

Committee of the Whole

Tuesday, August 19, 2025 6:00 PM

Board Assembly Room, 1250 West Broadway Avenue, Minneapolis, Minnesota 55411

1) **Call to Order/Roll Call/Introductions**

1)a. Opening Remarks by the President and Chair &
Superintendents

2) **Staff Report**

3) **Discussion**

4) **Adjournment**

Joint Meeting of the Minneapolis School and Park & Recreation Boards



August 19, 2025

Agenda

1. Call to Order/Roll Call/Introductions
2. Opening Remarks by the President and Chair/Superintendents
3. Reports from Staff
 - a. Partnership Updates
 - b. Updates from 2024 Goals
4. Questions/Discussion
5. Adjournment



Opening Remarks by the President and Chair/Superintendents



Reports from Staff

- Partnership Updates
 - Facilities and Land Use: Collaborative planning
 - Facilities and Land Use: Shared usage agreement status
 - Programs and Services: Full-Service Community Schools
 - Communications and Marketing: Collaboration Update
- Highlights: Environmental Stewardship



Facilities and Land Use: Collaborative Planning

- Monthly capital and project planning meetings
- Provide capital plans for 2025 – 2028
 - Finalized Willard Park Outdoor Recreation Legacy Partnership grant – acquisition/land swap
 - Continue to improve communication on access and safety issues at joint use sites
- Cooperating on MPS Title IX compliance and implementing key provisions of the MPRB Diamond Sports Committee – planned implementation beginning 2026



Facilities and Land Use: Shared Use Agreements Update

- MPS and MPRB regularly review maintenance, operational efficiencies, and optimal utilization of physical resources
- Required documentation has been completed and submitted for Board approval in 2024
- A written report will be submitted at the end of the year in accordance with the MOU



Program and Services: FSCS Overview

- Community partnerships provide after school programming at no cost
- School Day Partnerships
- Family Workshops
- Family Engagement Events (School Year)
- Summer Family Engagement
- Supporting Families (Services/Eliminating Barriers)
- Expansion/Pilot (Folwell Community School)



Communications and Marketing: Collaboration Update

- Staff have identified and implemented ways to increase ease of use for residents:
 - Both organizations are using Eleyo for childcare registration
- Staff to staff communications have improved dramatically, a strong network of key stakeholders has developed in the past five years
- Cross marketing programs and events are happening consistently through an acknowledgement and website listing in each agency's seasonal guides and through MPS' streamlined process for MPRB program staff to distribute print or digital activity fliers



Community Education and Recreation Area: Collaboration Update

- MPS Community Education and MPRB Recreation staff worked collaboratively to clarify and maximize building use between organizations
- Developed a plan for CE Coordinators and Park Directors to co-host Adult Enrichment classes citywide
- Established a system for CE to offer daytime 55+ classes in park buildings
- Planning an annual joint professional development and staff meeting



Environmental Stewardship Highlights



Environmental Stewardship Highlights

2024–2025 School Year & Summer

Neighborhood Naturalist Program

- Environmental Educators (EE) staff provided 160+ hours of free Drop-in Discovery programs during recess at ten park-school sites, resulting in 5500 interactions with students
- EE staff led 50+ hours of free after school programming over 18 weeks for three park/school sites in the fall, one during the winter, and two in the spring
- EE staff worked with ECFE programs at two park/school sites for an additional 100 hours of programs
- EE staff led field trips for 3rd to 8th grade MPS programs at Theodore Wirth Park and along the Mississippi River, serving 865 students.



Environmental Stewardship Highlights

2024–2025 School Year & Summer

Eloise Butler Wildflower Garden & Bird Sanctuary (EBWG)

- Naturalists led nature-focused programs for 347 1st and 2nd grade MPS summer school students at the Garden in July.
- EBWG hosted and co-led an ECFE program in July with ECFE staff. Twenty pre-k and parent participants enjoyed stories, and a nature walk at the Garden.
- **Kroening Nature Center** staff partnered with ECFE pre-K and parent educators for weekly Nature & Curiosity, and Play & Learn series, serving 30+ families.



Environmental Stewardship Highlights

2024–2025 School Year & Summer

Kroening Nature Center staff provided a total of 124 hours of programming to 2355 MPS students

- 469 students' grades 2nd–5th grade from Bethune, Cityview and Jenny Lind 3 times for a total of 60+ hours programming aligned to MN Science standards. *An average of 4.5 hours with each student.*
- 243 3rd grade students from Green, Emerson and Las Estrellas 3 times for a total of 15+ hours of programming with support from 10 bilingual Roosevelt student volunteers aligned to MN Science standards and dual language vocabulary development. *An average of 4.5 hours with each student.*
- 252 5th grades from Burroughs, Ella Baker, Nellie Stone, and Whitter with 10+ hours water quality programming
- 100+ students from HIA and Hall
- 1291 summer scholar students' grades 1st–3rd grade at Kroening and school sites

Kroening Nature Center staff continue to partner with MPS Community Ed to provide programming for Adults with Disabilities and 55+.



Environmental Stewardship Highlights

- **Youth Employment & Training Initiatives (YETI)** staff work with MPS staff and its career centers to recruit youth ages 14 to 24 for summer employment opportunities
- **The Minneapolis Park Corps**, a new employment program for ages 18-24, connected with CTE staff to do outreach and gauge interest from students about working in the trades.
- **Teen Teamworks** is a foundational employment program for ages 14 to 18. Employed 143 high school students; 60 were MPS enrolled students. Employed 21 adult seasonal staff hired; 7 of which were employed by MPS during school year.



Environmental Stewardship Highlights

Forestry

- Planted 24 trees in Kenny Park with all 309 Kenny Elementary School students, grades 1 – 5
- Led 108 4th & 5th grade Whittier International School students in tree-climbing workshop
- Offered tree-climbing at Waite Park Elementary School Festival



Safety Highlights



Working Together

- Cross collaborations between safety teams (Community Connections and Violence Prevention and Emergency Management Safety & Security)
 - Informational quarterly meetings with program staff
 - Share training and development opportunities
 - Collaborative intervention programming



Updates on 2024 Goals



Goal #1 Progress

Determine process to further improve cross marketing for greater efficiency, timeliness and participation.

- Expanded translation of MPRB flyers and seasonal brochures
- Built School Release Day activity search into MPRB software
- Added MPRB webpage for School Release Day Activities
- MPRB Winter, Spring and Fall programming seasons now aligned with MPS Winter and Spring Breaks



Goal #2 Progress

- Co-host a spring break "Activity Fair" to provide registration and financial assistance information for summer programming for underrepresented students and families
- A joint MPRB/MPS Summer Activities and Job Fair was held on Wednesday, March 12, 4-7pm at North High School. Families were able to find information about summer programs and summer job opportunities for youth of all ages.



Goal #2 (Back to School Kickoff)



MPS Community Education, Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board, Youth Coordinating Board, Hennepin County Library and Minnesota Department of Health are partnering again this summer to host a "Back to School Kickoff" at Whittier Recreation Center on Wednesday, August 20th from 4:00 – 6:00 pm. This event is a collaborative effort to welcome families back to school, connect them to resources, and promote safe enriching afterschool activities.



Goal #3 Progress

- 3rd Grade Swimming Pilot: Planning work in 2025 to develop structure, costs and funding sources to implement a phased approach in 2026.
 - Research grant & funding opportunities, policy updates or changes, identify costs for each organization, facility usage and location availability, age/ skill appropriate curriculum, staff, lifeguards, and instructors.
 - Identify transportation, outside agency partnerships, and set implementation timeline with all parties.
 - Identify list of 3- 5 schools of highest need base*. Strong candidate schools already discussed include Lucy Laney, Nellie Stone, Bethune, Sullivan, etc. *Criteria for need based on demographics against CDC designation of highest need populations from communities that have the highest rate of drownings.
 - Focus program to be implemented during the school day to reduce barriers of participation for busy families, introduce pre- lesson orientation with school, teachers, families, and students covering supportive content to prepare everyone before we “arrive” at the pool; including FAQs and intentional prep materials.
 - Designee from each organization to carry the work; who does what, program design, planning, curriculum, communication, data, reporting, and follow through.



Goal #4 Progress

- **Develop eco-friendly initiatives in support of the urban agriculture program at CTE/Edison**
 - Ideas: co-teach, collaborate on curriculum or youth summer employment (JDRivers and TTW Green Teams)
 - In partnership with MPS staff, Teen Teamworks hires and supports a Garden Crew out of South High School to help maintain the school's garden as well as gardens at MPRB recreation centers.
 - MPRB EE staff and MPS CTE staff have begun the conversation about collaborating on co-teaching, JDRivers as a work site for CTE Ag students , and increasing students' awareness of MPRB employment opportunities



Current Agreements

- All agreements between the two organizations are [posted here](#).



Questions/Discussion



Adjournment

