

Vision/idea (five years out)

- * Spaulding High School – approx. 1000 students – one of the best comprehensive public high schools in the state.
- * Bud Carlson Academy – approx. 100-150 students – one of the best small alternative schools in the state.
- * new high school designed for the 21st Century – approx. 400-450 students – one of the best high schools in the country.

Critical indicators (problems/needs – and longer-term goals)

1. average daily attendance
2. discipline/culture
3. drop-out rate
4. percentage of graduates going on to post secondary education, 4-year colleges, successful 1-2 years later.
5. standardized test scores (PSAT, SAT, NECAP, NWEA, ACT, AP, etc.)

Process

- * past 5-6 months (forums, discussions, preliminary research, prospective partnerships/funders, site exploration, etc.)
- * now through December (nine more public forums – and preparation/completion of full proposal)
- * full proposal/report to school board (December/January)
- * approval/disapproval process (school board, city council, etc.) – December through spring.

If approved, the new school would likely open to 100-200 students in the fall of 2012 – and rollout to full capacity (400-450 students) over the following three years – as SHS downsizes to approximately 1000 students.

New school design elements

- 1 – integrated curriculum organized around questions/problems.
- 2 – real/adult world immersion.
- 3 – more direct, simple, and useful assessment systems.
- 4 – graduation/diploma when earned (elimination of the 4-year assumption/default).
- 5 – adaptive, proactive, entrepreneurial organizational structure.

At the same operating budget (per student) as Spaulding – which is below the state average.

Start-up costs – estimated at \$5 to \$10 million – with an emphasis on state/federal assistance, foundation support, private contributions.

Four important convictions

- * We absolutely have to do better for our high school students.
- * Importance of school size.
- * The need for a new approach/model.
- * Benefits/value of school choice – three options rather than one or two.