

# Planning for Student Enrollment in Seattle Public Schools

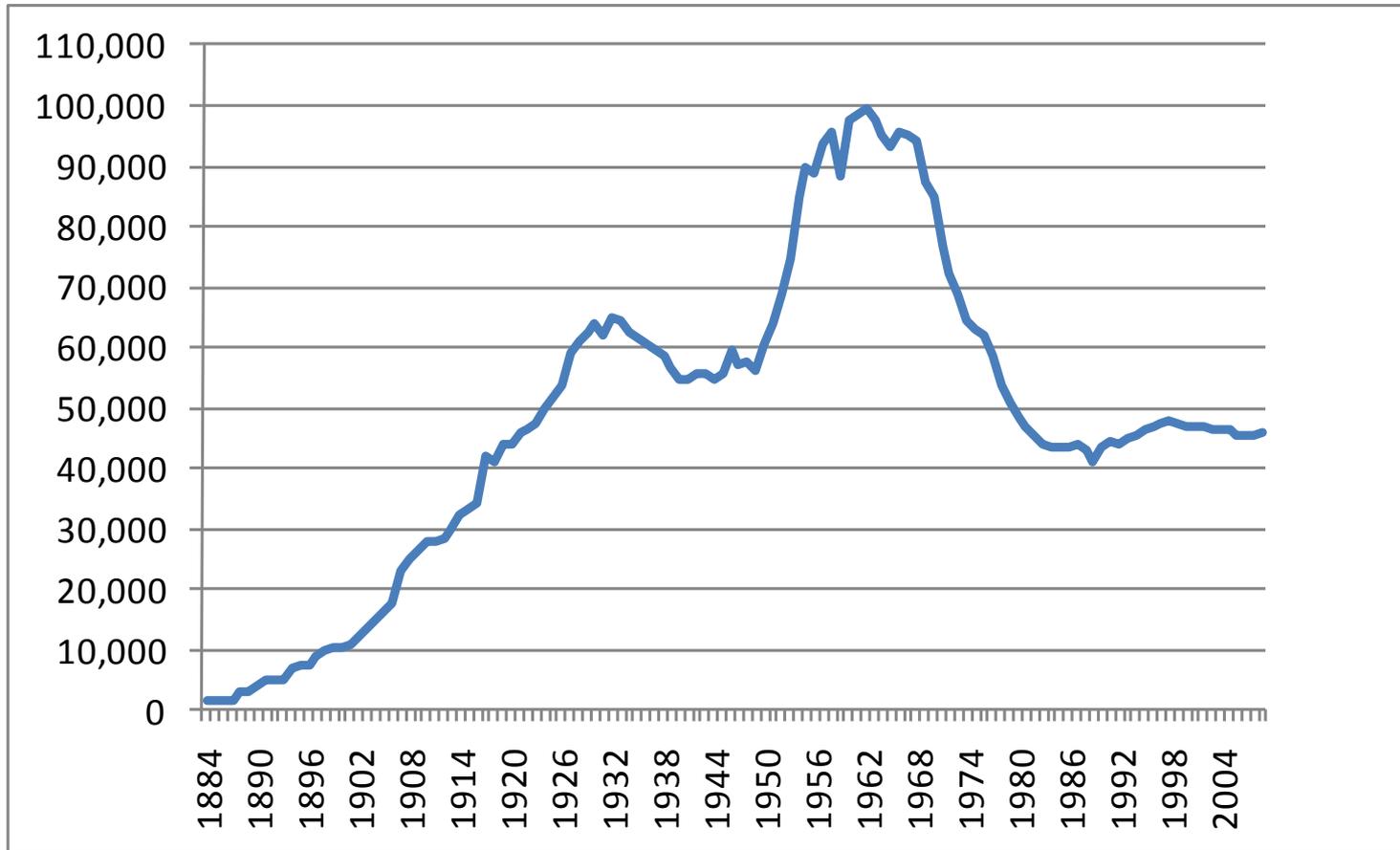


## Excellence For All

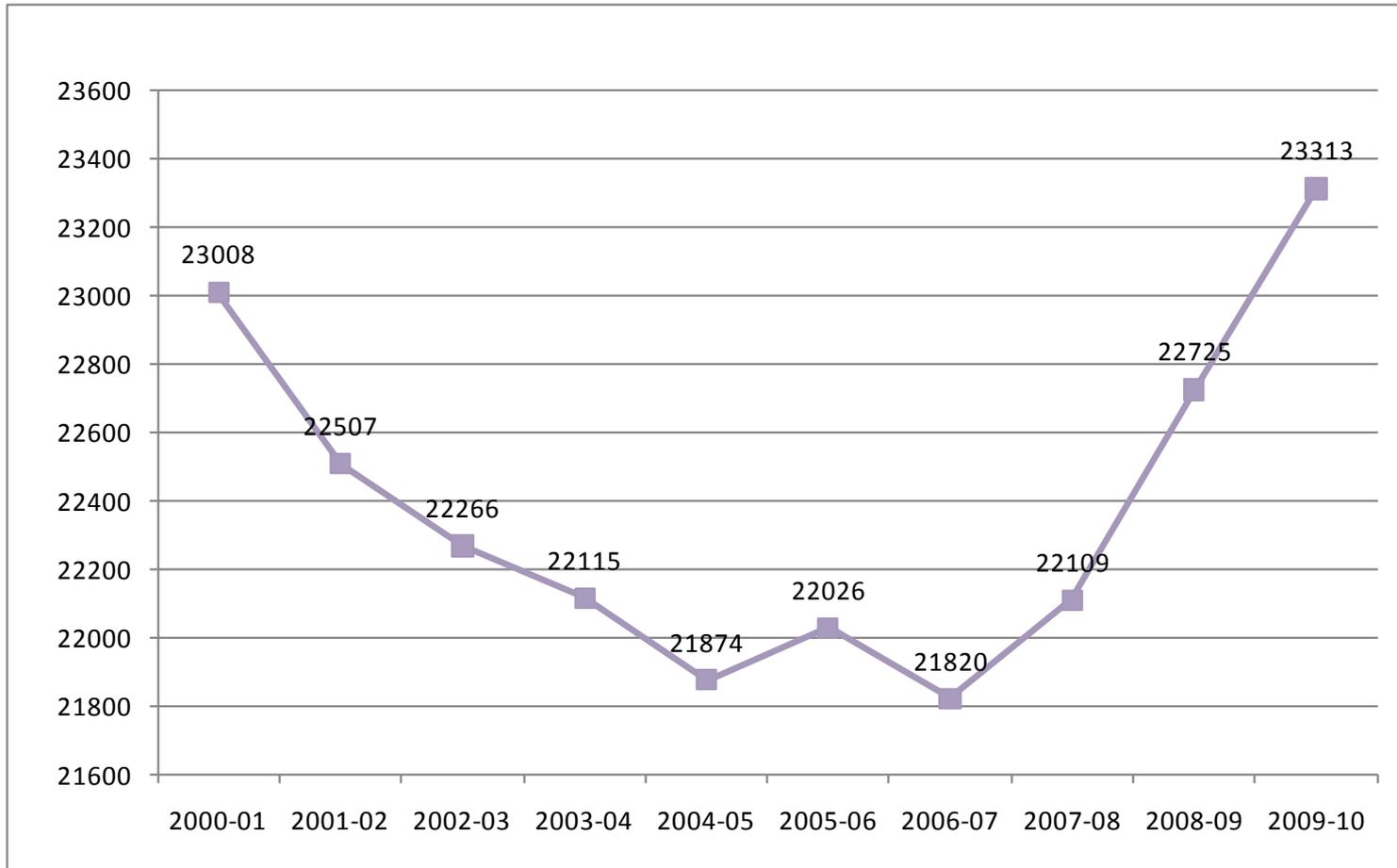
*Every student achieving, everyone accountable.*

Special Joint Meeting of the Seattle School Board  
Operations Committee & the Seattle City Council  
Committee on the Built Environment  
May 24, 2010

# SPS Enrollment: 1884-2009



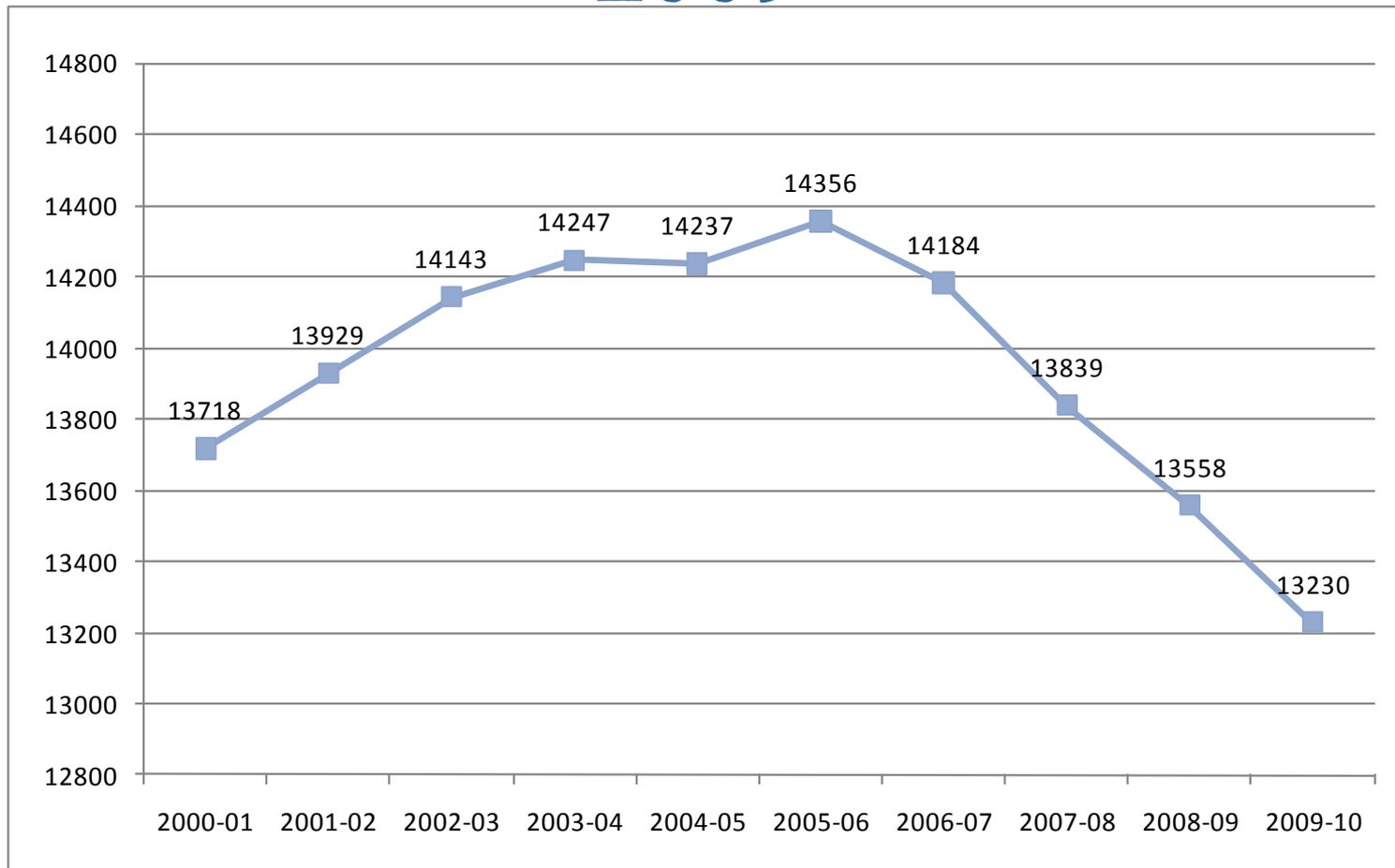
# Grades K-5 Enrollment: 2000-2009



# Grades 6-8 Enrollment: 2000-2009



# Grades 9-12 Enrollment: 2000-2009



# Factors Driving Enrollment in Seattle Public Schools

- The number of children born in Seattle
- The number of children who move into and out of the city (migration)
- The number of children enrolling in private school
- New housing construction and demolition
- Dropout and graduation rates

# Enrollment Projections

- No “crystal ball” – projections based on historical trends and current enrollment patterns
- Not always obvious when a year-to-year change indicates a trend change
  - Projections use averages to even out annual fluctuations
- Reliable external data very limited
  - No way to know exactly how many school-age children live in the city outside of Census years

# Enrollment Projections: Kindergarten

- Changes in kindergarten enrollment impact future enrollment as students move through the next 12 years of school
- Especially challenging to predict accurately
  - No reliable data on the number of 5-year-olds living in Seattle each year
  - Use birth-to-kindergarten rates to measure in- and out-migration and market share

# New SPS Policy Changes

- New Student Assignment Plan
  - Changes from Choice to Geographic
- Capacity Management
  - Matching capacity to where students live to support NSAP
  - Opening of Schools
  - Closing / Repurposing of Schools

# New Student Assignment Plan

- Return to a geographically based assignment plan
- Capacity where students live
- Match attendance area to functional capacity of school – currently drawn for 2015
- Capacity Management Policy – boundary changes
- How attendance areas mesh with typical “neighborhoods” the city recognizes

# Capacity Management Policy

## Purpose

- Provide a proactive and systematic approach to managing our building capacity district-wide

# Capacity Management Purpose

- Develop an incremental approach to managing capacity with creation of metrics to allow more flexibility
- Use metrics to identify schools over capacity and under capacity. Could use:
  - District as a whole
  - High school attendance areas
  - Middle school service areas
  - Individual schools
- Identify capacity management mitigation measures
- Develop system to manage service area / attendance area boundaries

# Healthy Planning Approach

- Community oriented
- Effective teaching environments
- Design school to fit into existing neighborhoods
- Maintain adaptive reuse historic resources
- Effective conservation of natural resources
- Safe, walkable and bicycle friendly
- Community use facilities – gyms and playfields
- Safe secure and flexible for changing educational and community environments

# How SPS plans Facilities

- Multiple planning efforts – main document is Excellence for All Strategic Plan
  - Theme: Building an Infrastructure that works well
- Facilities Master Plan
  - Policy on managing facilities
  - Inventory
  - Capital Planning Guidelines for future capital planning

# Planning Assumptions

- Neighborhood based school assignments help facilitate healthy neighborhoods
  - Improves ability for parent participation
  - Improves connection between school and immediate community / chambers
  - Provides recreational opportunities for students and community
  - Reduces traffic congestion with safe walk routes and bicycle facilities

# Planning Assumptions

- New development impacts schools
  - Demolition of housing stock removes students
  - Changes in housing stock changes the number of students that are within attendance areas
  - Timeframe for new development and lag before students actually show up in schools
- Length and uncertainty of permitting increases cost of school construction and delays delivery of new instructional spaces
  - DPD, SPU, SDOT

# District Facility Constraints

- Average building age district wide is over 40 years old
- Urbanized and compact environment to do construction in
- Inability to obtain new sites or additional land – must make do with existing site sizes
- Need to depend frequently on Parks sites for play areas
- Length of time between school levy planning and construction can be 10 years

# District Facility Constraints

- Closed buildings loose occupancy after 24 months of vacancy, unless extended by the City
- Length of time and uncertainty of permitting requirements
- High regional construction costs
- Changes in educational delivery models and best practices

# What SPS can provide to City

- K-12 data could be useful to:
  - Identify concentrations of children
  - Identify high areas of poverty
  - Identify areas with child care shortages
  - Help identify areas where family housing needs to be encouraged

# Successful Joint Activities

- Joint Use Agreement between Parks and SPS for shared use of recreational facilities and fields
  - “ Joint Athletic Field Development Plan”
- Dept. of Neighborhood grants pay for many playground improvements and play structures – builds community
- Child Care Planning and provider selection assistance

# Successful Joint Activities

- Seattle Public Utilities Rain garden design guidance and grants – utility rebate, recycling
- SDoT contributes trees through Street Tree Programs, bicycle racks, bicycle safety training and helmets to kids
- “Safe Route to Schools” Planning team
- Landmarks-Architectural Review
  - Legislation changed to allow 10 years before re-nomination of a school after a designation has been denied

# Joint Planning

## Potential Outcomes

- Interlocal agreement to address joint planning in the best interest of the community at large
- Appointed Liaisons for school and city
- Project teams selected
  - Student Generation Rate data team
  - Permitting and legislative team
  - Comprehensive Planning Team
  - Capital Improvement Planning Coordinator
  - Coordinated Funding Opportunities and taxing measures