



Tuesday, January 11, 2022

**RE: Reimagining 5th Grade at MNPS**

At the November 16th, 2021 MNPS Parent Advisory Council (PAC) District Wide Meeting, we discussed Reimagining 5th grade at MNPS in one of the 4 breakout rooms. This was planned to be a parent-led discussion. We prepared for this prior to the meeting and we informed parents that we would record the questions and submit those questions to the MNPS liaison to the PAC. The questions were submitted to MNPS on November 23rd, 2021.

On December 9th 2021, MNPS responded to the questions. Below are the submitted questions and the responses from MNPS:

	Questions	Answers
1	When will the schools adding 5th grade next year (2021-2022) know what the details/plans are for facilities/faculty etc? I know our Principal didn't have any further information as of last week	*Mr. Ashford Hughes followed up with the parent who asked this question. Because the response was made in a personal email with the parent, the response cannot be published to the general public.
2	How will this impact middle schools that are already underutilized?	Transitioning 5th grade to elementary allows middle-school principals and teachers to focus on one grade band- 6-8, and leverage resources accordingly. We believe that this transition benefits both elementary and middle-school students. The support hub along with every middle schools will need to continue to recruit zoned students to attend.
3	What about magnet schools? If my child wants to stay at his elementary school for 5th, will he still be able to qualify for magnet for 6th grade? Or do we need to apply, for Meigs for example, for 5th grade?	To date we have been working with several of our magnet schools and their ED's to address this. We are aiming for early January to have some concrete communication to provide parents.

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4	Is there any way that schools who currently have the space for 5th grade and want to transition can request to be moved up on the list?	No
5	What are the criteria for making the transition?	We have looked at cluster, available space, staff and financing. We have looked at all of these factors as well as how the 5th grade expansion within clusters affects choice seating.
6	I'm looking at the Reimagined page and noticed the info about Advocacy Centers -- how is it determined which schools will and won't get those Centers?	All elementary schools now have Advocacy Centers.
7	Will there be an Advocacy center placed at Stanford Montessori Elementary School?	Yes, they currently have an advocacy center.
8	When will the other clusters aside from those mentioned in this meeting (Those mentioned in the meeting were: Pearl Cohn, Whites Creek, Maplewood, McGavock, Hunters Lane and Stratford) have 5th grade classes in the elementary school buildings?	The ultimate goal is to have all the schools transition to K-5 by 2024-2025. We have six clusters remaining.
9	What group in MNPS is responsible for the 5th grade reimagine. As a parent of a 5th grader, I can 100% testify that our 5th graders shouldn't be in middle school. The faster the better for our children!	The group consist of the following departments: MNPS Senior Cabinet strategy leaders, facilities dept., boundary planning dept., school options dept., curriculum and instruction dept., student support services, operations dept., transportation dept., communications dept.
10	Is there any time frame for the transition from middle to elementary?	Ultimate goal is all schools transitioned by 2024-2025

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11	<p>For the school clusters that are not yet scheduled to have 5<sup>th</sup> grade moved to elementary school, the reason given is that the elementary school buildings don't all have capacity to hold 5<sup>th</sup> grade.</p> <p>So it's clear that we need either renovations or additions in those clusters to enable 5<sup>th</sup> grade to move to elementary schools.</p> <p>Will we see MNPS putting these renovations and builds on the next list of capital project needs, and asking for Metro Government to fund these requests, so that the district can continue to move forward with moving 5<sup>th</sup> grade to elementary schools for everyone?</p>	<p>This question requires a larger discuss [sic] that PAC will host regarding capital improvements at an upcoming townhall. Please join us in the spring!</p>
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On December 14th, 2021, Dr. Battle and the ReimaginED team provided an update to the Board of Education about that process and the timeline for full implementation by the 2024-25 school year.

Please visit <https://mnps.org/cms/one.aspx?portalid=32970327&pageid=36429224> for all details about Reimagining 5th Grade at MNPS, Advocacy Centers at Elementary Schools and Consolidation and Closings.

Thank you,  
Elizabeth Hines  
PAC Chair 2021-2022