

**Cleveland Metropolitan School District
Community Forum
Meeting and Feedback Form Questions**

Overview

Below is a compilation of the questions from Community Forum Feedback Forms at John F. Kennedy, Lincoln-West, Collinwood, John Marshall High Schools and Neighborhood Meetings held in Central, Slavic Village, Cudell/Mid-West, and Neighborhood Connections city-wide.

1. What questions do you have about teaching and/or learning at your child's/children's school?

- How does the district plan on bringing out some of a child's strong points so that a child can feel successful so that it can build the child's confidence?
- What do teachers do when they have a student who is intelligent but has behavioral problems?
- Is the district using medication as a way to control students with behavioral problems?
- What is being done about students who are consistently very disruptive?
- I am new to the District. I think you are doing a great job.
- Does the district have a great amount of teachers and staff who caring and willing to deal with behavior problems?
- Text books are in short supply. If there is no testing in social studies, how will you verify that social studies is being taught?
- Why are all of the district's best new schools on the eastside?
- Why does Ginn Academy start with a 3.0 GPA as an entry requirement?
- How does the district aid students that have different learning styles?
- What is the district's plan to expand opportunities for students in AE/AW schools?
- Will non-specialty schools have career tech?
- Why do schools have entry requirements?
- How can I get my children tested for Special Education because of delays?
- What vehicles are in place to remove or monitor ineffective teachers and administrators?
- How can the student teacher 1:20 ratio be lowered in grades 4-8?
- How can classroom overcrowding at Joseph Landis School be changed?
- Why is my daughter's 6th grade class at Empire Computech School so large?
- I am questions about guidance counselors, open house each semester, and the testing systems?
- What is being done to about disrespectful teacher that talk about students while they are present?
- How can students scheduling their majors and minors at the Scholl of the Arts – Lower be streamlined and easier?
- How can the process to get rid of poor teachers be streamlined?
- How can more programs such as career tech and vocational be offered across more schools and disciplines?
- Small schools are hampering the non-academic learning environment for students. How can we join in disbanding this separate but not equal status?
- Why are schools held accountable for the neighborhood environment and the people where they are located?
- Why do not teachers have report cards like students?
- Will teachers be held more accountable for teaching?
- Who will protect our children from the teachers and principals and staff?
- What can be done about teacher/child ratios and teacher/student assignments that cause overcrowding?

- Why do we have reading intervention where students are just asked to read a book without any intervention?
- Garfield is a wonderful building and the staff is top notch.
- I am concerned about disruptive students.
- How can parents help students with their studies, when materials are taught differently from the way parents learned?
- Why are not teacher evaluated by a criteria that is performance-based, not seniority-based?
- Are teachers interacting with students at their level so they can learn from students too?
- Why are not there more options for our schools?
- Are teachers getting the equipment and materials they need?
- Do we have quality teachers that know the content they are to teach?
- Why is there not more inquiry-based science in the K-8 schools?
- Are we losing good teachers? If so, why?
- Why are not there more academic programs for students that want to learn?
- Why cannot McKinley School have a work program?
- Why are special education students shipped out of their neighborhoods to schools?
- Can we start a reward system in schools?
- Why is information from downtown given out so late?
- Why do not all the schools have special education classes?
- Why do some teachers use phonics in grades K-1 while others do not?
- Why are grades combined?
- I am very happy with the education my child is receiving.
- When will the district move to extended school days?
- Our teacher work together in teams and have high expectations.
- Why are not school books more up-to-date?
- Why do you not have the works program in every school?
- Why do not we ensure that all children are challenged at all grade levels?
- Why are students left at swing sites for many years?
- Why do not the students get to pick their classes?
- Do all high school students choose the classes they take?
- My child is doing well at Rhodes High School.
- Why do we give up when things are tough?
- Is there a standard for children to receive the promise of the future and to rise above the negative?
- Why are there not before and after school programs?
- Are teachers able to teach with all the disruptions from students?
- Why do we not have more character education as a means to reduce violent responses to issues?
- Why don't we stick to our plans?
- How can IEP help my ADHD plans?
- Do we have family life in our schools?
- Why do LD classes with 19 students have just one teacher?
- What does CMSD want most from its neighborhoods as new initiatives are implemented?
- What is the district doing to increase student performance and safety?
- How soon will this transformation occur?
- Will there be bilingual supportive services in Spanish and other languages to assist students in becoming successful for graduation?
- Why do you suspend our youth from school for simple things?
- Why are there not more counselor services by independent agencies?
- Is there an accountability system for teachers?
- What is the district's plan for diminishing poor graduation rates?
- Why don't teachers check homework assignments for accuracy?

2. What questions do you have about school facilities, buildings, etc.?

- What needs to be done to provide students access to the buildings after school hours to increase their learning?
- Are school buildings safe?
- Are the school buildings safe for learning?
- Will combining school to save money, overwhelm the teachers?
- What will be the student to teacher ratios in buildings if some are closed?
- Why are buildings lacking in maintenance and in need of repairs?
- Will you consider new developments and growing communities as you develop your transformation plan?
- Given the “projected” cost-savings with combining schools, how will the district address the following: staff coordination; school name/history; gang violence/street tension?
- Why or who designed the new building in the Collinwood area?
- Why are building designs so different on the Eastside and Westside?
- Why is East Clark School so small and the bathrooms shared by male and female students?
- Will there be a parking lot for teachers and staff to get in the building at East Clark School?
- Why has not Empire Computech School received more money for renovations?
- What can be done about general school maintenance and repairing the restrooms at Collinwood?
- When will Charles H. Lake be built?
- When will the new School of the Arts – Upper be built? Why was the school not moved into John Hay High School?
- Why do we have middle schools anymore?
- Is East High School going to be closed or merged?
- Will involvement of families in community forums effect which schools will be closed?
- Why do specialty schools have more prestige than regular schools?
- How can all school become specialty schools?
- Will schools get new lockers, new text books and supplies?
- We need help to use our music and arts rooms again.
- What is the future of Collinwood High School?
- Why are some classes overcrowded, when others in the building have small class sizes?
- Can an addition be used to help McArthur GLA?
- What will happen when we outgrow McArthur GLA?
- How will school safety and security in all schools be improved?
- Why have they closed fully functioning schools over those that need more work?
- Do you have a maintenance plan for Garfield?
- Are the new buildings “green” friendly and built to last a long time?
- When will the John Marshall Core Team be established?
- What are the current rehab/building plans since population is going down?
- I am concerned about the overcrowding in high schools on the West Side and the failure to fully address academic needs?
- What about school busses?
- What about school maintenance, parking and lockers?
- Will all K-8 schools have playgrounds?
- Why are families sent to schools that are so far for small children to walk?
- Is my child’s school going to be closed because it needs repairs?
- How can a program in a school be removed?
- Why do not we have a playground?
- Can we separate elementary and middle school grades and children?

- Schools are too small with no room to grow, with outdated wiring and equipment.
- Will a new school be built for Brooklawn or will it be renovated?
- Why do we have silent lunch periods?
- Why are our classrooms overcrowded?
- Why don't schools have lockers for junior high students?
- Will we get more room for Valley View BLA as it grows?
- When is Marshall getting done?
- When is John Marshall going to be renovated?
- Why don't we have more security in and around schools?
- When will Collinwood be renovated?
- Why aren't buildings cared for everyday?
- Safety
- School facilities look good to me at this time.
- What kind of musical instruments are in the band room?
- How can Westside School be high achievers when they are overcrowded?
- Are you considering closing John Marshall and moving it to another site?
- Will Emile B. De Souza be torn down and rebuilt?
- Keep up the good work on new buildings.
- How is CMSD prepared to financially support new technology in our schools?
- Will taxpayers' monies be wasted when repairs/supplies cannot be purchased?
- Why was Orchard school closed?
- When will the new Orchard school building be ready for students?
- Is the overcrowding at Lincoln-West causing safety concerns for students?
- Are our schools safe for our children?
- What is holding up the convening of the core team at John Marshall?
- What is being done to employ Cleveland residents especially African Americans as apprentices for CMSD capital improvement projects?
- Have the metal detectors made a significant difference in the prevention of violence and safety in the schools? Is there a report that gives specific numbers?
- Who do you speak to directly at the transportation department when your child will not be attending school?
- Garfield needs new printers.

3. What is your educational vision for your school and child's/children's?

- I believe in a goal that is to graduate high school, college and graduate school and make an impact in the community.
- Students shall complete high school and become successful young adults.
- For students, parents, schools and churches to work together to equip the students to be ready and able to achieve a college degree.
- To make sure my son receives enough tutoring to enable him to catch-up to his proper grade level.
- To get teachers to care, re-dedicate them to helping students to be the best that they can be.
- For student volunteer service hours in classrooms and communities to be documented on report cards.
- For schools to engage in wide-scale parent and community activities to make changes from the bottom-up.
- I want to see my 6 children graduated with an excellent education.
- I would like to see Cleveland become the premier district it uses to be.
- All children in K-8 read at grade level.
- All children improve academic scores.
- To foster the educational and personal growth of my children and other children in their school.
- For all children to do better on the OAT testing.
- For my children to have a good educational footing to be able to get a good job and to be skilled for it.
- Qualified and caring teachers and to hold schools, Dr. Sanders, etc. accountable.
- To be prepared to compete with his international peers academically.
- To be recognized continuously for academic and artistic excellence.
- Long school days for high schools, and study halls incorporated into the school day or afterschool.
- A comprehensive school without excessive top management.
- I want to help teach students how to avoid imprisonment and possibly early death.
- For all students to get a good education.
- All schools to be created equal!
- Schools need to get back on track on being excellent for education.
- Academic Excellence
- For STEM high school to grow
- To advance them to fuel the U.S to be a more technical nation.
- It is currently being materialized.
- For children to be challenged and to reach their potential.
- I am hoping to get my child to be creative and to see that there are endless possibilities for her future.
- For focus on academic performance and less on testing so they can function in society.
- I hope to see an environment where the schools are more approachable to raise community involvement.
- To be the best they can be.
- To help promote education and encourage students to graduate and go to college.
- I want my student to be challenged, competitive, with private school students.
- Better safety and language classes.
- Eliminate ISS, as a way for students to avoid going to class.
- All day preschool and small schools.
- Build toward knowing the difference between success and failure.
- To have an education strong enough that they can go to college and stand-up strong against other students.

- That all school and teachers are accountable for what is being taught.
- To pass the OAT and be successful in their education and life.
- To continue to grow, learn, and successfully benefit from the services CMSD provides.
- Safe, fun, learning environments and to help me and my son to be the best and smartest he can be.
- Expansion of the gifted programs in schools.
- To receive a private school education with public funds like we were told.
- High expectations for all students.
- To have my child attend a school that really wants my child to succeed.
- That there is the proper teacher/student ratio in all classrooms.
- For all schools to have a different academic levels of learning in the 5ht grades and above.
- So that each child will get the individualized instruction they need to succeed.
- To learn as much as they can to fulfill their dreams.
- To be able to make choices for themselves without being told.
- Improved performance
- To have a very good road to victory.
- To increase graduation rates.
- It is my hope that we all can be held accountable for the roles we play in the education of our children.
- That our schools and my children are an active part of the community.
- For each and every child to graduate with high grades so that they can go to college.
- For my children and their schools to succeed and be prepared for the future.
- To give them the best education possible and to graduate from high school and to go to college.
- That they receive the best and their needs are met.
- Scratch the current school board and administration and start over.
- To have every child get a good education and become responsible, productive adults.
- Full integration of all arts (visual & performing) and reinstating industrial arts programs to provide students with practical applications for what they learn.
- Functionally literate students/people willing to give of themselves.
- That the state of our facilities will be a source of pride for students and their parent, and influence the surrounding neighborhood.
- To have a true neighborhood school in Ohio City.
- For students to have choices in the school they can attend and know regardless of the location that they offer supportive services.
- More parent engagement
- That teaching and learning leads to excellence and striving for better outcomes that result in greater numbers of student graduates.
- That every neighborhood will benefit from a new and innovative schools available in their K-8 and high schools.
- Values and safety
- Please give more control to building principals in conjunction with faculty, staff, SPO, etc. to make decisions.
- To see and ensure that these students are all enrolled in quality universities and colleges.
- Students will graduate and either gain employment in a decent paying jobs or graduate from colleges and universities and succeed in their professions.
- Getting rid of metal detectors, and creating a school with greater community and parent involvement.

4. What are your concerns about the transformation process, the scoring tool, and the criteria?

- Transformation will not move fast enough or do the necessary changes that will be beneficial to students instead of teachers and the administration.
- How long have you known what should be done to correct the problems discussed?
- Will your process lead to success for students?
- Parents and students need to be fully engaged in the transformation process.
- Will the process address the shortages of preschool opportunities for district parents?
- Given the unsuccessful outcomes of the small schools, can the criteria be enhanced to factor in the following: principal/campus administrator intolerance; lack of shared resources (inequitable allocations); disappearance of school morale (spirit)?
- I think more parents should be involved to make it work.
- Parent, student and community involvement.
- Beyond the bell programs for tutoring.
- Stop closing schools.
- How long will it take for the schools to improve before getting back to being a premier school district,
- It can be done if everyone works together for our children.
- How will teacher/consultants be affected if lay-offs occur? This question is specifically regarding dance.
- Selection of teachers/high school.
- Using the provisional license, to recruit more professionals from industry.
- Will this address the lack of resources in schools?
- I do not want to see schools close.
- I am concerned about ALL children.
- I am not too happy with the OGT, but I will work with it.
- This was very informative and I want to learn more.
- Many!
- Some schools challenge students while other do not challenge students.
- I like that it is a multi-faceted approach.
- Why are new schools being built for fewer students? Where are the remaining students going?
- I think it is outrageous to split kids between regular and specialty schools.
- How strong is the ability to act unit.
- I believe that the process would work if the communication is open and frequently given to parents and the community.
- Turnover in schools should not distract from moving kids forward.
- Scoring tool accurate and effective.
- Transportation is still a concern.
- Why not have all school follow the standards and procedures of the excellent school.
- No concerns yet.
- Parents need information so they can understand how to help their children.
- Need to add academic after school tutoring programs.
- Parents need timely notification.
- At this point I have no concerns.
- Very confusing for me.
- I think school bus schedules should change to 8am to 2:30pm.
- Great if it happens.
- Is the transformation process for all schools or only for those that still not renovated?
- I am not sure you have a clear vision? How are you going to achieve your goals?

- There should be more time available to ask questions.
- Sounds good if you are committed to this, and implement it.
- It seems that you have decided for us and our kids.
- Timeline to complete transformation.
- Clarification of scoring tool and criteria.
- You guys are doing pretty good so far.
- I need more information regarding this information.
- Not familiar with the process.
- I hope it works.
- My concern is that we do not fully commit ourselves to change and abandon the initial plan for a “new” plan several years from now.
- Just remember that schools are a part of a bigger community—we must be driven by the data but life has an awful lot of “grey.”
- When combining schools will transportation increase?
- How will the plan be enforced?
- Our concern is that the results of the plan will not be relevant for our community and our friends/neighbors will move.
- For it to happen fast to start reducing the drop-out rates, violence in our schools, and focus on graduating every student.
- How quickly steps will begin; how efforts will be monitored; and when will the results show?
- I do not see a score for the proximity of students to neighborhood school.
- Add parents to performance drivers.
- CMSD is in danger of establishing a two-tiered school system.
- How is value-added portion of the report card measured?
- Are the criteria set?

**Lincoln-West High School
Community Forum Audience Questions/Comments
September 10, 2009**

1. Open enrollment need to be fixed—unfair
2. Transportation is needed for swing school students,
3. Teachers are disrespected and students are not able to learn.
4. What is your customer service plan?
5. What are the options available for educating at-risk students with special needs?
6. What is your student safety plan for the 2009-2010 school year?
7. What can be done about the deterioration at Watterson-Lake School?
8. Is CMSD using the turnaround model to move schools into Continuous Improvement?
9. Will the CTU allow for special MOU's with teacher selection?
10. How will CMSD ensure that the transformation plan is successfully implemented?
11. What is the timeframe to complete the building of Orchard School?
12. Do we security at Almira School?
13. How does the stimulus money work? How is it being used?
14. Why don't you come to the community before plans are developed?

**John Marshall High School
Community Forum Audience Questions/Comments
September 17, 2009**

1. Comment regarding the Strategic Development Initiative (specifically page 40). Parent/community member was concerned that the percentage attached to Academic Performance should be raised to 70% while the remaining categories should be reduced to 10% each.
2. Question regarding the 54% Graduation Rate: How is the graduation rate determined?
3. Question: Where is John Marshall in the Facilities Plan? Will it be rebuilt or renovated? When?
4. Question and Concern: Parent indicated that her son had been enrolled at Newton D. Baker, was transferred and has since been returned to Newton D. Baker. Prior to the son's transfer away from Newton D. Baker, transportation had been provided. Upon his transfer back to Newton D. Baker, transportation was discontinued and the parent wanted to know why.
5. Concern and Question: Orchard School is about to lose teachers. What can be done?
6. Question regarding complete results from study of Boston Consulting Group: When will they be made available to the public?
7. Concern: Parent/community member expressed a general concern about the statement that teachers and principals have low expectations of students.
8. Question: What security measures are in place for Orchard at Halle?
9. Question and Concern: What is the timeline for completing a new building? Why does it seem to take so much longer in Cleveland compared to what is reportedly happening in suburban district?
10. Is the work with regard to Orchard on hold? There is a perception that work is at a standstill.
11. Concern: Students reportedly are unable to take home textbooks.
12. Concern: Need for transportation for students attending Orchard at Halle.
13. Concern: Parent is curious about accountability of administrators for choices surrounding closing of Orchard.
14. Concern: Need for transportation for students attending Almira at Nathaniel Hawthorn.

15. Concern: Fear about losing teachers at Almira due to drop in enrollment which is believed to be the result of no transportation.
16. Concern: Special Education students reportedly not having equal access to New and Innovative Schools.
17. Comments: Parent happy about efforts of district to make improvements and acknowledges on-going challenges; Concerned about accountability of former district personnel regarding revenues generated from past levies; Parent thankful for Uniforms.
18. Concern: Doors on stalls in restrooms missing at John Marshall.
19. Concern: Lack of "game day" football jerseys at John Marshall.
20. Concern: Parent at McKinley indicating that parent involvement is low, that students appear to be deliberately acting up to be sent to ISS, and that SPO is frustrated about what they are able to do to help.
21. Concern: Parent indicated that supplies are missing from restrooms (soap, towels, etc.). While these should be in place at all times, it was pointed out that it is particularly important as we safeguard against the H1N1 virus.
22. Concern: Repeated concern about potential loss of teachers at Orchard due to drop in enrollment resulting from lack of transportation.
23. Question and Concern: Upgrades made at Orchard in recent years, what happens to these?
24. Question: Who were the other research firms involved in the study of CMSD?
25. Question: Parent was surprised at "Silent Lunch" at her child's school and wanted to know why this is not practiced in other schools.
26. Concern: Parent went to Giddings to volunteer, was "saddened" to see teacher having to teach a combination first and second grade class and wanted to know if there could be an aide assigned to that classroom
27. Concern: Parent wanted to know if there could be healthier choices for student breakfast and lunch.