Charter District Petition Community Engagement Session
Lithonia HS – 08/26/2014

Community Member #1

• *(Comment)* I’m an advocate for charter schools because it allows for schools’ unique needs.
  
  o *(Comment)* There is a need to address students from different backgrounds and cultures.

Community Member #2

• *(Comment)* Quality of education has an impact on home values. I am for charter schools.
  
  o *(Comment)* There is a need for a focus on vocational education.
  
  o How does the business community influence the charter schools process?
  
  o How does this impact vocational education?
  
  o How will the district’s charter petition impact each school?
  
  o *(Comment)* Innovation is needed in incorporating the business community.

Community Member #3

• *(Comment)* The assumption is the word “charter” means something positive.
  
  o Will we know more about the other alternatives?
  
  o *(Comment)* There is not enough understanding of the different options.
  
  o *(Comment)* It appears that the district was leaning toward the “Charter” option from the beginning.

Community Member #4

• Why can’t this decision be made by the public?
  
  o Why can’t there be a public referendum?
Community Member #5

- *(Comment)* Out of the three options, it appears the Charter System option is the best option.
  - What is unique about the Charter System that is going to change what we have now for the better?
  - Are there any other innovative ideas from other Charter Systems?

Community Member #6

- *(Comment)* Do your due diligence to research the charter options. Have an open mind about the options.

Community Member #7

- What is going to happen if my child transfers from one end of the county to the other?
  - How will the funding work?
  - Will there be equity across the district?

Community Member #8

- What is being done for parents that are not able to attend the 6:00 pm meetings?

Community Member #9

- *(Comment)* There is a concern that we are still not clear on the meaning of a Charter System.
  - How are you going to go about choosing the local governing teams?
  - What about the training, Who, What, and How?
  - *(Comment)* There is a need for more visible ideas.
  - Can we have concise handouts on the process?
  - *(Comment)* There are still lots of unanswered questions.

Community Member #10

- *(Comment)* There is a need for more information to decide which option is best for the district.
  - How do individual board members fit into this process?
- *(Comment)* They should be in their communities providing information to the public.
- *(Comment)* Math should be considered when deciding which option is best.
- *(Comment)* Math needs to be life applicable.

**Community Member #11**

- What are the considerations for the current magnet schools?
  - *(Comment)* Parents of magnet schools are concerned about how this impacts magnet schools.

**Community Member #12**

- *(Comment)* If the governance is not there, then the Charter System will not be successful.

**Community Member #13**

- How much fiscal responsibility does the governance board have?

**Community Member #14**

- Do you have to create a budget?
  - Who is on the governing board?
  - Do you get more money if you pursue Charter System status?
  - How much money is currently allocated to the district for each student?
  - How many of the existing Charter Systems are using consulting firms?

**Community Member #15**

- What is meant by innovation?
  - Will the principal have the ability to determine what the waivers will be?
  - Is there any flexibility on adding different waivers as time goes on?
  - What is the difference between school councils and local governance teams?

**Community Member #16**

- *(Comment)* In this district you need “equity” not “equality”.
**Community Member #17**

- Will the “start up” charters remain as such, will they have district support?
  - Will the “start up” charters be forced to become a part of the Charter System?

**Community Member #18**

- Will the Board of Ed approve Charter Clusters?

**Community Member #19**

- Are there any ideas on which schools/areas will start the Charter System first?

**Community Member #20**

- Once the petition is drafted, will there be additional public meetings on the petition?

**Community Member #21**

- Whose idea was this?
  - What are the advantages and disadvantages of conversion charters vs. Charter Systems?

**Community Member #22**

- Do you get less money if you remain Status Quo?

**Community Member #23**

- Will there be the possibility for students to go to schools outside of their attendance zones with the Charter System?

**Community Member #24**

- Does the charter petition/application include the Druid Hills Cluster charter petition?

**Community Member #25**

- Will the vote on October 6th be the final vote?

**Community Member #26**

- What is the process to rescind the letter of intent to become a Charter System?
  - We would like to have a list of the district’s deficiencies.

**Community Member #27**

- Will the Charter System schools have required parental participation hours?
Community Member #28

• What will be the policy regarding attendance zones?

Community Member #29

• What are the plans for addressing what local school autonomy look like?

Community Member #30

• What can we do to affect the October 6th vote?

Community Member #31

• *(Comment)* There is a need for local school governance teams to have the autonomy for innovation.

Community Member #32

• Do the attendance zones change?
  
  o How will the Charter System impact athletic zoning of students?

Community Member #33

• *(Comment)* There is a difference between the north and south parts of the district.
  
  o What will the Charter System do to address the lack of equity on both ends of the district?

Community Member #34

• What is going to be done differently under the Charter System to change things?

Community Member #35

• *(Comment)* The community wants to have a say in ineffective teachers staying on staff.

Community Member #36

• *(Comment)* There is a need for an environment conducive to teaching and learning.

Community Member #37

• **Local governance teams should have input on the selection of principals.**

Community Member #38

• Can the regions be cross-sectioned (i.e. north end schools blended with south end schools)?
Community Member #39

- Can we look at hiring teachers outside of the certification if there are shortage areas?

Community Member #40

- (Comment) Consider unique situations as you draft the petition.

Community Member #41

- Would the schools have the flexibility for counselors and social workers to serve in expanded roles?

**Comments/questions that are in bold and italicized were highly emphasized**