Charter System Petition Community Engagement Session #1
Towers High School – 09/22/2015

Community Member #1

• Will this involve redrawing attendance lines?

  (Comment) So schools with current charter status won’t be impacted by attendance lines if they join the System Charter.

Community Member #2

• (Comment) Charter schools are failing our children. The responsibility of governance is going to be placed on principals that are not ready for this type of authority.

• (Comment) Principals will be in charge of who the local school governance team members are. This will be unfair, and they will choose their buddies.

• (Comment) Why can’t we do what Gwinnett is doing. They are going with the IE2 option. They decided to go another route.

• (Comment) We are going backwards. We are headed in the wrong direction with this.

• What is going to happen with the School Board?

Community Member #3

• Can you explain the difference between theme schools, magnet schools and charter schools?

• (Comment) Theme schools and magnet schools have a rigorous curriculum.

• What’s going to happen to our teachers? Will they have to reapply for their jobs?

• Why can’t we have teachers from the north end of the district move to teach in the South part of the district and vice versa?

Community Member #4

• If everything is to stay the same, then why are we doing this?
• *(Comment)* The word “charter” is so bad.

• *(Comment)* DeKalb has not explored the other options.

• The graduation rate is an issue, we haven’t seen anything that says going to a Charter System will improve that.

• Why do we even have to select any one of the options?

• *(Comment)* We need to know more results of what becoming a Charter System can do for the students as far as college and career readiness is concerned.

**Community Member #5**

• *(Comment)* All children have a right to a quality education.

• *(Comment)* Right now, that’s not happening in the regular schools or charter schools.

• *(Comment)* I’m not sure this is going to work.

• *(Comment)* The same principals are being rotated around, and teachers only want to teach students that are like them.

**Community Member #6**

• *(Comment)* We have a history of selecting principals politically.

• *(Comment)* They should not be in charge of the governance teams.

**Community Member #7**

• Since the deadline was June 2015, can we go back and still submit to become a Charter System?

**Community Member #8**

• What will the training look like for principals and staff?
Community Member #9

- *(Comment)* According to the State, we will have to become a Charter System. There are many innovations that can happen as a result of becoming a Charter District.

- *(Comment)* My concern is how we will manage of the innovation.

Community Member #10

- What will the training look like?

Community Member #11

- What about accountability?

Community Member #12

- What will the schools that are not a part of the initial role out be doing during that time?