

FAC Community Meeting Feedback

Dunwoody HS – 02/04/2014

Community Member #1

- (*Comment*) The State has provided five options – 2 centralized and 3 decentralized. It appears that the district has chosen to focus on and only present the 2 centralized options.
- How confident are you that the State's timeline won't change again?
- (*Comment*) I find it hard to believe that the district would want the centralized options.
- (*Comment*) We will do anything to prevent the district from moving forward with the centralized options.

Community Member #2

- If the district selects the Charter District option, what would that look like?
 - Would the control be at the county level or the local school level?

Community Member #3

- Would the current charter schools remain as charter schools under either one of the options?

Community Member #4

- If the district decides on the Status Quo option, would class sizes be mandated?

Community Member #5

- We currently have 3 charters up for renewal, is the county offering 3 or 5 year charters?
 - Are re-write charters being approved at the normal pace?

Community Member #6

- In August 2015, will all schools in the district really be ready for strategic planning when schools open?

Community Member #7

- Will the current charter school petitions change if the district moves towards a Charter District?

Community Member #8

- Could the implementation of the Charter District be staggered?

Community Member #9

- What will the local school governance look like?

Community Member #10

- **Is there an appeals process if the local school wants to do something different from what the district wants to do?**

Community Member #11

- Where is the research on these options?
 - It's being forced on the community
 - Concerned about the timeline
 - It appears the State wants to privatize things
 - The consequences of these options sound like NCLB

Community Member #12

- (*Comment*) These options provide the option for many waivers; however those waivers are not waivers that the district would even want, so why would we do this?
 - We don't want most of these waivers.

Community Member #13

- (*Comment*) The district needs to do a better job of proving to the community that they are going to use the resources we have directly on the students.

Community Member #14

- What are the concrete benefits of either of these options?
 - There is a consensus that parents want smaller class sizes all across the district.

Community Member #15

- Do the parents and community get to vote on which option they would like to choose?

Community Member #16

- (*Comment*) Fulton County presented specific details about what they were going to do ahead of time?

Community Member #17

- (*Comment*) There is not enough information being presented to make a good decision?
 - Does the district really have the intension on allowing schools to truly have the autonomy needed in a Charter District?
 - There are districts that are Charter Districts that are not doing what they are supposed to do, there are severe consequences.
 - Major culture shifts need to be made.

Community Member #18

- What is the definition of autonomy with these options? What is true autonomy?

Community Member #19

- Three renewal charters have requested information/meetings with the district and they were told they would meet with them in February.
 - If the district is not going to give us the autonomy, just say so.

Community Member #20

- Could local schools still apply for conversion charters if the Status Quo option is chosen?

Community Member #21

- (*Comment*) Trust is a major issue in the district, (i.e. lawsuit between teachers and the district).
 - Parents have a hard time trusting the district with funding.
 - Parents don't have trust in the way the money has been spent.

Community Member #22

- Is any of this information in Spanish?
 - People that speak other languages cannot actively participate in these sessions.

Community Member #23

- How do any of these options address the issue of parents having the option to send their children to other schools?

Community Member #24

- What are the boundary lines for Region I?

Community Member #25

- Is this decision impacting a region or the entire district?

Community Member #26

- How will this decision be made?

Community Member #27

- Who has the control with either of these options?

Community Member #28

- Is it the Board that is currently in place that will be making this decision, or will it be the Board that is elected later this year?

Community Member #29

- Are these meetings the only meetings whereby parents will be able to provide input and engage in this process?

Community Member #30

- Who makes up the governance council groups in Charter Districts?

Community Member #31

- What is autonomy? Will the schools really be able to make decisions for their schools (i.e. uniforms, smaller classes, school hours)?

Community Member #32

- Are any other districts outside of the State of Georgia exploring these options?

Community Member #33

- If the superintendent was forced to make a decision right now, what would it be?

Community Member #34

- (*Comment*) We are a very large and diverse district. The options that are being presented are centralized options. These options do not address the individuality of each region, cluster, etc...

Community Member #35

- Can we request a waiver from the Board of Education?

Community Member #36

- What are the superintendent and the district currently doing to prepare for this decision?

Community Member #37

- Is April 14th the deadline for the superintendent to make his recommendation to the Board?

Community Member #38

- When the FAC drafts its recommendation to the superintendent, will it include the pros and cons of each option? Will the FAC be making the actual recommendation?

Community Member #39

- Would having local autonomy mean having input on hiring decisions?

Community Member #40

- What are the public hearings scheduled for August 2014 for? Will it be a two-way conversation or a status update?

Community Member #41

- (*Comment*) It appears that the Charter District option is the way we need to go if we want the possibility of local autonomy.

Community Member #42

- (*Comment*) If you don't have specific details on what the charter will look like, how do we know if it's a viable option?

Community Member #43

- **Would DeKalb consider the option for clusters within the district to be able to make decisions for the cluster (i.e. cluster councils)?**