

November 14, 2005

Board hears final report and recommendations of the Facilities Task Force

Facilities Study Final Report



The School Board heard the final report and recommendations of the community-staff Facilities Task Force on Tuesday, Nov. 8.

The Board will now discuss the plan at a work session and special meeting on November 22 prior to making a decision, probably at a special meeting on December 6, on whether or not to go forward with a 2006 Bond Referendum election. The referendum would address enrollment growth, aging facilities, land-locked sites, deferred maintenance, renovation, new construction, and a new K-3 elementary school.

The report is available at:
<http://www.springlakeparkschools.org/DO/Facilities/default.htm>

Delfs, Forsberg, Ruch, Stroebel elected to School Board

School Board Election

As a result of the November 8 School Board election, incumbents Kelly Delfs and Marilyn Forsberg have been returned to office and newcomers Jodi Ruch and John Stroebel have been elected to the Board for four-year terms of office beginning January 2006. The number of district residents who cast votes on this day (1,477) represented a huge turnout for a Board election. Congratulations to those elected and a warm thanks to all candidates for their interest in the students of District 16.

Eight candidates ran for four seats on the Board. Candidates and their vote totals:

John Borene	585	Jodi Ruch	700
Kelly Delfs*	600	John Stroebel	822
Marilynn Forsberg*	679	Linda Waiwaiole	505
Gerry Miller	452	Annette Winrick	345

January 26, 2006 will be an Early Release Day for students

Early Release on January 26

Thursday, January 26, 2006 will be an "Early Release Day" for all students in District 16. Teachers will be involved in professional development activities during this time. The early release on Thursday precedes a long weekend in which Friday is already a student vacation day. **Please mark this on your calendars as this staff development session was just approved by the School Board and it is not on the school calendar.**

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What times will students be released on Thursday, January 26?

School will be done on January 26 at the times listed below. Normal bus transportation routes from schools to homes will take place at the following times:

Spring Lake Park High School, Learning Alternative

- Students will be released at 12:15 pm

Westwood Middle School

- Students will be released at 12:40 pm

Westwood Elementary

- Students will be released at 1:15 pm

Woodcrest, Park Terrace, Kenneth Hall Elementary

- Students will be released at 1:35 pm

What about other programs on this day?

- There will be NO afternoon kindergarten on this day.
- There will be NO middle school after-school athletics, activities, or activities bus.
- All Learn & Play Preschool, Early Childhood Family Education, and Early Childhood Special Education programs WILL be held as scheduled.
- Kids' Club WILL be open for child care as soon as school lets out. If you do not normally use Kids' Club, but would need the service on this day, contact Community Services at 763-786-1338.

What will staff be doing on the afternoon of January 26?

Staff will be involved in a number of efforts focused on enhancing student learning.

- The parent-staff Continuous Improvement and Effectiveness Study Task Forces from the middle school and high school will be working with secondary staff to identify strategies and interventions that will enhance student achievement for all students. Task force members have been assessing current practices both in our schools and in outstanding schools from across the country, as well as studying best practices in educational literature.

Task force members will facilitate staff-wide reviews of the results of their nine-month study. Staff will provide feedback and share ideas. This is important as it is rare that all staff from the two schools have the opportunity to work together. This will help to ensure that our students experience an aligned curricular and program sequence throughout their secondary experience.

- Elementary school staff will participate in one of the following activities: Teachers will meet in collaborative grade-level teams to focus on improving student learning. We call these Professional Learning Communities (PLCs). PLCs are teams of teachers who teach at the same grade level. During the January 26 early release day, teachers will review and modify learning targets, study student achievement data to assess progress towards learning targets, and plan interventions to help each individual student make continued progress towards those standards or deepen their learning if they have already met expectations.

To ensure that no student "falls through the cracks," other elementary teachers will work together to develop a school-wide "System of Interventions." They will

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develop a process that clarifies the support networks a student will experience throughout the school if they begin to struggle with their learning.

Some elementary teachers will be developing a school-wide continuous improvement plan. Over the course of this year, each elementary school is identifying areas of needed improvement, identifying strategies for improvement, professional development needs, and developing a two- to three-year action plan to ensure improvement.

For more information on this process, contact your school principal; Dr, Jeff Ronneberg, assistant superintendent (763-785-5525); or visit our web page, www.springlakeparkschools.org.

School principals will share more information with parents regarding specific plans for the January 26 early release date.

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Sign up now for E-News Updates from Spring Lake Park School District 16

A new communications feature has just been launched in the Spring Lake Park Schools. We call it **E-News Updates**.

You can now select from a menu of district, school, or department news sources and updates will be periodically sent to the home or work e-mail address of your choosing.

The initial E-News Update choices: District News, School Closings/Alerts, School Board Agendas/Minutes, Athletic & Activities Updates, Kenneth Hall Elementary, Learning Alternatives, Park Terrace Elementary, Spring Lake Park High School, Westwood Elementary, Westwood Middle School, and Woodcrest Elementary.

Subscribing to this new service is easy. Go to the school district home page www.springlakeparkschools.org (or any of the schools' home pages) and select "E-News sign-up." Once there, you've only to check the boxes of the news updates you're interested in receiving, enter your e-mail address, and hit "subscribe." Try it, we think you'll like it. If you don't, "unsubscribing" is easy to do as well.