



Nurture Success!

Talking Points for Communicating with School Board Members June 22, 2009

1. Barton Open School serves the district strategic plan well at its present site. It provides choice to Minneapolis families and educates a diverse student body.
2. The Barton community's initial response to the Changing School Options process in February was to propose enrollment strategies for increasing our ELL population and for increasing our economic and racial diversity. We stand strongly behind our original proposal.
3. The proposal to relocate the Barton Open program is a consequence of one plan, created by a small group of people, to provide a community school for the East Harriet and King Field neighborhoods. Thus far, nothing convincing has emerged in the Changing School Options process to suggest that moving the Barton Open program would be more educationally sound for Barton or for the district as a whole.
4. The Lyndale/Barton Dual Campus Plan, which places a community school at the current Barton site, is needlessly disruptive and costly, economically and educationally, to three separate school communities (Barton, Lyndale, Ramsey). There are other options available to address the community school needs of the East Harriet and King Field families, for example changing community school attendance boundaries.
5. School size matters. A likely consequence of moving the Barton Open program is that it would increase in size. The Barton Open program is as large as it should be if it is to continue to meet its academic goals and retain its philosophical program integrity.
6. The School Board has a responsibility to look critically at the educational impact of every scenario presented to them and support the options that offer the most Minneapolis families the programs and level of academic excellence they deserve.
7. We urge the School Board to nurture success in the district by finding a community school solution for the East Harriet and King Field neighborhoods that leaves the Barton Open program at its current site.