



News Release

From Seattle Public Schools

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Seattle Public Schools announces public hearing schedule for preliminary recommendations for capacity management and building closure

Hearings to be held at each building recommended for closure

Seattle - Seattle Public Schools today announced an updated calendar of public workshops and hearings where families, staff and community members can share their opinions and ideas about Superintendent Maria L. Goodloe-Johnson's preliminary recommendations on district-wide capacity management and building closure. Review and community input will take place throughout December and January. The School Board is scheduled to vote on the final recommendations on January 29, 2009.

"We are considering building closures in order to strengthen academic programs and protect the District's long-term financial health," Superintendent Goodloe-Johnson said. "These are very difficult decisions to make, but they are decisions we must face now, and we must face them together, as a community."

Goodloe-Johnson noted that the District's Strategic Plan, *Excellence for All*, was shaped by the participation of thousands of families, staff and community members, and expressed her hope that a similar number of people would become engaged as the capacity management and building closure recommendations are considered.

Public hearings and community workshops will be held during December and January at locations throughout Seattle. Each of the buildings recommended for closure will host a public hearing on December 15, 16 or 18. Scheduled dates and times are listed on the following page.

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Seattle Public Schools Preliminary Capacity Recommendations Public Review Schedule

Date	Time	Type of Meeting	Location
December 3	6:00 p.m.	School Board meeting	John Stanford Center for Educational Excellence*
December 4	6:30-8:30 p.m.	Community workshop	John Stanford Center for Educational Excellence
December 6	9:30-11:30 a.m.	Community workshop	Filipino Community Center: 5740 MLK Jr Way
December 15	6:30-8:30 p.m.	Public hearing	1. TT Minor: 1700 E. Union St. 2. Pinehurst: 11530 12th Avenue NE 3. Van Asselt: 7201 Beacon Avenue S
December 16	6:30-8:30 p.m.	Public hearing	1. Genesee Hill: 5012 SW Genesee St. 2. Mann: 2410 E. Cherry St. 3. Old Hay: 411 Boston St.
December 18	6:30-8:30 p.m.	Public hearing	Lowell: 1058 E. Mercer St.
January 7	6:00 p.m.	School Board meeting	John Stanford Center for Educational Excellence
January 21	6:00 p.m.	School Board meeting	John Stanford Center for Educational Excellence
January 22	6:00 p.m.	Public hearing	John Stanford Center for Educational Excellence
January 29	6:00 p.m.	School Board vote	John Stanford Center for Educational Excellence

**John Stanford Center for Education Excellence: 2445 3rd Avenue South*

Testimony at the public hearings on December 15, 16 and 18 will be limited to three minutes per speaker, and should focus on the school building about which the hearing is being held. Those who wish to present testimony at these hearings are asked to sign up by calling (206) 252-0042 or e-mailing hearing@seattleschools.org.

Updated information about the process and timeline will be posted on the District's Web site, www.seattleschools.org/area/capacity. Seattle Public Schools will employ a variety of communications methods to notify staff, families and community members of recommendations and public comment opportunities.

Feedback related to capacity management is welcome. Comments can be emailed to capacity@seattleschools.org or mailed to School Board, PO Box 34165, MS 11-010, Seattle, WA, 98124-1165. The School Board office phone number is 206 252 0040.

The public review process has been designed to receive community feedback on Superintendent Goodloe-Johnson's preliminary recommendations on capacity management. Under these recommendations six school buildings are recommended for closure, and an

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additional building will close temporarily but may reopen depending on enrollment; nine programs would relocate from one building to another; one new elementary school would be opened and one existing elementary school would expand to a K-8; and five programs would be discontinued and their students reassigned to new schools beginning in fall 2009.

The preliminary recommendations can be summarized as follows:

SUMMARY OF SEATTLE PUBLIC SCHOOLS PRELIMINARY CAPACITY RECOMMENDATIONS (11/25/08)			
BUILDING CLOSURES	RELOCATED PROGRAMS	NEW PROGRAMS	DISCONTINUED PROGRAMS
Genesee Hill Lowell Mann TT Minor Pinehurst Van Asselt (Old Hay – may be temporary, depending on enrollment)	Lowell APP to Hawthorne and Thurgood Marshall NOVA to Meany Pathfinder K-8 to Arbor Heights SBOC to Meany Summit K-12 to Rainier Beach Thornton Creek to Addams TT Minor K-3 Montessori to Leschi Thurgood Marshall EBOC to Bailey Gatzert Van Asselt to AAA	New K-5 at Decatur Thornton Creek K-5 expands to K-8	African American Academy AS #1 Arbor Heights Meany TT Minor

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