

DRAFT
Crosswinds School/District 625
February 23, 2017
“A Collaborative Partnership”

**“If you help us in the rainy season,
we will help you during the dry season”.**
African Proverb

Reasons to Consider a Collaborating with St. Paul Public Schools

A. *Students and their Families*

1. Crosswinds Students and Families
2. St. Paul Public Schools’ Students and Families
3. Open Enrollment Students and Families

Desired Outcome: Current Crosswinds School students will be welcome and encouraged to remain at Crosswinds School. Students new to Crosswinds and open enrollment students, other than students currently enrolled Crosswinds School, will be accepted under the current St. Paul Public Schools guidelines for accepting open enrollment students.

B. *Staff and Programming*

1. Crosswinds Staff
2. Year-round Calendar
3. Focus and Vision
4. Labor Agreements

Desired Outcome: Current Crosswinds School staff members will be invited to remain in their current position under the staffing parameters and guidelines of District 625. The desired outcome is that current Crosswinds School students will see the present CWS staff in their current positions next year and in the future. This desired outcome includes teaching, clerical, custodial, teaching assistants, and administrative team members. This is not a commitment to retain each and every position now in place at CWS.

It is the desire of St. Paul Public Schools that Crosswinds School will operate on a year-round calendar similar to the present CWS calendar. Crosswinds would continue to operate with a commitment to student integration, the fine arts, and environmental science with an administrative vision of “Training and Developing Teachers of Color.”

All labor agreements in place at Crosswinds School will be addressed in accordance with Minnesota State Statutes concerning the joining of districts, schools, and programs. St. Paul Public Schools is committed to following the District 625 Mission, Vision, and Values in relationship to current Crosswind labor agreements. Equitable, respectful, and compassionate relationships with all staff are expectations of the District 625.

C. *Sustainability of Crosswinds*

1. Funding - Operating Referendum
2. Current Programming – Fine Arts & Environmental Science
3. Program Options – Training and Developing Teachers of Color
4. Blending for Future Prosperity – Specialists & Community Cultures
5. Timeline and Phase-in
 - a. 2017–2018 - Current Programming and Students
 - b. 2018 and beyond - One grade level per year expanding to 6 -12 Grades

Desired Outcome: Crosswinds School will be funded in the same manner as other District 625 secondary schools. SPPS referendum funding, along with categorical aid, will follow students attending CWS. There will also be additional categorical aid that will follow open enrollment students to CWS. I believe this is not the case at the present time. District 625 believes there is an opportunity to blend programming in the areas of specialist staff, student services, special education, operations, and community services. This teaming concept will allow for additional services to be offered to Crosswinds School students, their families, and staff that is not currently offered.

St. Paul Public Schools believes it is desirable to encourage all current students and staff to remain at CWS and create an atmosphere that fosters student achievement (Keeping the Main Thing the Main Thing), family involvement, and staff satisfaction. District 625 believes this will be accomplished via a gentle blending of programming and services (current programming the first year with an additional grade level added each year) for both learning communities that will lead to one family of learners of all ages.

D. Transportation of Crosswinds Community School Students

Desired Outcome: Current Crosswinds School students will be “grand-mothered” under the current transportation model. This means the current CWS students would be transported under the current integration transportation guidelines, which allow for reimbursement of students attending an integration school. It is District 625’s request to the MN Department of Education that current CWS students receive transportation until they leave CWS. New open enrollment students would be treated in the same manner as other open enrollment students in SPPS.

E. Required Steps

1. Perpich Center for Art Education on 2-28-17
2. SPPS Attorney–Due Diligence
3. SPPS School Board on 3 -7-17
4. MDE Approval of Transfer-TBA
5. Approval of transfer of Crosswinds School by the Minnesota Legislature-TBA

Desired Outcome: The Perpich Center for Arts Education, the SPPS School Board, the Minnesota Department of Education, and the Minnesota Legislature will approve the transfer of Crosswinds School to District 625 and allow current CWS students to continue to receive transportation following the current practice.

Both the Perpich Center for Arts Education School Board and the St. Paul Public School Board will recommend and approve the transfer of the ownership, management, and operation of Crosswinds School, including all the rights and responsibilities, to District 625.

F. Comments and Questions