

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**MN Legislature Supports East Metro Integration Schools**

*Harambee and Crosswinds will continue to provide  
strong educational options for all students*

**St. Paul, MN, May 17, 2014....**The State Bonding bill grants approval of the transfer of the schools to other districts which will maintain their integration mission. Harambee Community Cultures/Environmental Science Elementary, a K-6 school in Maplewood, will become a permanent member of ISD 623, Roseville Area Schools. Crosswinds School of Arts and Sciences, a 6-10 middle school in Woodbury, will be operated by the Perpich Center for Arts Education.

“We are absolutely thrilled” says Troy Stein, a parent of students at Harambee and Crosswinds. “These schools are unique, with their model of successful voluntary integration, and their accessibility to kids from all over the entire east metro region. This is one of those stories where the legislature, the leadership of all the districts involved, the staff at the schools, and the families of the kids, will all be able to look back and say, ‘We did a wonderful thing!’.”

This outcome is the culmination of a three-year collaborative effort by families, two school districts, East Metro Integration District (EMID) and Minnesota House and Senate members who came together and worked to find an avenue to maintain these successful schools. The schools were created with the goal of providing integrated learning environments and this successful vote comes 60 years after the landmark ruling in Brown v Board of Education.

Partnering with families in this effort this year include EMID Director Jean Lubke, Superintendent of Roseville Area Schools John Thein, Director of Perpich Center for Arts Education Sue Mackert, House authors Representatives Joann Ward and Peter Fischer, and Senate authors Senators Chuck Wiger and Kevin Dahl along with countless other legislators, families, and friends.

Harambee and Crosswinds are open for enrollment for the 2014-2015 school year. There is no cost and transportation is provided from some areas. For more information, see their respective websites at [www.isd623.org](http://www.isd623.org) and <http://crosswindsmn.org/>. For more information on the EMID Families journey, go to [www.emidfamilies.org](http://www.emidfamilies.org)

Located in Woodbury, Crosswinds is a grade 6-10 school focused on providing academic and artistic opportunities for students from urban and suburban neighborhoods to achieve continuing successes in a year-round program. Its vision is to have a culturally diverse education community where each student’s special talents and needs are nurtured and developed as he/she becomes a responsible global citizen and environmental steward.

Located in Roseville, Harambee serves grade K-6. Its name “Harambee” means working together for a common purpose and its mission is to create a community of learners whose achievement and well-being are enhanced by diversity, which is valued and celebrated!

Perpich Center for Arts Education is a state agency serving all schools, students and educators in Minnesota. Created in 1985 by the Minnesota state legislature, the agency seeks to advance K-12 education throughout the state by teaching in and through the arts. Perpich staff and faculty experts provide outreach, professional development, research, curriculum and standards development. Perpich is home to a public arts education library and an innovative, two-year, statewide residential high school that serves as a living laboratory for creative development in the arts. Additional information about Perpich is at [perpich.mn.gov](http://perpich.mn.gov).

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