



Aquila Building Capacity

October 10, 2023 School Board Meeting

Outcome

School board members will understand plans for continued Aquila building capacity mitigation strategies.

Background

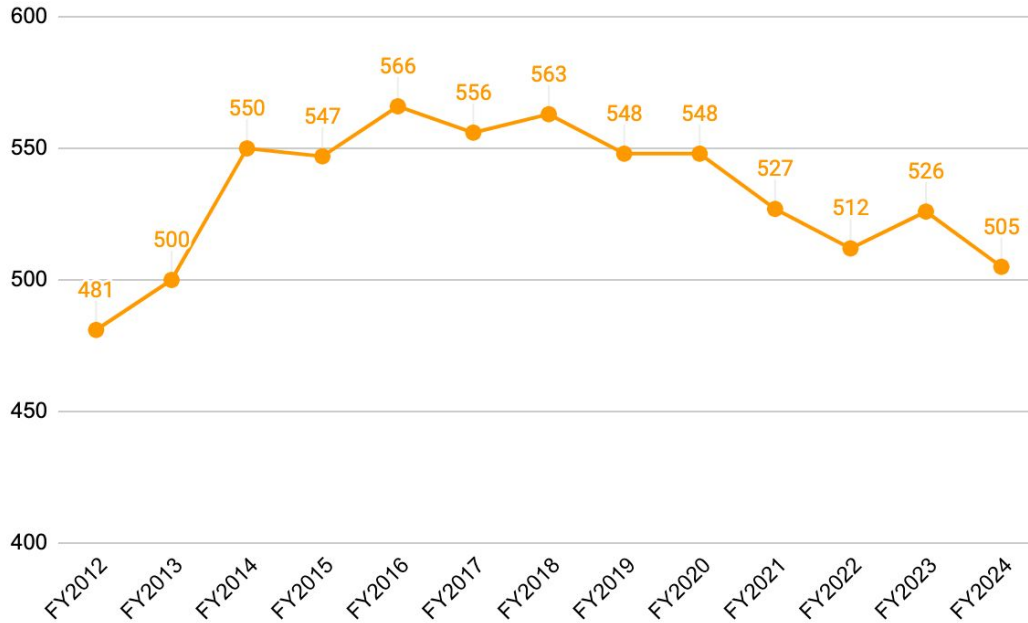
AQUILA ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Welcome
AQUILA ELEM
SCHOOL

WELCOME
AQUILA FAMILIES!

SAFE
SCHOOL
ZONE

Aquila boundary area student population



Aquila's enrollment coupled with increased programming needs have created constraints with the existing building capacity.



Determining building capacity

Capacity Classroom Count

Each elementary floorplan was studied to determine spaces that could be assigned as rooms for K-5 regular instruction. This means that the space is of sufficient size (900 sf) and is not a specialty classroom constructed for a specific purpose (i.e. art rooms with sinks, music rooms with acoustic panels).

Reserved Classrooms

Next, we identified classrooms needed to support specific student and curricular needs (i.e. talent development, music, special education). In some cases, spaces that would not qualify as a capacity classroom are available for these purposes.

Example: a school may have a space that is smaller than 900 square feet that can be used to serve multilingual (ML) students. Where these specialized spaces are not present, capacity classrooms must be reserved for these student and curricular needs.

Ideal Number of K-5 Sections

The remaining **capacity classrooms** are available to be used for K-5 regular instruction.

Ideal Student Capacity

An average class size (25) is multiplied by the Ideal Number of K-5 Sections to approximate an ideal student capacity for each school. In other words, the number of students assigned to a school that would allow sufficient spaces for regular K-5 instruction as well as specific student and curricular needs.

Current estimated building capacity

	Aquila	Peter Hobart	Susan Lindgren	Park Spanish
Total Classroom Count	30	30	27	30
Talent Development	2	2	2	2
Kids Place	1	1	1	1
DAPE	1	1	1	1
Instrumental Music	1	1	1	1
Music (special)	1	1	1	1
Multi Lingual Learners	1	1	0	1
DCD/SEL/EBD	3	1	0	1
SPED Resource	1	0	0	1
Flex	0	0	0	0
Ideal # K-5 Sections	19	22	21	21
Current Sections	24	21	19	21
Available Classrooms	-5	1	2	0
Average Class Size	23	23	23	23
Ideal Student Capacity	437	506	483	483
Current Enrollment	506	456	420	526
Current Available Capacity	-69	50	63	-43
	115.79%	90.12%	86.96%	108.90%
Building Square Footage	67,405	73,076	77,896	79,589
SF per Total Classroom Count	2,247	2,436	2,885	2,653

Findings

- Aquila elementary would need an additional **5 classrooms** to meet current student enrollment and programmatic needs.
- Based on current student enrollment and programmatic needs, the capacity of all elementary schools is reaching 90%+.



Enrollment

As a part of this process we study enrollment data at all elementary schools to understand the historical pattern of enrollment at each site. We also study patterns of student enrollment at each site in the area of Special Education as specialized programming in this area has implications for needs at sites.

Class Size Target					
K	1	2	3	4	5
23	23	24	26	28	29

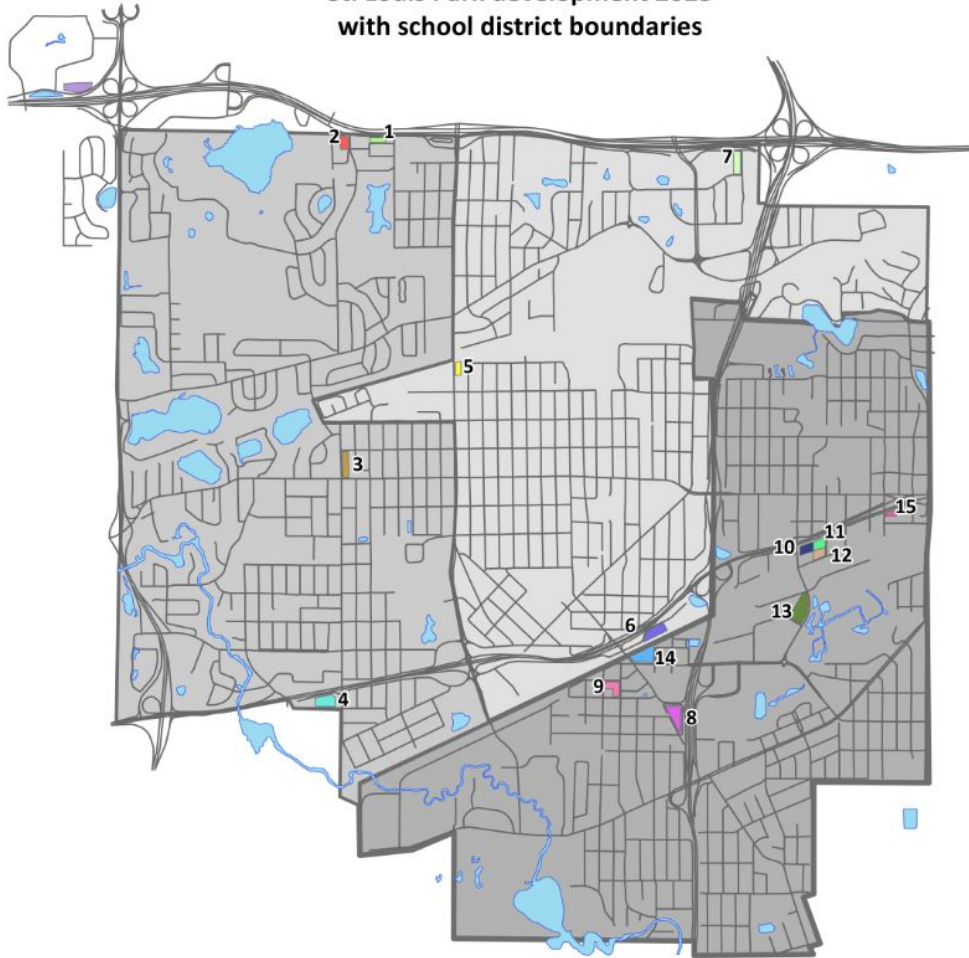
FY2024 Current Class Size						
School	K	1	2	3	4	5
Aquila	20.75	18.75	23.00	18.75	23.25	21.75
Peter Hobart	20.25	17.33	22.67	22.33	24.00	21.75
Susan Lindgren	24.00	22.67	22.50	19.67	23.33	20.33
Park Immersion	22.75	22.75	23.50	27.67	27.33	28.33

Development

As a part of this process we work with the City of St. Louis Park to understand and plan for development that has occurred and will be occurring across the district.



St. Louis Park development 2023 with school district boundaries



Aquila

- 1 Arlington Row East: 27 units
- 2 Arlington Row West: 34 units
- 3 Volo at Texa-Tonka: 112 units
- 4 Rise on 7: 120 units

Peter Hobart

- 5 2625 Louisiana Avenue: 57 units
- 6 Via Sol: 217 units
- 7 Caraway: 207 units

Susan Lindgren

- 8 Arbor House: 114 units
- 9 Union Park Flats: 60 units
- 10 Bellline Building 1: 152 units
- 11 Bellline Building 2: 82 units
- 12 Bellline Building 3: 146 units
- 13 Corsa: 250 units
- 14 OlyHi: 315 units
- 15 Parkway Plaza: 100 units



Goal of Capacity Planning

Balance enrollment with the capacity of the school while considering:

- Academic needs (i.e. multilingual, special education)
- Socioeconomic Status (free/reduced lunch percentage of students)
- Cost implications (i.e. transportation, support for students, programming)
- Anticipate future neighborhood growth

The background image shows the exterior of Aquila Elementary School. On the left, there is a tall brick tower. The main building is constructed of red brick with a grey horizontal band above the windows. A large glass entrance is visible on the left. A white banner on the right side of the building reads "Welcome AQUILA ELEMENTARY SCHOOL". A small sign near the bottom right corner says "SAFE SCHOOL ZONE".

Spring 2023 Information/ Listening Sessions

What we heard spring 2023...

The majority of parents/caregivers who participated in the information/listening sessions:

- love the Aquila school community and do not want to change schools;
- recommended District administration consider other mitigation strategies (instead of making boundary changes);
- recommended taking action that leads to sustained building capacity relief and does not create capacity issues at other sites; and
- recommended that if changes are made that we implement strategies that allow for a successful transition.
- shared their belief in the long term success and growth of the district and that PH and SL will revive and we may need to keep changing boundaries. New, more nimble, strategies need to be implemented.



The background image shows the exterior of Aquila Elementary School, a brick building with large windows. A sign above the entrance reads "AQUILA ELEMENTARY SCHOOL". A banner on the right side of the building says "Welcome AQUILA ELEMENTARY SCHOOL". A "SAFE SCHOOL ZONE" sign is visible on the brick wall. The text overlay is centered and reads:

Fall 2023

Recommended Aquila

Capacity Mitigation

Strategies

Assign Rise on 7 development to the Susan Lindgren attendance area

- ✓ The school board took action, at its June 27, 2023 meeting to specifically assign all addresses contained within Rise on 7 to Susan Lindgren as of July 1, 2023.
- ✓ This assignment should be reviewed at least annually to determine whether it should continue.



Close Open Enrollment

- ✓ Aquila Elementary School remains closed to open enrollment students.
- ✓ Students are not allowed to remain open enrolled after the school year in which they move out of the attendance area.
- ✓ Exceptions for siblings or students of staff members not allowed under open enrollment.

Note: *Open enrolled students, including students of staff members, who live outside of the Aquila attendance area who were enrolled as of 6/30/2023 were allowed to remain enrolled at Aquila.*



Maintain Current Sections and Class Size Targets

- ✓ In the event that the enrollment for the fall of 2023 exceeds the capacity (as determined by current sections and class size target), to assign new resident students to either Susan Lindgren or Peter Hobart.
- ✓ These students will be provided transportation to the enrolling school.

Class Size (as of October 5, 2023)						
Grade	K	1	2	3	4	5
Target	23	23	24	26	28	29
Actual	21	19	23	19	24	22

Sections (as of October 5, 2023)						
Grade	K	1	2	3	4	5
Target	4	4	4	4	4	4
Actual	4	4	4	4	4	4



Allow voluntary transfers

- ✓ As of July 1, 2023, families were allowed to voluntarily transfer to Peter Hobart and Susan Lindgren.
- ✓ Transportation provided
- ✓ Students enrolled in Kids Place child care will maintain their child care enrollment at their new school

As of October 5, 2023:

- 5 students have voluntarily transferred from the Aquila boundary area to Susan Lindgren



Study potential facilities addition

Next steps in study of facility addition:

- Consider potential funding sources
 - Remaining fall 2022 bond funds
 - Lease purchase
- Hire Knutson Construction and Cunningham Group to create a project budget and timeline to include stakeholder input



Questions

AQUILA ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Welcome
AQUILA ELEM
SCHOOL

WELCOME

AQUILA FAMILIES!

SAFE
SCHOOL
ZONE