

**Cleveland Metropolitan School District  
Strategic Development Initiative  
Community Engagement and Informational Meetings  
Final Report  
October 30, 2009**

**Community Forum Overview**

The Cleveland Metropolitan School District (CMSD) held four Community Forums during the month of September 2009. The Community Forums were held at CMSD high schools: John F. Kennedy on September 9<sup>th</sup>; Lincoln-West on September 10<sup>th</sup>; Collinwood on September 16<sup>th</sup>; and John Marshall on September 17<sup>th</sup>. The purpose of the Community Forums was to discuss the current state of CMSD schools and the path moving forward for improving academic performance for students and how to address facility utilization and other operational issues. The Boston Consulting Group provided a briefing on the Strategic Development Initiative comprising three projects: a review of specialty programs and schools; research regarding best practices and new innovations in the area of turnaround schools; and to develop a comprehensive facility utilization strategy. After the briefings, Forum attendees were invited to ask questions about the information presented during the briefings and/or any other question related to school issues.

These Community Forums were also used as an opportunity to convene School Parent Organization (SPO) members in the geographical area to discuss 2009-2010 school year plans. Community Forum attendees were also requested to complete Community Forum Feedback Forms which contained four questions. These forms were collected and are in the process of being collated to provide additional input as CMSD's Transformation Plan is being developed. Additionally, each person who completed a feedback form that had their contact information will receive a written response. The Forums were two-hours in duration.

**Community Forum Format**

The following is the format used during the four Community Forums held on September 9, 10, 16, and 17, 2009:

- Opening – John Hairston, CMSD Chief of Communication
- Welcome – Principal of the host High School
- Introduction of Dr. Sanders – Student representing the host High School
- CEO Comments & Introduction of BCG Representative – Dr. Eugene T.W. Sanders
- BCG Presentation – Jamal Powell or Reggie Gilyard
- Question & Comment Period – Dr. Eugene T.W. Sanders
- (Audience asked questions about BCG presentation and/or any other CMSD related issues)
- SPO Dinner & Question/Comment Period Continued – Dr. Eugene T.W. Sanders
- CMSD/SPO Raffle – Dr. Eugene T.W. Sanders
- Adjourn – Dr. Eugene T.W. Sanders

## Attendance

A total of 925 people attended the four Community Forums. Of the 925 attendees, 277 were parents, 89 were community members, 292 were CMSD staff, 183 were students, and 84 were children attended the literacy workshop. The following is a breakdown of attendance by location and stakeholder group within the community:

### John F. Kennedy

Total Attendees:	245
Parents:	84
Community Members:	17
CMSD Staff:	80
Students:	48
Children's Literacy Workshop:	16
Feedback Forms Received:	8

### Lincoln-West

Total Attendees:	196
Parents:	65
Community Members:	15
CMSD Staff:	51
Students:	52
Children's Literacy Workshop:	13
Feedback Forms Received:	3

### Collinwood

Total Attendees:	241
Parents:	69
Community Members:	27
CMSD Staff:	95
Students:	36
Children's Literacy Workshop:	14
Feedback Forms Received:	16

### John Marshall

Total Attendees:	243
Parents:	59
Community Members:	30
CMSD Staff:	66
Students:	47
Children's Literacy Workshop:	41
Feedback Forms Received:	50

## Community Forum Feedback Forms

Forum attendees were requested to complete feedback forms. The questions were to obtain input about the BCG presentation and the CMSD process for developing its transformation plan. There were a total of 77 feedback forms collected by CMSD resulting from the four Community Forums. Most of the forms from attendees contained questions that were specific to their child/children or a particular situation needing resolution. Additionally, there were several attendees that made positive comments regarding the briefing and the plans to improve academic quality and the use of schools.

Below are the four questions on the Community Forum Feedback Forms:

1. What questions do you have about teaching and/or learning at your child's/children's school?
2. What questions do you have about school facilities, building, etc.?
3. What is your educational vision for your schools and child/children?
4. What are your concerns about the transformation process, the scoring tool and the criteria?

There was a contact person and phone number on the form if attendees had additional question. The bottom of the form had an area for attendee contact information to ensure that CMSD would be able to follow-up with them regarding their concerns and/or questions.

Some of the most frequent re-occurring issues were:

- School climate
- Disruptive students
- Lack of Classroom control by teacher and staff
- Better and stronger partnerships with the community
- Plan for the long-term use of schools
- Community use of schools
- Special Education needs
- Improvement in the quality of education and graduation
- Teacher quality standards and accountability
- Teacher termination and removal
- Building design and size
- Overcrowding classrooms
- Transportation needs

## **Community Stakeholder Briefing**

Dr. Sanders and BCG conducted several briefings for community stakeholder groups. These briefings were held to provide key stakeholder with information about the critical issues the district is and will be confronting and to solicit stakeholder input and comments related to issues discussed. The following is a listing of the stakeholder group, meeting date and number of briefing attendees:

Bond Accountability Commission Leadership Briefing  
August 26, 2009  
3 Attendees

Facility Utilization Advisory Committee Briefing  
September 8, 2009  
9 Attendees

Community Development Corporation Leaders Briefing  
September 15, 2009  
15 Attendees

Neighborhood Settlement House Leaders Briefing  
September 16, 2009  
17 Attendees

Greater University Circle Leaders Briefing  
September 22, 2009  
6 Attendees

Leadership Cleveland Leadership and Graduates Briefing  
October 14, 2009  
2 Attendees

Nonprofit Organization and Charter School Leaders Briefing  
October 20, 2009  
22 Attendees

### **Community Stakeholder Briefing Summary**

*During the months of August, September, and October 2009 a total of seven community stakeholder briefings were held with a total of 74 attendees.*

## **Neighborhood Meeting**

CMSD worked with several neighborhood-based organizations and local Foundations to plan and hold briefings in the Central, Cudell/Mid-West, and Slavic Village neighborhoods. The neighborhood briefings being confirmed are as follows:

Central Neighborhood  
Friendly Inn Settlement House  
Wednesday, September 30, 2009  
74 Attendees

Slavic Village Neighborhood  
Alliance of the Poles of America  
Thursday, October 1, 2009  
27 Attendees

Cudell/Mid West Neighborhood  
West Side Community House  
Wednesday, October 7, 2009  
88 Attendees

Greater Cleveland – Neighborhood Connections  
Center for Families and Children  
Wednesday, October 14, 2009  
49 Attendees

### **Neighborhood Meeting Summary**

*During the months of September and October 2009, CMSD briefings were held in four neighborhoods. The total number of attendees for the briefings was 238. Attendees included parents, students, neighborhood-based organizations, faith-based organizations, elected officials, neighborhood residents and members of the media.*

### **Community Engagement and Informational Meetings Summary**

Between the months of August and October 2009, fifteen community meetings and neighborhood briefings were held to inform the community about the Strategic Development Initiative. As a result of the meetings help a total of 1,237 people attended the meetings and briefings. Of the 1,237 people attending the meetings and briefings, 987 were non-CMSD personnel. Eighty percent of the attendees were parents, students, residents, or other community members.

