

## More community dialogue needed on drastic plan to close North High

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State Rep. Bobby Champion (DFL – Minneapolis) and State Rep. Jeff Hayden (DFL – Minneapolis) recently responded to Minneapolis Superintendent Bernadeia Johnson's plan to close Minneapolis North High School. Champion, a graduate of North High, said closing the city's most storied high school sends the wrong message to the people of North Minneapolis.

"I am not ready to give up on our future, but that appears to be what some people think we should do," said Champion. "This is my home and this is our community. We need to stand together for our schools, for our children, and for our community. Now is not the time to cut and run."

First chartered over 120 years ago, Minneapolis North has been a cultural landmark for generations of Minnesotans. While declining enrollment has presented problems for North High, Rep. Hayden said he was surprised such a drastic measure would be set in motion without more community dialogue.

"There are families that are feeling really blind sided by this," said Hayden. "We need much more community engagement on this issue before we do something that could seriously harm a community in ways that have not been discussed or addressed."

More details of Johnson's closure plans will be discussed Tuesday, October 12th at 6:00 p.m. at the district office on 807 Broadway NE. Champion said he plans to attend the meeting and encouraged concerned parents and community leaders to do the same.

"I wouldn't be who I am today without the education I received in North Minneapolis," said Champion. "Let's make sure people know that on the North Side we care about our schools and we care about our future."