

Charter System Petition Community Engagement Session #2

Dunwoody High School – 09/23/2015

Community Member #1

- Is it possible to have an eighth challenge?
- **(Comment)** It's concerning that the Local School Governance Teams (LSGT's) will change from having four parents serving on the local school councils to two parents serving on the LSGT.
- **(Comment)** If the principal turns out to be the tie breaker in a voting situation, then the district still has ultimate control over who is on the LSGT.
- **(Comment)** More parents need to be elected to serve on the LSGT.
- **(Comment)** The teachers should be elected, not appointed. As a suggestion, the community member and business partner position should be merged into one position. The principal should appoint one parent.
- **(Comment)** Special Education is missing as a focus. It should bare weight in the petition.

Community Member #2

- Could you specify what a school council can't do that an LSGT can do?
- Is there a grievance process against the district for the CAC?

Community Member #3

- **(Comment)** According to what I am seeing, the roles of the LSGT as far as personnel decisions, financial and resource allocation, etc...does not truly give autonomy to the schools. The language is being used, however this is not TRUE autonomy. It sounds more like we will just have input not autonomy.

Community Member #4

- **(Comment)** I would encourage the district not to have ten members on the LSGT, but have an odd number of members. It would be best if we are allowed to determine how our teams are made up and then the district can tell us if we are wrong and what we need to do.
- **(Comment)** Finding business members and community members is challenging, and over time they fall off from participating.

Community Member #5

- **(Comment)** There is a concern about the principal having a vote. Concerned about fairness.

Community Member #6

- **(Comment)** More power needs to be granted to the LSGT on principal selection.
- Has there been any consideration for the LSGT to have the final say in the hiring of the principal and determining who replaces them when they leave, and deciding whether or not he/she is working out.

Community Member #7

- **(Comment)** When you increase autonomy you increase the amount of work.
- How do you plan on accommodating this staff wise?
- Will you be restructuring the district office?

Community Member #8

- What is the proposal for the 4.5 million dollars that the district will receive if we become a Charter System?

Community Member #9

- Will the funds be distributed equally throughout the district, or will it be done like Fulton County in a grant format?
- **(Comment)** A suggestion would be to distribute them regionally.

Community Member #10

- Where is the district on curriculum and instruction (C&I)?
- Are we loosening the tightness on C&I? Will schools be given more autonomy in this area?
- **(Comment)** Collaborative planning Wednesdays are very productive. Transportation issues are created when implementing this.
- How do we rectify that through the innovation of the Charter System?

Community Member #11

- **(Comment)** There are alternatives to early release days. Two parent families hate early release days. The alternative could be one in which substitutes could be used instead.

Community Member #12

- **(Comment)** The word autonomy as it is being used is not the true sense of autonomy. What's really going to change at the end of the day?
- What's going to happen in schools where the parents don't have a high level of understanding? How will they truly benefit from becoming a Charter System?

Community Member #13

- Where can I find the current draft of the petition?

Community Member #14

- What happens when you have schools that don't have the creativity/innovation on the LSGT or no involvement? Will the district step in to assist?
- What will the schools be doing that are waiting to be established?

Community Member #15

- When is the date that the petition will be approved/disapproved by the State?
- **(Comment)** I'm concerned about the time frame for training.
- **(Comment)** There needs to be guidelines for schools that would like to pull out from the district and become a conversion charter.

Community Member #16

- How long before November 1st will the draft of the petition be available for the public to review?

Community Member #17

- **(Comment)** Current school councils are underutilized. We need to encourage schools to use them the way they were intended to be used. That would be a good segway into LSGTs.
- Have we set our goal at an 80% graduation rate by the end of the five year review?
- Is that realistic? Can we set individual school graduation rate targets in lieu of system goals?