



South Washington County Schools

Keith Jacobus, Ph.D., Superintendent

District Service Center

7362 E. Point Douglas Rd. S.

Cottage Grove, MN 55016

Phone: 651-425-6300 Fax: 651-425-6318

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT

TO: Members of the School Board

FROM: Keith Jacobus, Superintendent

DATE: March 30, 2017

TOPIC/PURPOSE OF REPORT: Environmental Information

REFERENCE TO POLICY/STRATEGIC PLAN: 801.1 Site Acquisition Procedures

RECOMMENDED BOARD ACTION: Information

DATE FOR BOARD ACTION: April 6, 2017

REPORT

As part of our 2015 levy election we requested support from our community for funding to build a new Oltman Middle School on a more centralized location that would better serve our future growth needs. We also asked for support and funding to renovate the current Oltman school building and repurpose the school for Nuevas Fronteras Elementary School. This fall we learned the BNSF Railroad had purchased land in St. Paul Park to be utilized for a new car staging lot. When the staging lot is in full operation there would be 130 semi-tractor transport trucks accessing the lot each day. The designated truck route in St. Paul Park is 3rd street, the street directly in front of Oltman Middle School and necessitates the trucks to pass the school each day on their way to the staging lot. The increased truck traffic in and out of the staging lot created a concern regarding the potential issues of increased safety concerns due to the pollution load added to the air around the school. In light of these concerns, we have contracted Kimley-Horn and Associates, Inc. to complete an analysis of the magnitude of air quality concerns due to the increased truck traffic passing the school. A representative from Kimley-Horn will present their data and answer questions. A representative from the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency, MPCA, will also present information on air quality in and around the school based on their local air quality monitoring. Both Kimley-Horn and the MPCA will provide data needed for the board to finalize a decision on whether to continue with the planned repurposing of Oltman Middle School, or alter the plan due to safety concerns. We plan to bring the decision back as an action time at our April 27, 2017 meeting.