

Charter District Petition Community Engagement Session

Dunwoody HS – 08/28/2014

Community Member #1

- How would a Charter System impact student safety?

Community Member #2

- Are we including online schools as part of the Charter System, or will it just be regular buildings?

Community Member #3

- Since the School Board rejected the Druid Hills charter petition, what are the advantages of the schools going into the Charter System?
 - What assurance do we have that the schools are going to receive what they need?
 - Does the School Board still have the final say on what the schools do?

Community Member #4

- Are the local school governance teams per school or per cluster?
 - Will the petition be ready for us to view before the October 6th date?

Community Member #5

- Once funding is established, will the local school governance team get control over how the funds are used? What type of budgetary allowances will be available to the local governance teams?

Community Member #6

- *(Comment)* The Charter System will give blanket waivers to the school district. Are there any items that cannot be waived?
 - Can governance teams decide on class size?
 - Will CCRPI be calculated by an average of the scores across the district?
 - Is that formula calculated by the State?

Community Member #7

- Will there be more meetings like this one?
 - Is there enough time to draft the petition? Is our timeline too aggressive?

Community Member #8

- How will the funding be divided? Is it per school, cluster or student?

Community Member #9

- Is every school going to have a local school governance team?
 - Who ensures that each school has an effective/quality board?
 - How long would the district have to get all of the schools on board?
 - If a school isn't ready, will they still function as a regular school?
 - Can new charter schools still form afterwards?

Community Member #10

- Are the local governance boards paid?
 - What is driving the decision to pursue this?
 - What is the benefit to the district?

Community Member #11

- Could new charter clusters form afterwards? If so, would the process change or be the same?

Community Member #12

- How do we have local control if we don't have control over the money?
 - Will the petition define how the school house is funded?
 - Will the local governance teams have control over how the school house is funded?

Community Member #13

- How are the local governance teams formed? Are they defined by the State or local school?

Community Member #14

- Does the community have to vote on the petition?

Community Member #15

- What effect if any will the Charter System petition have on the existing efforts of the current conversion/charter applications?

Community Member #16

- How will Charter System status impact the magnet/theme schools and the other school choice programs?
 - Would they service all of the students in DeKalb?
 - Would that be specified in the petition?

Community Member #17

- What changes would classroom teachers see (i.e. contracts, classroom, etc...)?

Community Member #18

- What will the requirements be for students and parents?
 - Will the Charter System be biased against Special Education students?
 - Will attendance zones change?
 - Can the local governance teams change the attendance zones?

Community Member #19

- Would the local governance board be inclusive of outside business partners?
 - Will the petition include the limitations of what schools can't do?

Community Member #20

- Who is on the advisory team, and how were they selected?

Community Member #21

- *(Comment)* Sounds like nothing changes, just another layer of bureaucracy? The Board still has control, nothing different? It sounds like window dressing.

Community Member #22

- How many members, and who would choose the members for the local school governance teams?

Community Member #23

- Can students be on the local school governance teams?

Community Member #24

- If a school would like to remain a conversion charter, can they? Can there be an appeals process? (*Request*)

Community Member #25

- What does jeopardizing comparability mean?

Community Member #26

- How is comparability defined?
 - Will the terms be defined in the petition?

Community Member #27

- What will happen to a student that transfers from one end of the district to the other?
 - (*Comment*) Equity is needed.

Community Member #28

- Will the schools be able to create waivers for reduced class sizes?
 - Is student funding inclusive of different exceptionalities?
 - How are other funds distributed?
 - Is the 4.5 million dollars provided annually, or is it a one-time distribution?
 - Will the schools that are more prepared to begin the transition have greater access to the funds?

Community Member #29

- How much of the planning and funding will be designated for Special Education?
 - Will the local schools have any additional control of hiring staff for Special Education (i.e. paras)?

Community Member #30

- (*Comment*) There is confusion on what type of autonomy will really be given to schools.

Community Member #31

- At what point will the schools really be given true autonomy without every request or innovative idea having to be approved by the central office?

Community Member #32

- Will the schools have to come up with their own charter?

Community Member #33

- *****Will there be an appeals process in place should a request by the local school governance team be denied?***

Community Member #34

- *(Comment)* The Charter System movement does nothing to deter the movement towards smaller citihoods.

Community Member #35

- Who would coordinate/oversee all of the 137 local school governance boards?

Community Member #36

- Will there be a bottleneck if there are an abundance of waiver requests? Will there be a timeline for approvals/denials?

Community Member #37

- Do you see this as additional needed personnel or a reorganization of personnel?
 - *(Comment)* Transitioning to a Charter System should not mean additional central office staff.

Community Member #38

- Is there a deadline on when the county has to have an approved petition?

*****Comments/questions that are in bold and italicized were highly emphasized***