street School projected enrollment to accommodate Sixty-eighth Street students who choose to enroll at Eighty-first Street School. These seats include 25 K4 seats, 24 K5 seats, 20 K3-K5 special education seats, and 24 grade 1 seats. Additional seats may well be available due to enrollment at this time below planned and staffed capacity at Eighty-first Street School. For example, during the January school selection process four 2012-13 K4 students have selected Eighty-first Street School as their first choice and ten as their second choice for 25 available seats.
 - f. The current Eighty-first Street transportation protocols will be retained for the 2012-13 school year. Students who reside within the Marshall transportation region and more than one mile from Eighty-first Street School will be eligible for transportation. Transportation for students with special education needs will be consistent with their IEP (individual education plan).

The Marshall transportation region and Eighty-first Street School attendance area map is attached.

20. Phase two of the merger will address recommendations resulting from the collaboration with Eighty-first Street School parents, staff, and the neighborhood community during the 2012-13 school year to develop programming, grade configuration, and transportation recommendations for 2013-14 and beyond at Eighty-first Street School.
21. Representatives of the Administration met with the Sixty-eighth Street and Eighty-first Street School staff at a combined meeting on March 5, 2012, to discuss the Administration's recommendation. Parents, guardians, and community representatives of both schools were invited to a meeting at Eighty-first Street School which was held on March 5, 2012. Staff, parents, and guardians were also informed of the March 8, 2012, meeting of the Milwaukee Board of School Directors and the opportunity to provide testimony at a public hearing at that time.

STRATEGIC PLAN COMPATIBILITY STATEMENT

22. The Administration's recommendation supports the MPS *Working Together, Achieving More* (WTAM) strategic plan.
Goal 5: The district is accountable for measurable results.
WTAM Strategy: The district allocates resources in a fiscally responsible manner to improve academic performance.

STATUTE, ADMINISTRATIVE POLICY OR BOARD RULES STATEMENT

23. Merging the Sixty-eighth Street and Eighty-first Street School educational programs at the Eighty-first Street site meets the stipulations set forth in Administrative Policy 5.01(8), Facilities, and Administrative Procedure 5.01(2), Facilities Retirement as it relates to consolidation principles.

FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT

24. The merging of Sixty-eighth Street and Eighty-first Street School educational programs at the Eighty-first Street site is estimated to result in \$252,623 annual transportation savings. Transportation costs are not expected to increase beyond those currently incurred for Eighty-first Street School. Moving and set-up costs associated with relocating the Sixty-eighth Street education program are estimated to be \$60,000.
25. The moving and set-up costs totaling \$60,000 will need to be budgeted in the FY13 Construction budget.
26. Implementation of the 2012-2013 Proposal contained in a recent communication from the "Our Neighborhood Schools Committee" to the Milwaukee Board of School Directors (which is not recommended by the Administration) would result in a Sixty-eighth Street School FY13 budget shortfall of \$165,259, transportation costs of \$125,000 (a 50% reduction from FY12, but \$125,000 more than the Administration's recommendation contained in this item for FY13), \$109,094 in annual operational savings, and \$317,971 in 2012-13 per pupil funds that are needed to address the FY13 (2012-13) district budget gap.

IMPLEMENTATION AND ASSESSMENT PLAN

27. If enrollment applications of current K3, K4, and K5 Sixty-eighth Street students for Eighty-first Street School in 2012-13 exceed the number of seats available, priority will be assigned as follows:
 - a. Siblings of Eighty-first Street students.

- b. Students who reside in the Eighty-first Street attendance area.
 - c. Students who reside in the Marshall attendance area.
28. Milwaukee Public Schools Office of Family Services will provide assistance to parents of current Sixty-eighth Street students to ensure a satisfactory 2012-13 school assignment as well as those who have selected Sixty-eighth Street School during the school selection process for 2012-13.
 29. Upon Board approval, the Northwest Region System of Support Team led by the Regional Executive Specialist will assist the Sixty-eighth Street School and Eighty-first Street School communities with all of the activities required related to the merger. Transportation will be provided within the attendance area guidelines to students who reside in the Marshall transportation region and more than 1.0 mile from the Eighty-first Street site.
 30. The Administration will work with bargaining units affected to ensure that contractual rights of staff are honored.

ADMINISTRATION'S RECOMMENDATION

The Administration recommends that the Board approve a merger of the Sixty-eighth Street Early Childhood and Eighty-first Street School educational programs at the Eighty-first Street facility, 2964 N. 81st Street, effective at the close of the school year in June 2012. The merger will include two phases as outlined in the item.

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