

## **East Metro Integration District 6067 Enrollment Survey for ISD 622 March 2008**

### **Introduction**

On January 22, 2008 the North St. Paul-Maplewood-Oakdale (ISD 622) School Board voted to withdraw from the East Metro Integration District (EMID) collaborative effective July 1, 2009. In order to assess the potential effect of this decision on EMID school enrollment, staff conducted a survey of current Harambee and Crosswinds families that are residents of ISD 622. The purpose of this survey was to gather information about plans for future attendance at EMID schools. This report serves as a review of the survey results.

### **Methods**

EMID staff designed a paper-pencil survey for all current families that are residents of ISD 622. The survey and a return envelope were mailed to all respondents on February 20, 2008. One reminder phone call was sent to all respondents. As of March 11, 2008, 85 respondents (representing 131 students) completed the survey for a response rate of approximately 70%. The confidence interval for the survey results is 95% with a 5% margin of error.

### **Results – 2008-2009 School Year**

More than 90% of respondents plan to send their children to Harambee or Crosswinds for the 2008-2009 school year. Almost all plan to use bus transportation. At Harambee, 20% of respondents plan to use either before school or after school care.

### **Results – 2009-2010 School Year**

#### *Enrollment*

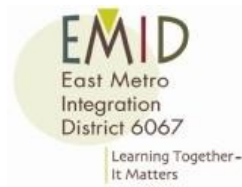
Slightly more than half of respondents plan to send their child(ren) for the 2009-2010 school year. An additional 30% indicated that their continued enrollment depended on transportation options.

#### *Transportation*

Most respondents (42%) require free transportation to continue enrollment. A similar number (37%) indicated that they are able and willing to pay a transportation fee. Fifteen percent of respondents indicated that they are able and willing to provide their own transportation.

#### *Childcare*

The majority of respondents (63%) do not require before school or after school childcare for the 2009-2010 school year. Fifteen percent of respondents would like access to these programs, but are unable to pay for them. Fewer than 10% of Crosswinds respondents indicated a need for before or after school childcare/programs.



### *Future Plans*

Thirty percent of respondents have preschool-aged children in their households. Of that group, over 80% plan to send their preschool-aged children to Harambee in the future. The majority will continue enrollment even if younger siblings attend a different school.

### **Results – Not Continuing Enrollment**

A variety of factors were identified as affecting respondents' decision to not continue enrollment at an EMID school. Transportation was the most frequently cited factor. Some students are finishing their time at Crosswinds and moving on to eleventh grade. Transitioning to high school was also cited by a number of respondents. For some, this occurs in ninth grade, for others in tenth grade. A small number of respondents indicated concerns with the quality of programming at EMID schools.

For those families that are not choosing to continue enrollment in an EMID school, fifty percent plan to return to an ISD 622 school.

### **Additional Comments**

The majority of additional comments from respondents related to transportation for the 2009-2010 school year. Representative comments include the following:

- “We are willing to pay for transportation, but our ability depends on the cost.”
- “I don’t know what I will do without free bus transportation.”
- “My student will continue to attend Harambee in the 2009-2010 school year and beyond even if I need to provide transportation.”
- “I truly believe EMID is the best place for my boys, but for our family it depends on the cost of transportation.”

Many respondents had positive comments about their experience with EMID schools. Representative comments include the following:

- “We have been very happy with the education and social opportunities made possible through the multicultural environment at Harambee and Crosswinds.”
- “I would really like for my children to continue attending these great schools because we feel like family to the staff and other families.”
- “Harambee goes out of the way to help families in need. I am very thankful for the school and nice, caring staff.”
- “Keep up the good work. My daughter has made more friends than ever before and the diversity at Crosswinds is wonderful.”