

CMSD Board of Education Community Meeting

Appreciative Inquiry Process

South High School 1/30/10

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 language of the plan
- The district believes it can work
- Students were given a voice
- Did not like anything about the plan (3 comments)
- Did not engage the community or community leaders (3 comments)
- Central administration reorganization (2 comments)
- Bond facilities monies added to neighborhoods doesn't make sense
- Reserve judgment until final board vote and process of plan is shared (2 comments)
- Attempts to deal with funding and financial efficiency (2 comments)
- Expansion of specialty schools and charter schools (3 comments)
- Focus on improving academic standards (6 comments)
- Financial expenditures for improving buildings
- "There's nothing more constant than change"
- Student focused
- Addresses some needed changes to the district
- Safety concerns (2 comments)
- Concern for existing East High museum
- Maximize the schools by eliminating excess capacity
- This excess money could go toward education
- Promoting teacher quality
- Overall good plan (3 comments)
- Addresses right sizing the district
- Improving school quality district-wide
- Focus on Humanware
- Informed parents of schools that are growing (Growth Schools)
- Informative
- Brought parents and community together as a whole
- Recommendations for high schools (2 comments)
- Transportation concerns
- Will change increase property taxes?
- Will other schools accommodate students academically?
- What CTE programs will be offered?
- Will Cosmetology program remain? High Tech Academy for future students?

Question 2

What recommendations do you have to improve the Plan?

- Fire CEO and Board Members
- Increase transition time for schools that will be closed
- Pay attention to message that is being sent by closing schools
- Challenge the students academically (2 comments)
- Abolish "No Child Left Behind" – teaching to the test. NCLB is under funded

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- Find alternatives to test students' knowledge, besides the OGT test
- CEO should remain to see that the plan is implemented properly (2 comments)
- There is no guarantee that this plan will work
- Increase vocational and alternative programs (2 comments)
- East High is a beautiful campus. It is over 100 years old and should be shown in a favorable light
- We need more positive media
- More staff, alumni, parental and community involvement and support (7 comments)
- Show school spirit
- Make East High a 6-12 academy
- Review information of college-bound and noncollege-bound students
- Postpone the plan and allow more time for the community to understand it (4 comments)
- No information on repurpose schools. How will students apply?
- Transportation concerns (8 comments)
- Listen more to the students. Create programs students feel they need.
- Work with teachers, students and communities
- Safety concerns (8 comments)
- Consider modeling a district other than Chicago; try to model after Harlem
- 5144 to rec / additional year for improvement
- Make building or parts of the building available for community use (2 comments)
- Maintain programs at closing schools by moving them to other schools (4 comments)
- Plans to integrate students into new schools
- Sports, programs and extracurricular activities (3 comments)
- BCG evaluation tool concerns
- Reliance on past data; wait until after 2010 Census
- Academy model concerns
- Board needs to investigate the plan (BCG)
- Transitional services and professional development around the K-8 structure
- Emphasis on PreK-3 literature and math skills
- Stronger educational supports
- Try implementing 4 goals at a time and then phasing the rest in
- Yearly guidelines to track progression of plan
- Cosmetology program (2 comments)
- Revamp the master facilities plan to build schools that fit the vision of the school's focus
- Enrollment will decline if we follow through with the plan
- Smaller classrooms
- CEO should be informed of what is going on inside schools
- Mismanagement of funds
- Engage the community
- Studies to find out why the graduation rate is low (53%)
- Student and parent accountability
- Collaboration
- Recognize improvements where they occurred
- Taking resources such as teachers and programs from kids who should be the focus
- Add our blind and disabled students in the plan
- Teacher quality
- Identify with the students and their lifestyles
- Supplies to deal with hygiene
- Summer internship opportunities
- Recommendations should have been sought before the development of the plan

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Question 3

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

- Voters should elect board members
- Raise student expectations (4 comments)
- Look at other school districts that have implemented transformation plans. Find out what works.
- Hold teachers and principals accountable
- Employee retention should be performance based (4 comments)
- Ensure safety of students
- Hire qualified employees
- Regular updates on expenditures
- Instead of closing schools, bring in resources to address needs (3 comments)
- Parental involvement is critical
- Mentors can help out in the schools
- CEO should monitor schools (2 comments)
- Establish trust and vehicle for effective communication
- Provide students with learning/educational equipment
- Offer world class education that is not dictated by your zip code
- Explain *Conditions for Learning* surveys
- Give students time and support to improve
- Will there be overcrowded classrooms and teacher layoffs?
- Consider East to be repurposed
- Community, parents, and staff need more time to get a better understanding of the plan (8 comments)
- Safety and Security concerns
- Use the summertime to build relationships to new assigned zones / neighborhood school staff and students.
- Confer with East High alumni for support to assist in transformation (3 comments)
- Get the parents and community input on the uses of East High following closure
- Recognize the school has a responsibility to students. World has changed; be more aware
- Work with Juvenile Center and alternative programs
- More parental involvement
- To have a voice, you must be engaged
- Transportation concerns (4 comments)
- Maintain programs at closing schools; transfer programs to new site
- Cost difference to relocate vs. closing
- Consider keeping buildings open
- Make South High a 6-12 school
- Make surrounding schools K-8 to keep attendance rates up
- Students/parents/community/staff should have all come together to create Transformation Plan (3 comments)
- Work on answering questions more specifically
- Cosmetology program relocated to Washington Park
- Voting is too soon to vote on closing the schools