



Chairperson Henke, School Board Members and Superintendent Maguire.

I'm Kim Riesgraf, Assistant Superintendent of Administration serving as the project manager for our grade span change.

During this report, I will review the work completed since the last update I gave on January 20th.

Priority Result

Beginning the 2015-16 school year, the grade spans for the school district will be:

- elementary PreK/K-5,
- middle school grades 6-8, and
- high school grades 9-12.

Month in Review

- ✓ February 3 staff update
- ✓ February 4 DLTl staffing allocations
- ✓ February 13 transition survey
- ✓ Middle school registration underway
- ✓ Junior highs host information sessions

Planning for New Grade Spans Board Update

2/17/2015

Communication was a key element in all of the work being completed on grade configuration over the past month. Every month, I email updates to all staff with a summary of each monthly steering committee meeting. These updates began in November and will continue through completion of the project. Over the past several months, I've been reporting to the board on the work that being completed to make adjustments to the Division of Leadership, Teaching and Learning staffing guidelines due to the change in grade spans. DLTl distributed staffing allocations to principals on February 4th and principals are now working on the staffing plans for their buildings. Each school has a transition plan for students and staff in place. The secondary principals agreed that it would be helpful to ask the families of current 5th and 6th graders, and, 8th and 9th graders what each school could do to help the transition go well as they enter middle school and high school, respectively. A transition survey was distributed to those families last Friday, February 13, and we will collect parent/guardian input through Friday, February 27. A summary will be provided to each secondary school to help in their planning. Middle school student registration for next year is underway. Our middle school counselors scheduled visits at each of the elementary schools to provide registration information to students and a course selection form was sent home. In addition, families of 5th and 6th grade students received an automated message about middle school registration. Our junior highs have planned information sessions to share information about their schools. MGJH has already done two sessions for 5th and 6th grade families and is scheduling another for 7th grade families soon. NVJH held two sessions today BJH is having a 6th and 7th grade preview night on Thursday, February 19th from 6 – 8 pm. And OJH has plans for an information session at a spring conference night.

Middle Level Design

Model for meeting the needs of high-achieving middle school learners

- cluster classrooms
- rigorous curriculum
- acceleration

Planning for New Grade Spans Board Update

1/20/2015

The model for meeting the needs of high-achieving learners at our middle schools will blend cluster classrooms with rigorous curriculum and acceleration. In cluster classrooms, students in grades 6-8 are placed in core classes with a cluster (group) of students at their same instructional level. This model narrows the range of instruction, allowing teachers to differentiate more effectively than they can in a classroom with a wide range of student abilities. Beginning next year, all 6th graders will have a more rigorous math program that will allow high achieving students to go deeper with their learning than before. In 7th and 8th grade math, students will have access to two options: regular grade-level math and an accelerated (HP) option. As with current HP classes, teacher recommendations regarding placement will be taken into consideration.

The gifted education recommendation was made following research on best practices for the middle school model, consideration of teacher perspectives, and gathering feedback through a survey of randomly selected parents whose students participate in either elementary gifted education or junior high S+ classes

Middle Level Design

- Complete Guide to Middle School for families
- Identify appropriate curricular materials for some courses
- Recommend changes for middle level report card
- Identify best practices for conferences

Feb & March 2015

Planning for New Grade Spans Board Update

2/17/2015

By the end of February, the Middle Level Design Team will send a Guide to Middle School to all families with students currently in grades 5-7.

The design team will also be working on identifying appropriate curricular materials for several courses, including 6th grade language arts and science, 7th grade science and 8th grade social studies.

Then the next steps will be to look at middle level report cards for 2015-16 and identify best practices for conferences.

High School Programming

- Staff open houses held at each high school
- Registration conferences completed
- High school staffing
- Prepare for fall activity/athletic registration

Feb & March 2015

Planning for New Grade Spans Board Update

2/17/2015

High school student registration has been completed. High school staffing is now on the horizon and high schools will be the first to complete their staffing plans and begin the teacher transfer process. Vacancies will be posted Feb 25th, 26th and 27th. Interviews will occur March 3rd, 4th and 5th.

The first round of staff hiring is scheduled for March 9. Because 9th grade is being added to the high school we are expecting about 50 openings across the three high schools. The phased-in process will help ensure that positions are open to as many current teachers as possible across all levels throughout the transfer and hiring process.

High School Facilities

- Weekly construction meetings at each high school
- Steady progress on construction
- Interior work beginning

Feb & March 2015

Planning for New Grade Spans Board Update

2/17/2015

Several weeks of mild weather have allowed contractors to make good progress on the groundwork for the new high school additions and they are ahead of schedule. Interior designers from ATS&R have scheduled meetings at each high school to consult with staff to make final decisions on finishes and colors. Time will also be provided to address questions that site teams have regarding furniture and equipment and classroom configurations.

At Maple Grove Senior High

- The insurance adjuster working on the gym floor that had water damage has requested that Braun Intertec, a third party testing lab, test the floors and make a determination regarding the need for repair or replacement.
- The City of Maple Grove has agreed to leave the dome inflated until May 19. This will give the P.E. staff longer access to this teaching station until that time.
- Maple Grove's All-Night Senior Party will be held off-site now that gyms 1 and 2 are not available due to water damage.
- As a result of updated projections for MGSJ showing increased enrollment, we are considering converting the science lecture lab to a 14th science lab. If this is recommended, we will prepare a Request for Change Order Proposal with information on the cost. The costs would be absorbed by the contingency budget assigned to this project.
- The foundations and below-grade work on both additions are 100% complete and the above-grade masonry block work is underway and making good progress.

At Osseo Senior High

- The footing and masonry work continues to move ahead of schedule. The below-grade work on the gym addition is complete and work will continue on the above-grade block work.
- During February non-student days, pipe work will be done in the ceiling of the front hallway and the boy's athletic locker hall in order to bring pipes to the east wing addition.
- Work has begun on the new rehearsal room area.

At Park Center Senior High

- The below-grade footings and foundation walls for the classroom addition are complete and the preparations for the above-grade walls has begun.
- We received requests to make several changes to the plan at Park Center and have taken steps to research the viability and costs for the proposed changes. The cost could be manageable as we are reducing the scope on some existing work.
- Work on the stairwell and the locker commons is scheduled from 3:00 P.M. to 11:00 P.M. each day for the next week. This schedule limits the negative impact of construction on operations during the school day.
- Last week, the north gym P.E. schedule was cleared and the batting cages were installed. PE classes will resume in the north gym this week.

Human Resource Staffing

- Teacher transfer process communication
- Human Resources ESP Communication
- Teacher transfer process begins
- High School Job Fair

Feb & March 2015

Planning for New Grade Spans Board Update

2/17/2015

The Human Resources Education Support Professional project team has determined that no modifications are needed to the ESP staffing process. HR communicated this to all ESPs on February 4th along with a timeline for the ESP staffing process and answers to staffing questions that have been asked of ESP union reps.

HR also sent an update to teachers entitled, “Update on Teacher Transfer....Here’s What We Know” to address questions that have been raised by teachers. The update included detailed information on the high school interview fair, the process for high school job offers and information on middle school and elementary interviews and job offers. Information on the streamlined internal application process and information on seniority was also provided.

On February 23, HR and Education Minnesota-Osseo will host two Staffing Q & A Sessions for teachers. Both meetings will take place after work at the new EMO offices. The first meeting will be at 3:15 pm and the second at 4:30 pm.

Logistics

- Completed tasks list
- Added team members
- Develop moving and cleaning schedules
- Develop communication plan

Jan & Feb 2015

Planning for New Grade Spans Board Update

2/17/2015

On February 20, the logistics team has planned a full day work session to complete the logistics work plan and communication plan.

The team has gathered input on logistics from school secretaries, the grade configuration steering committee, Learning Leaders and Business and Resource Managers.

Technology

- Planning for equipment moves required for teacher transition
- Planning for iPad move and redistribution

Jan & Feb 2015

Planning for New Grade Spans Board Update

2/17/2015

The technology project team is on track in planning updates to critical systems, databases, and reports to accommodate the changes in grade level spans.

Planning for movement of technology equipment and iPads continues. We anticipate having a specific plan for collecting, sorting, and distributing of iPads finalized by the end of March. Team members are scheduling meetings with site leadership teams at secondary sites over the next few weeks to gather more information that will inform the planning.

Stay informed

[ISD 279 - Osseo Area Schools - Home](#)

The screenshot shows the ISD 279 website home page. At the top, there is a date 'February 16, 2015' and navigation links for 'Logins', 'For Realtors', 'Contact Us', and 'Site Map'. The main header features the 'OSSEO AREA SCHOOLS ISD 279' logo and a search bar. Below the header is a navigation menu with links for 'Home', 'About Us', 'Teaching+Learning', 'Schools', 'Students+Families', 'Services+Departments', 'Community Ed', and 'I want to:'. The main content area is divided into several sections. On the left, there is a sidebar with a 'Athletics' menu and a 'Corrections & Clarifications' section. The central part of the page features a large article titled 'UPDATE #13: PLANNING FOR NEW GRADE SPANS CONTINUES' with a sub-headline 'Updated February 3, 2015'. The article text states that the project continues on time and on budget to transition to new grade spans (preK-K-5, 6-9-12) beginning in the 2015-2016 school year. It highlights recent work including the 'Middle Level Design Team' and lists specific details for 6th and 7th grade students. To the right of the article, there are two widgets: 'Español • Hmoob' and 'MyOsseoBus Status' with a green button stating 'All buses are on time.' Below the bus status is a 'GROW WITH OSSEO' logo and an 'ENROLLMENT AND CAPACITY MANAGEMENT TASK FORCE' logo.

Planning for New Grade Spans Board Update

2/17/2015

Lastly, a good place to stay informed about the planning for new grade spans is on our school district website.

The website has home page links to the project overview, project management documents and planning updates.