

CMSD Board of Education Community Meeting
Appreciative Inquiry Process
East High School 1/29/10

The CMSD Board of Education selected Appreciative Inquiry process to enable supporters of the Cleveland Metropolitan School District the opportunity to collectively provide input on the draft Transformation Plan. The BOE will review all input from each community meeting in determining final recommendations for the final Transformation Plan document.

Question 1

What do you like about the Transformation Plan?

- The Plan addresses education reform.
- The Plan calls for more artist schools, which gives kids open minds, offers variety, and broadens their horizons and choices.
- The Plan creates cause for conversation and brings people out.
- Discussions around the Plan unearth (revealing) realities that are not good. It also sheds light on positive innovations.
- The Plan is designed to enhance academics.
- The Plan encourages more support systems to for some schools, the community; it calls for mentoring of students and meeting students' needs.
- The Plan would put programs in different parts of the city.
- The Plan would increase classroom sizes for more energy and participation.
- The Plan would make teachers think about what they are doing and take their jobs more seriously.
- Relocating shakes up staff. (2)
- There will be more professional development for staff.
- There would be more technology.
- There is a need in the District for trade schools (another model); there is a need for extra windows.
- The Plan would add programs.
- It puts more emphasis on what we have now.
- The plan helps us address the fact we are losing kids. That we are acknowledging the schools, but we need more repurpose. (2)
- Transportation, kindergarten through 12.
- Collaboration – A team effort instead of an "I" plan
- The Plan would involve children.
- The Plan would involve principals.
- The Plan would involve Council members.
- There should be better public relations and less input from an outside group
- The Plan should continue to improve.
- We have to save our schools.
- There should have been more information earlier about plan earlier.
- Board members should be at all meetings.
- Some classrooms may be overcrowded
- Not enough input from the community or students. (2)
- The Plan was not developed by Cleveland administrators; developed by AIR and BCG.
- Human ware – social workers replacing guidance counselors.
- The Plan re-examines Central Office positions:

- Addresses waste at the top
- Re-directs resources
- Goals: - Community would like to see objectives.
- Community would like to see more specifics.

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Question 2

What recommendations do you have to improve the Plan?

- Shut the Plan down; the community should be given the opportunity to be part of the severe plan.
- Include community schools; allow buildings for community use after school hours (similar to Harlem Children Zone in NY)
- Provide transportation information to parents early.
- Make East High a wrap-around school in its community and allow the community to have input into what goes on.
- The school board should establish committees (example: transportation committee); school board member should be assigned to areas in the city.
- There should be a mechanism in the structure that would give the community the authority to change the planning process (e.g. that if neighborhood had issues with funding).
- District should get a court order through SPOs to create #5 and 6.
- Salaries of teachers should be tied to performance and more parental involvement.
- Margret Ireland was scored low, it is still open; re-evaluate the rating system.
- Look closer at what is going on at the schools.
- After-school programs. Academics are low but increasing every year. There is lots of community involvement at Joseph Landis.
- Security has a tough job now: more students, more security, and more violence. (3)
- Areas are territorial (Glenville, East Tech). Merging students from East High is an issue.
- Workshops for parents
- Move smaller schools to East High to increase enrollment.
- The Plan must address parent flight from the District.
- The whole school should move together (Joseph Landis).
- Consider the impact of putting Ginn at Glenville and then adding all girls. That plan defeats the progress of Ginn students.
- Administration needs to give the public a true perspective of East High. East High has improved yearly. Mrs. Lockhart is doing a good job improving the school.
- Implement safe transportation.
- Parents need to know where their children will go. Some distances are too far for small children.
- Traffic on MLK Boulevard will cause safety issues for Joseph Landis students.
- Be aware of the number of sexual predators.
- Longer distances should be considered in severe cold weather.
- Need safety routes to school.
- Relationships that have been built and that parents depend on should be considered.
- Address student drop-out rate.
- Must keep academic focus for the remainder of the year.
- Repurpose East using a wrap-around model. (2)
- Bring MLK into East (same community). East is the larger school
- Review and clarification of teacher absence data.
- Revitalize programs (early childhood, culinary arts) to make East more attractive.
- Small programs in large schools work.
- Longer school day

Suggestions:

- Interests of the students
 - Vocational classes

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- Parental involvement (parenting programs)
- Community computer lab

- Extracurricular activities needed
 - Debate teams, student council
 - Single-gender classes should remain.
 - 50-55 minutes in classroom; co-ed period
- Safety is the biggest concern
 - Crossing neighborhood lines (danger)
 - 66 officers being cut
 - Bus lines cut
 - Travel routes for our students (14 year-old-girls on bus through difficult neighborhoods)
 - Older child responsible for younger sibling
 - Worry about students being raped or murdered
- Do not use news media to communicate plan. Students and parents should be notified PRIOR to media release
- Lack of input from the community
 - Input from the residents, parents, etc., may lend to reform efforts.
- Inclusion of CTU
- Parent accountability
- New construction; open/welcome environment/windows
- Heightened teach accountability
- Offering programs that reflect student needs and preference keeps students motivated
 - Automotive
- A high school is an anchor in community. Losing a high school takes away money and families and disenfranchises community

Question 3

What suggestions do you have to make the implementation of this plan a success for our children?

- The process forces participation in an unwanted plan.
- Establish a process for citizens' participation.
- The Board distinguishes self at what happened in NY/Chicago, review literature on what happened when they closed schools.
- One-year moratorium on closing schools. (Timeline is too short.)
- How does the community know what happens to these questions? Community suggests a town hall/Board meeting to digest the plan prior to February 23 to discuss whether input has been implemented.
- Schools are not just schools; they are part of the community. Is there thought given to what the building will be used for after it closes?
- Scrap the plan and postpone vote until the community and School Board can come together.
- Parents should have been given student survey materials before consultants/foundations came in. It is better for students to stay home and get a GED.
- The community wants answers to questions before the Transformation process goes forward.
- Discussion on charter schools
- Do not close the schools. (East and Joseph Landis)
- Margret Ireland was scored low but it is still open. Re-evaluate the rating system.
- Look closer at what is going on at the schools.

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- There needs to be a safety plan for kids to get from point A to point B.
- Vocational programs
- Higher expectations for our students
- More resources
- Strong parent groups
- We should encourage and seek student input.
- Nurturing/caring teachers
- Quality in nutrition
- Break free time
- Individualized instruction
- All students and people should be able to vote on the Plan.
- Consider the movement of kids and its implications. Are we planning for success?
- Repurpose East High School. Leave it open. We need a plan for success with major community input. Rename the East gym.
- Secure input/feedback from the community.
- Do not do the Plan "to us" but "with us".
- More communication
- Put a hold on the vote until \$180,000 special audit is conducted.
- Publish the list of buildings that were repurposed in 2006 and make it public.
- Analysis of gang activity surrounding schools to which students are being transferred
- Keep neighborhood schools per Issue 14. (2)
- Combine single-gender schools in one site (Ginn).
- Improve safety in schools; larger schools will increase problems.
- Leave students at East High School.
- What is going to happen to the East HS building?
- Has the District collaborated with RTA on the reductions of bus routes?
- The Plan is vague and huge. Will the District be ready for the students when school is open for the 2010 – 2011 school year?
- Why has the budget increased when the number of students and buildings are decreasing?
- Restructure the format of community forums.
- No small breakouts
- After four years of failure, has the Board questioned the CEO and his administration?