

November 29, 2006

Former HealthPartners site in Spring Lake Park to become permanent District and Community Services Center

At its November 14 meeting, the School Board approved a proposal to make the former HealthPartners site, 1415 81st Street, Spring Lake Park, the permanent home for districtwide student services, the district offices, and Community Services Department programs and services.

The benefits include short- and long-term cost-effectiveness, flexibility for current programs and growth, and providing an inviting, convenient, and welcoming full-service center for families and community.

The district purchased the facility this summer for use as temporary (2007-2010) transitional space during demolition and construction phases related to the Facilities Improvement Plan.

Now, programs and services that support and benefit students, staff, community members, parents, and families will be permanently centralized instead of scattered throughout district facilities. The Spring Lake Park High School complex, woefully small by State standards, will become a high school-only site by 2010.



Future home of the District and Community Services Center, 1415 81st Street, Spring Lake Park

Prior to the Board's decision, Superintendent Don Helmstetter gave a presentation that included the following information:

BACKGROUND: Facilities Improvement Plan Objectives

- Address a projected 20% growth in enrollment by adding classrooms at all levels.
- Include major renovation and new construction to address deferred maintenance needs on 35-50 year-old facilities.
- Build a new 750-student K-3 elementary school.
- Provide long-range educational solutions for this and the next generation of students.
- Meet state and federal guidelines and address issues of safety and security.

- A key component of the bond referendum was an agreement made with the Minnesota Department of Education that the District significantly reduce non-high school student activities from the high school complex, provide more parking, and offer more green space in accordance with state guidelines.
- Since the bond referendum was passed in February 2006, District 16 has been in the market for a facility or facilities to address short- and long-term space needs.

Short-Term Needs

March 2007

Temporary re-location of Early Childhood programs until fall 2007

March 2007

Temporary (or permanent) relocation of Community Services until 2010

Fall 2007

District Offices until 2010

Fall 2007

Districtwide support services until 2010

Possible relocation of Learning Alternatives Community School

Summer 2009

Board Room until 2010

Long-Term Needs

Summer 2009

District maintenance garage

Immediate

Parking at high school complex

The District will utilize this site for the next 3-4 years to house district programs displaced by Facilities Improvement Plan renovation and construction projects.

- Between 2007 and 2010, during major demolition and construction phases at the high school complex, additional space is needed for the temporary (at least) relocation of Early Childhood programs (March 2007), the Community Services Department, the District Offices, and many of the district-wide student support

services scattered throughout various facilities.

- In addition, some (or all) of the Learning Alternatives programs may need to be relocated.
- Permanent relocation of student, family, and community support services to the "HealthPartners" site would allow the high school site to access an additional 24,000 square feet. This would provide far more flexibility in creating a 2,000-student capacity school. (Including Spring Lake Park High School and Learning Alternatives Community School)

- By permanently relocating student, staff, family, and community support services to the HealthPartners site, additional space could be available on the first level of the two-story section of the high school to allow for the growth of Learning Alternatives Community School programs as well as Special Education programs currently offered to our students off campus.
- If the move to the "HealthPartners" facility were to become permanent, it would be established as a District and Community Services Center. Programs and services that support and benefit community members, students, parents, family, staff, and community could be centralized instead of scattered throughout various district facilities.

This support center would include:

- Centralized school district welcome center, new family/student registration and enrollment
- Community Services Department offices, registration and enrollment
- Community meeting rooms
- Teaching, Learning, and Accountability Department
- Business Services
- Food Services
- Human Resources
- Transportation
- Special Education
- District administration
- Title I Services
- English Language Learners
- School Board Chambers
- District Psychologists, Occupational Therapists
- Gifted Services
- District-wide Technology and Technology Support Services



District-wide services, the District Offices, and Community Services will move from the two-crowded by state-standards high school site. The new site will provide a convenient and welcoming environment for serving students and staff, parents, families, and the community.

- Some of the Special Education EBD Level IV programs currently out-sourced could be brought back to the district, resulting in better service to students, and a reduction in tuition and transportation expenditures.
- The District would also have additional options for relocating the district's Life Skills Transition program, which requires a house or "apartment" setting for real-life experiences for special needs students, eliminating the current cost of rental space.
- Some of the space at "HealthPartners" that will be used as temporary classrooms for Early Childhood Programs could be modified for needed staff training space and community meeting rooms.
- The area previously used for HealthPartners dental offices could be used as lease space to generate revenue for the District.
- The area could also be used to return additional out-sourced programs to the District, resulting in substantial cost benefits to the District.
- If we utilize these or other options, then keeping the HealthPartners site as a permanent district facility will not result in an increased tax levy.
- It could also dramatically reduce tuition and transportation costs currently paid to other districts.
- The HealthPartners site would also provide space for the district-wide maintenance garage which, in accordance with the original agreement with the Minnesota Department of Education, must be relocated from its current site on the Spring Lake Park High School complex.

In summary:

A permanent move to the HealthPartners building will:

- Completely eliminate all non-high school programs from the High School complex
- Provide more parking at the high school complex
- Provide greater capacity flexibility for Spring Lake Park High School and Learning Alternatives Community School programs
- Provide opportunities to return to the district special education students and/or programs that are currently out-sourced or off-campus
- Some of the space at HealthPartners that will be used as temporary classrooms for Early Childhood Programs could be modified for needed staff training space and community meeting rooms
- The area previously used for HealthPartners dental offices could be used as lease space to generate revenue for the District

The benefits include:

- Cost-effectiveness, both short- and long-term
- Flexibility for current programs and for future growth
- Safe, convenient, inviting full-service center for our family and community customers