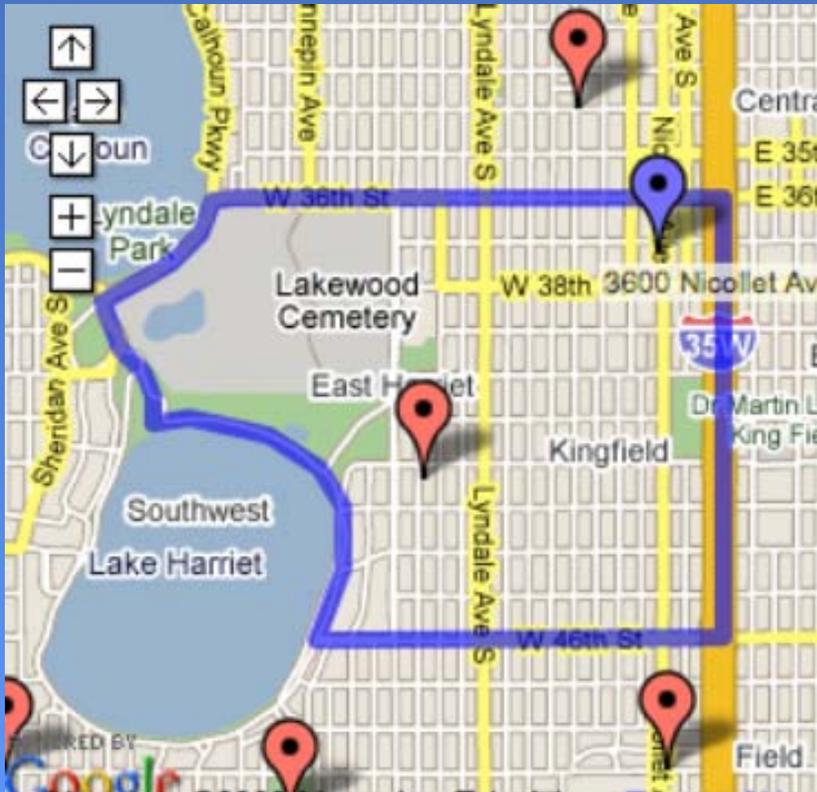


Changing School Options Discussion for Residents of Kingfield & East Harriet Neighborhoods -- MPS Open Area F2 --



March 10, 2009
Solomon's Porch
100 W. 46th Street
7:00 p.m.

Presented by residents of the F2 Open Area

Agenda

- Welcome and Introductions
- Goal statement of meeting
- Current situation
- Overview of district proposals
- Open Discussion
- Next Steps

Meeting Organizers

- We are community residents who have recently connected over this issue
- We are parents of current or future students at Armatage, Burroughs, Hale, Lake Harriet, Whittier, and Windom
- We support the district's goals
 - Provide an excellent education to all
 - Reduce financial pressures
 - Stop declining enrollment
 - Improve diversity
- We are seeking a solution that provides an excellent education, supports community, and builds strong families & neighborhoods

Meeting Objectives

- Inform one another about what we know and don't know about Changing School Options.
- Connect with one another and encourage involvement.
- Engage in open discussion and identify possible next steps.

What is an Open Area?

- An area within the district that does not have a designated elementary school.
- Families of incoming kindergarteners may select three schools – 2 community and 1 magnet – from their attendance area.
- Families are “guaranteed” a place at one of their selected schools.

Open Area – F2

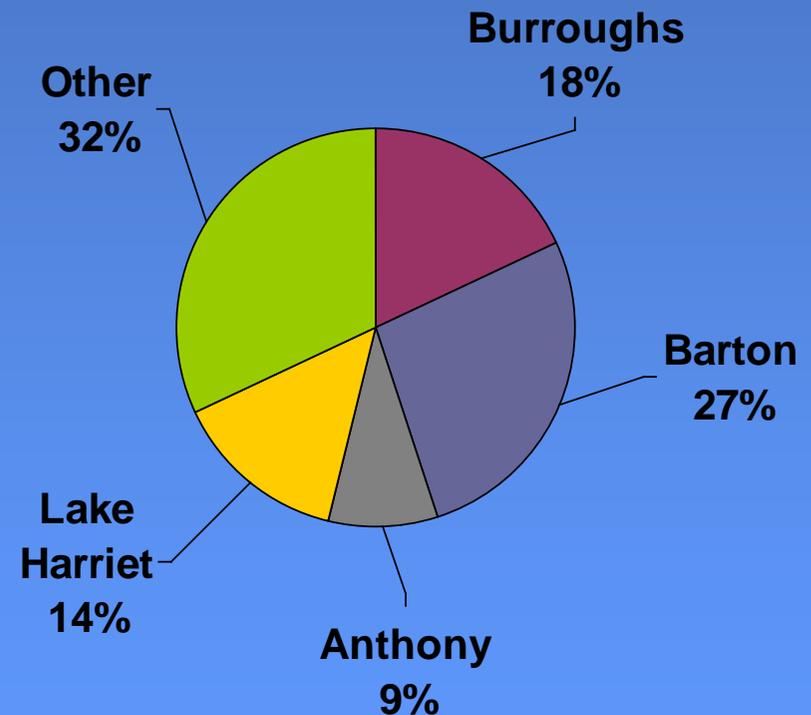
- F2 is one of 10 Open Areas in the district
- F2 families have 17 schools to choose from
 - 8 are community schools
 - 9 are magnet schools

What Does Open Area F2 Look Like?

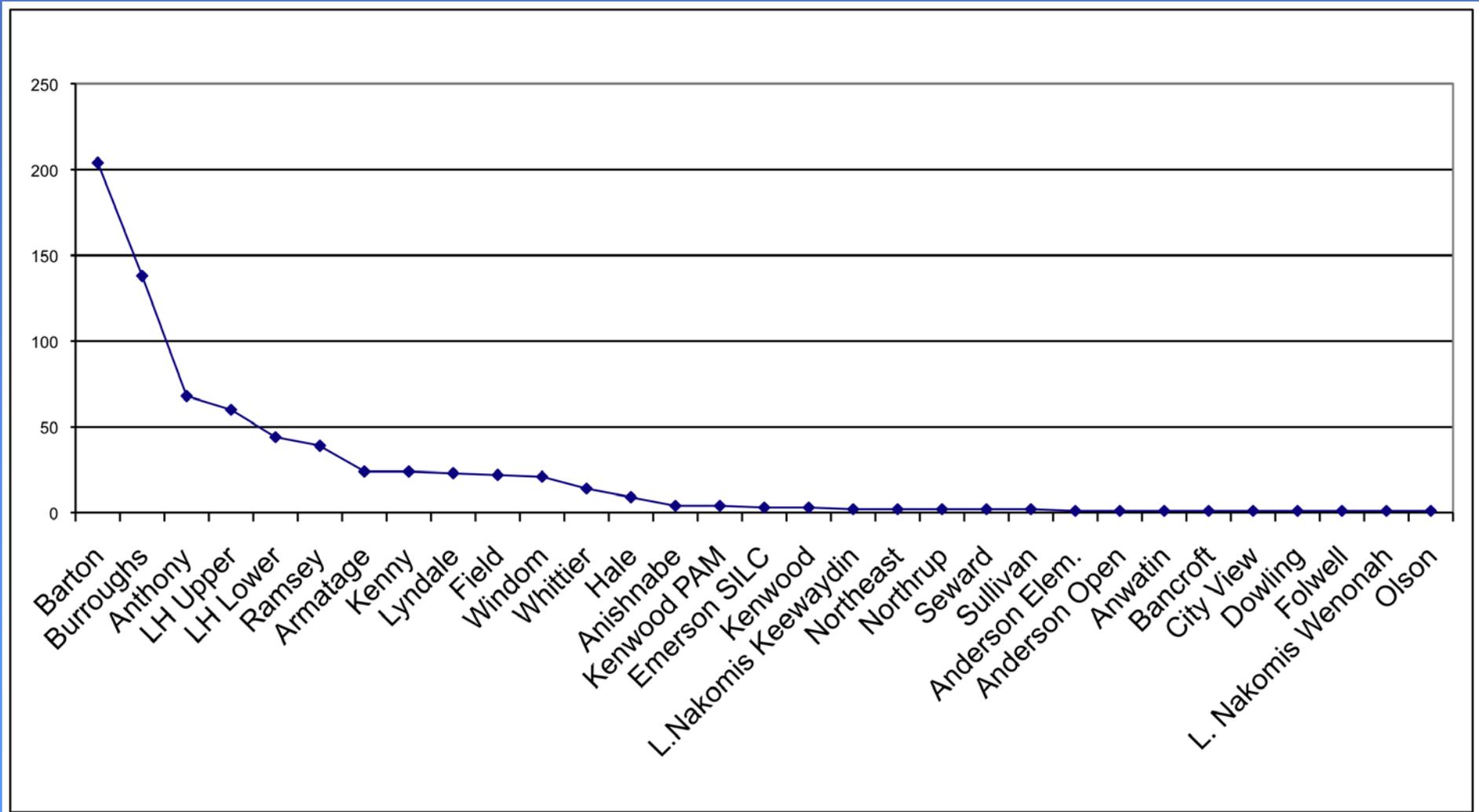
Student Enrollment

F2 Student Enrollment

- 749 K-8 students attended MPS last year
- Three most popular schools
 - Barton (27%)
 - Burroughs (18%)
 - Lake Harriet (14%)



Number of F2 students per building, grades K-8



The Current Situation

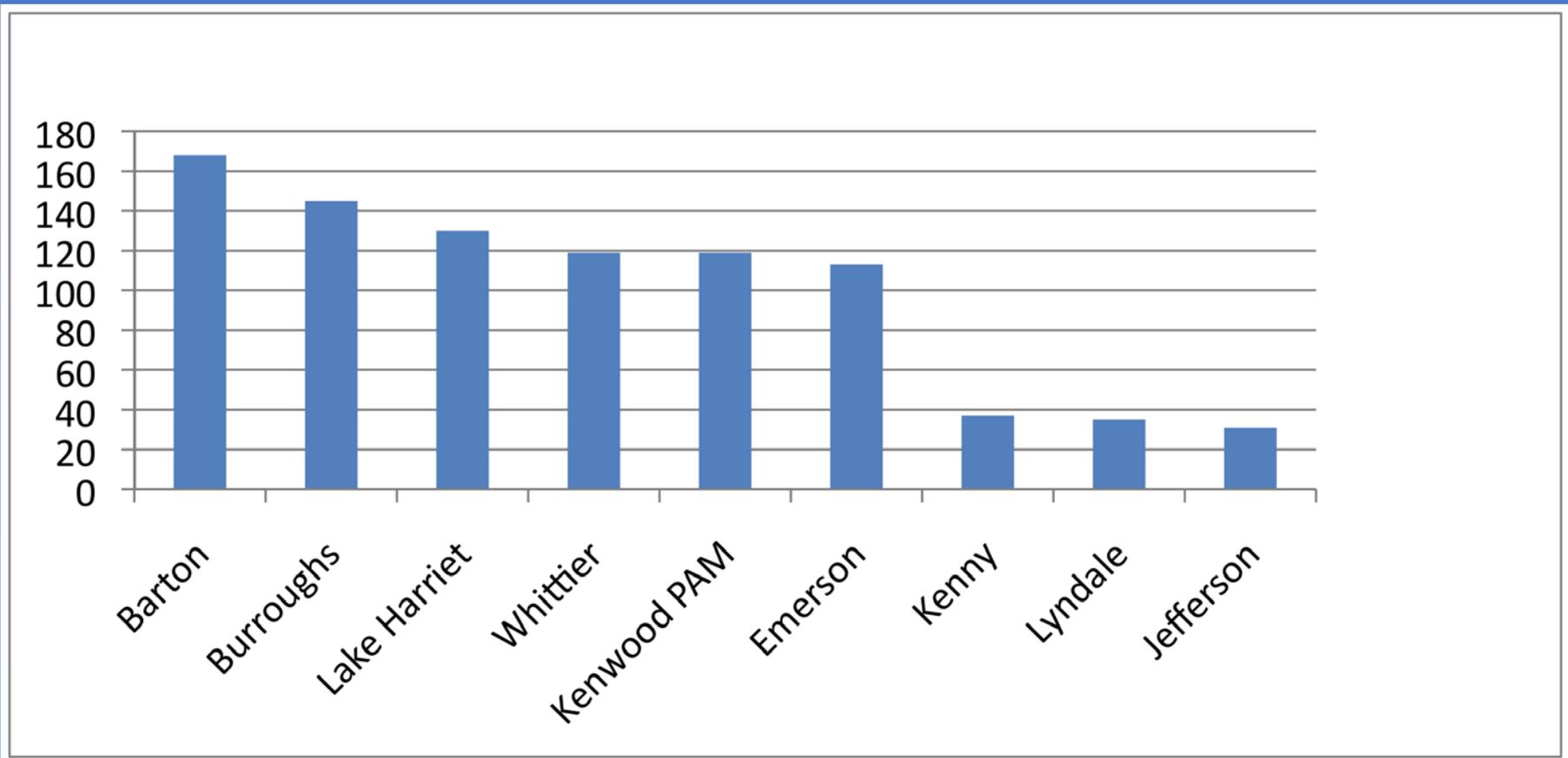
Problems identified by Minneapolis Public Schools (MPS)

- \$28 million budget shortfall for 2009-10
 - Need an effective and sustainable system for the future
- School choice isn't meeting District objectives
 - Magnet schools do not consistently show superior academic achievement or consistently have integrated student bodies
 - Families continue to leave MPS
 - Not all families take advantage of the choice process
 - System is very complex and hard for families to understand
 - MPS buses approx. 70% of its students, costing \$20 million for Regular Ed. and \$13 million for Special Ed.
 - While some MPS schools are full, overall they have more space than needed and facilities cost from \$400 to \$2,700 per student

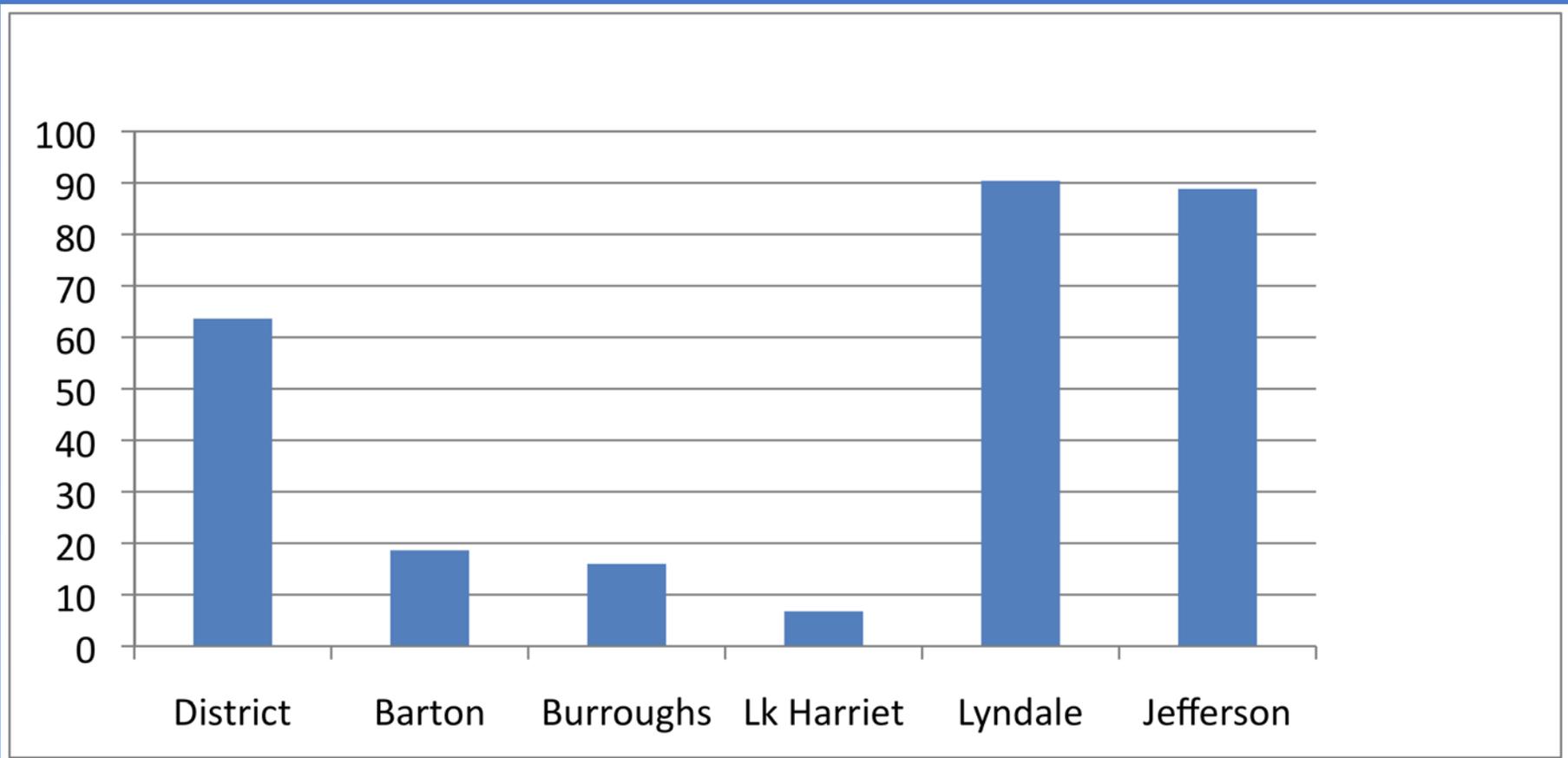
District Enrollment Details

- 32,500 students enrolled
 - Space for 50,000
- Fewer than 50% of district families fill out a Kindergarten choice card

Percentage of Kindergarten Spots Requested

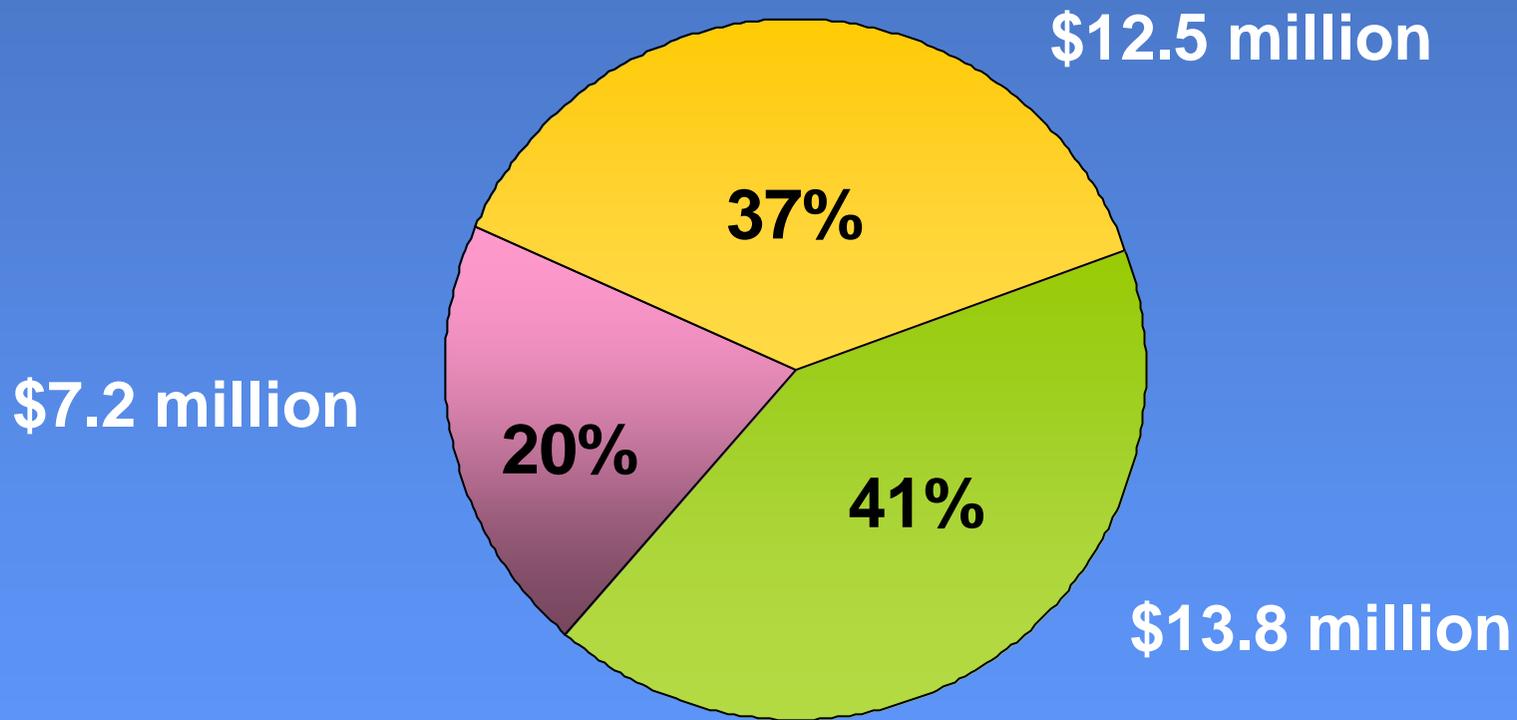


Percent of Students Qualifying for Free/Reduced Lunch



Transportation Details

According to the District, reducing transportation will reduce budget pressures



■ State Funds ■ MPS Funds ■ Desegregation Funds

Proposed School Choice Changes

Minneapolis Public Schools
Information

MPS Proposals

Option 1: Community schools only

Option 2: Community schools and fewer, centralized, city-wide magnets

Option 3: Community schools and zoned magnets (2, 3, or 4 zones)

And: Invest in busing for desegregation at three Southwest area schools, running a “Choice is Yours” program within the city

Illustration of Proposal #1

Community Schools Only

- Kingfield and East Harriet students assigned to same community school
- or
- Kingfield and East Harriet neighborhoods divided up and assigned to different existing community school areas
- and
- Magnet programs are eliminated

Illustration of Proposal #2

Centralized Magnets

- Kingfield and East Harriet students assigned to same community school
- or
- Kingfield and East Harriet neighborhoods divided up and assigned to different existing community school areas
- and
- Kingfield and East Harriet students may attend magnet schools, but there are fewer options and locations will change

Illustration of Proposal #3

Zoned Magnets

- Kingfield and East Harriet students assigned to same community school
- or
- Kingfield and East Harriet neighborhoods divided up and assigned to different existing community school areas
- and
- Magnets attended by Kingfield and East Harriet students may no longer be options for our zone

“All Options Are on the Table”

From the District's Web site:

- Will students who now attend a magnet that is no longer a magnet (“demagnetized”) or a community school that is no longer closest to home (because of redrawn attendance boundaries) be forced to switch schools in 2010 or will this only affect new students?
 - We are going to play out the scenarios both ways and ask:
 - What would be the impact of “grandfathering in” currently enrolled students so that they could complete the highest grade level at their present school?
 - What would be the impact of all students switching schools?
 - We will be weighing the level of disruption to existing students and families with the cost of running two transportation systems during a transition.

We Need to Know More

- We have not heard necessary details
 - Are current students grandfathered in to their “out of area” school?
 - What about siblings yet to enter?
 - Can we still attend our current school and provide our own transportation?
 - How will these proposals will help meet the District’s goals?

How can we provide input, create plans or make decisions for our families when we don’t have this information?

F2 families value choices available, but:

- 22 F2 families originally were not assigned one of their choices for 2008-09 school year
- Current 3-choice system is a band-aid for bigger structural issues in the MPS system
- F2 families are divided among 31 different K-5 & K-8 schools
- Most popular schools are overcrowded
- SW schools do not reflect the diversity of the school district
- Transportation costs and environmental impact are high
- There's no one to advocate for F2 families because we are divided up; there's no school community to bring us together.

Changing School Options Timeline

Weeks of March 9th and 16th

- Public Meetings on “Changing School Options” (CSO),

April 14, 6:00-8:00pm

- Presentation of final recommendations to School Board

Week of April 20th

- Public meetings on CSO recommendations

Week of April 27th

- Public meetings on the recommendations

Week of May 4th

- Public hearings on recommended school closings

May 12th, 6:00-8:00pm

- Board decision on the CSO recommendations

Meeting Dates for Middle and High School Scenarios

March 11

— 6:30-8:30pm

Church of the Incarnation, 3817 Pleasant Avenue South

Presented in English and Spanish

— 6:30-8:30pm

Sullivan Community School, 3100 East 28th Street

Presented in English and Somali

March 12

— 6:30-8:30pm

Whittier International School, 315 West 26th Street

Presented in English and Spanish

Meeting Dates for Elementary School Scenarios

March 19

- 6:30-8:30pm
Pillsbury Math/Science/Technology School, 2250 Garfield Street NE
Presented in English and Spanish
- 6:30-8:30pm
Hiawatha Community School, 4201 – 42nd Avenue S
Presented in English and Spanish

March 21, 10:00am

- 10:00am
Minneapolis Public Schools Headquarters, 807 NE Broadway
Presented in English, Hmong, Somali and Spanish
- 2:00pm
Brian Coyle Community Center, 420 – 15th Avenue South
Presented in Somali

Need childcare? Please call 612-668-0230 to reserve a spot or for more information.

Information Learned at Monday's District Meeting

- Centralizing magnet schools means: Relocating them to an area between Lake Street and Broadway
- Boundaries will be re-drawn to achieve 2 goals:
 - 1) increase enrollment at low-enrollment schools
 - 2) Increase integration
- Transportation Cost-Savings for District Proposals:
 - All Community Schools: \$2.3 million
 - Community Schools + Centralized Magnets: \$1.4 million
 - Community Schools + Zoned Magnets : \$1.8 million

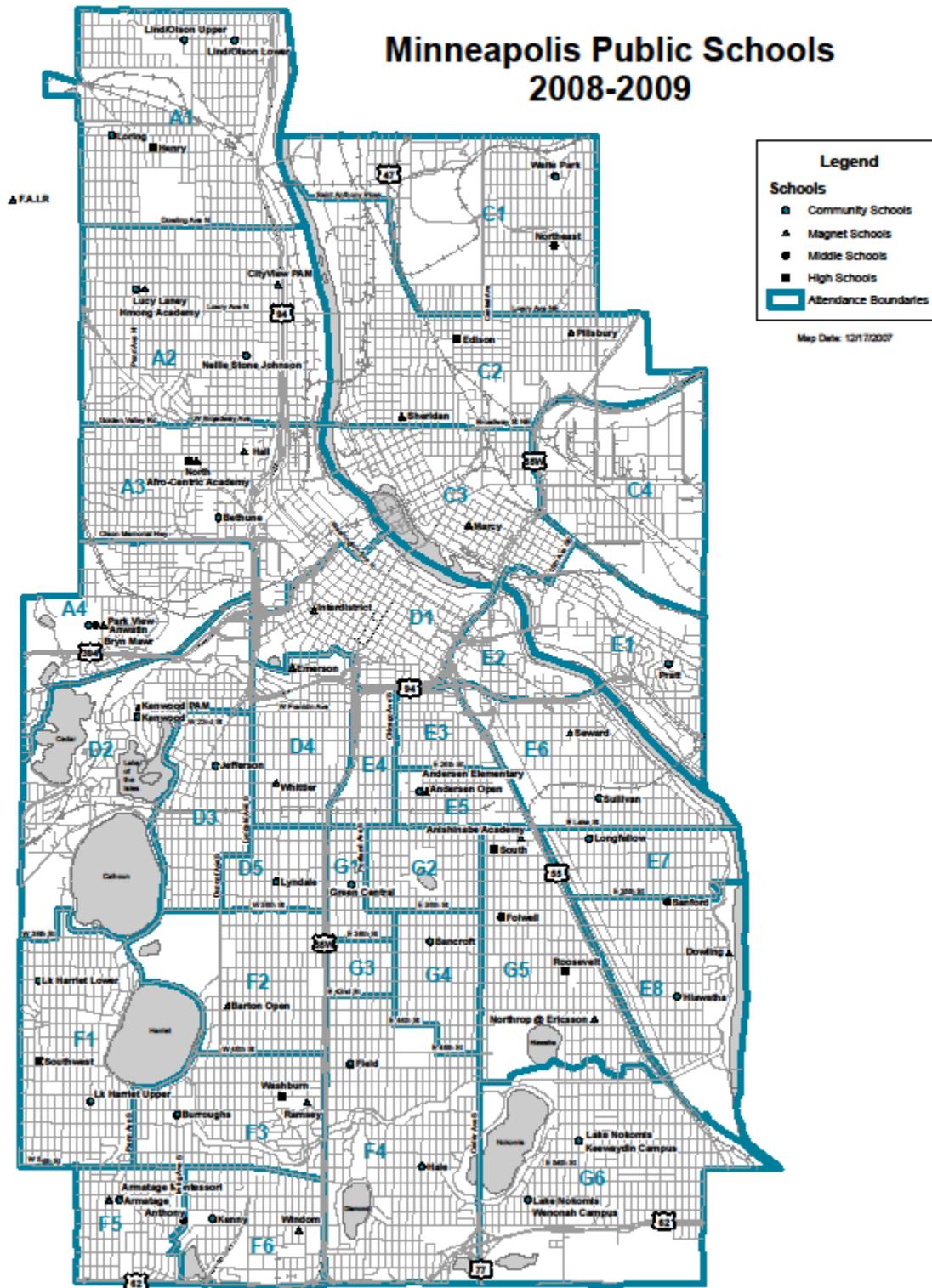
School Board Members

- **Pam Costain:** pam.costain@mpls.k12.mn.us
- **Carla Bates:** carla.bates@mpls.k12.mn.us
- **Jill Davis:** jill.davis@mpls.k12.mn.us
- **Lydia Lee:** lydia.lee@mpls.k12.mn.us
- **Tom Madden:** tom.madden@mpls.k12.mn.us
- **Chris Stewart:** chris.stewart@mpls.k12.mn.us
- **T. Williams:** twilliams@mpls.k12.mn.us

- School board office: (612) 668-0197

Open Discussion

Minneapolis Public Schools 2008-2009



Kingfield

- Website: www.kingfield.org
- Contact: Sarah Linnes-Robinson sarah@kingfield.org
- KFNA Board Meeting
2nd Wednesday each month (Tomorrow Night)
MLK Park, 4055 Nicollet Ave. S.
- The first item at every board meeting is a Community Forum, a chance for anyone to bring their question or concern before the board without previously being placed on the agenda. If you have a neighborhood concern and think the topic needs more than a few minutes of conversation, please contact the KFNA Executive Director at least one week before the meeting at sarah@kingfield.org and ask to have the item placed on the agenda.

East Harriet

- Web site: www.eastharriet.org
- Contact: Emily Winter, Neighborhood Coordinator,
3612 Bryant Avenue S., info@eastharriet.org
612-824-9350
- March 12
Community Building Committee
7:00 - 8:00 p.m. | Java Jack's (46th & Bryant)

Elected City Officials

Mayor

R.T. Rybak
City Hall, Room 331
350 South Fifth Street
Minneapolis, MN 55415

Web address:

www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/mayor/index.asp

Phone: (612) 673-2100

City Council

Ward 8

Elizabeth Glidden

Elizabeth.Glidden@ci.minneapolis.mn.us

Web address:

www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/council/ward8/

*Council Member
Glidden is available to
meet with residents
every Monday morning
from 9-11 a.m. at
[Sabathani Community
Center](#), 310 E. 38th
Street*

Ward 10

ralph.remington@ci.minneapolis.mn.us

Phone: (612) 673-2210 Fax: (612) 673-3940

Web Address: www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/ward10/

Ward 11: Scott Benson

scott.benson@ci.minneapolis.mn.us

Phone: (612) 673-2211 Fax: (612) 673-3940

Web Address: www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/ward11/

Mailing Address for all City Council members:

City Hall

350 S. 5th St. Rm. 307

Minneapolis, MN 55415

Kingfield Statement

- The lack of a neighborhood school to serve Kingfield
- Kingfield has a large youth population and one of the largest growing populations of children five and under in the city of Minneapolis. The residents of Kingfield believe that youth are a valuable asset to the community, and are committed to providing them with a safe, livable and community-oriented neighborhood in which to learn and grow.
- However, Kingfield has no neighborhood school. As one of only three (3) free-zones in the city, Kingfield has no assigned community school and families in Kingfield must send their children out of the neighborhood to attend school. The NRP process confirmed that Kingfield's free-zone designation has a negative impact on the education of our youth and the livability of the community.
- The residents believe that a school in the neighborhood would best serve many of our children's educational needs, as well as contribute to the growing sense of diversity and community within Kingfield. Therefore we urge the Minneapolis School Board to rethink its position on this issue, end Kingfield's designation as a free-zone and consider the construction of a community school to serve the Kingfield neighborhood.

Draft of Possible Statement

We know what we have is not working. The solution to the problem is unknown, but we feel there is broad support historically and still today for a community school that includes the F2 Open Area. Mandating that all families attend community schools would not be welcomed by parents if it includes eliminating magnet schools and not providing the opportunity to keep children at the schools they currently attend. But, we are excited to work with the district to create a way that F2 families that choose to do so are guaranteed a place for their kids to go to school with their neighborhood friends.