

CTM EDUCATION COMMITTEE

SUMMARY OF COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT EVENTS

October 7, 2015

Event: CTM Education Town Hall Meeting

Attendees: Approximately 40 attendees

Agenda:

- Present current barriers to access quality elementary school seats in Clifton.
- Present options for positive change:
 - Fairview to incorporate seats for Clifton residents
 - New Neighborhood School
 - Increase Rockdale Attendance
 - Charter School
 - Other, as suggested
- Small Group Discussion, gathering of feedback from attendees

Summary:

Attendees included both parents with children in Fairview, parents with young children and retirees (or parents of grown children) residing in Clifton. There was a consensus that the current access situation to public elementary school is a major problem for this neighborhood brought upon by the campout end. Many asked questions about statistics regarding where children go to school in our neighborhood, how many Clifton children attend Fairview, where the other children attend, etc. Personal accounts of the old Clifton school (memories of successes and difficulties the school had, reasoning behind closing, parental involvement in the school, curriculum and personal stories) were shared. Attendees shared concerns about families attending Rockdale citing the following reasons: poor performance, extreme lack of diversity, location not in a walkable distance, no families volunteering to send their children. Attendees shared concerns regarding the charter school option: not in support of charter schools, don't understand charter schools, want to support public education. Attendees shared concerns and support for starting a new neighborhood school: new school is needed but difficult task to take on, school may fail again, old school was unfairly closed, new school should have diversity within student population. Support and concern for creating guaranteed admission to Fairview: this would be the best solution and easiest to implement, Fairview is already a successfully performing school, would children be allowed to join if they moved here after KG and had no German experience?

June 7, 2016

Event: CPS Led Town Hall Meeting, Facilitated by UC Graduate Students

CTM Education Role: Provided statistics, made statement, members were attendees

Attendees: Approximately 60 attendees

Agenda:

- Words by CPS BOE President, CTM President prior to start of discussions
- Small group discussions facilitated by UC with discussion prompts to achieve stated goal: to capture participants ideas and perspectives on the future of public education in three nearby neighborhoods (Clifton, CUF, SGV)

Summary: Themes provided by CPS analysis of meeting:

- Uncertainty in data regarding the level of interest and need for a school.
- Reservations about a new school without a clear plan.
- The location emerged as a catalyst for strong feelings.
- Gaps in communication, inclusion, data, transparency, trust and communities missing from the conversation are cause for a concern among participants.

September, 2016

Event: Working Group Informational Session

Attendees: Approximately 50 attendees

Agenda: Give information to community regarding joint statement

Summary: The community forum that was organized and held at the Rec Center in September 2016 was hosted by the “Working Group” (not by CCAC solely) and moderated by Mona Jenkins of UC. A brief overview of the Joint Statement of the Working Group was presented and updates were provided by CCAC, CTM Education Committee and Working Group members of CUF. Approximately 50 people attended, including Pat Neal-Miller of CPS’ Family and Community Engagement team. Those in attendance had many questions, particularly for CPS, which the Working Group panel could not address.

September 14, 2016

Event: CTM Education Open House

Attendees: Approximately 30 attendees

Agenda:

- Approximately 30 minute presentation given by CTM Education Committee members providing statistics and data analysis regarding lottery results, enrollment data, census data.
- Small group discussions facilitated by CTM Education committee members w/ discussion prompts.

Summary: Families have need for new school KG class for 2017-18 school year. Concern about location. Concern that Fairview is overcrowded. Would like to have a new school in walking distance. Would like to have diversity in student body. Interest in attending Rockdale Academy?, Concerns Lottery is a flawed system, why is there not a mandatory lottery for magnet enrollment, Concerns that quality of Fairview will be affected, concerns that vouchers will be affected, concern that our neighborhood will not continue to attract families if this issue is not resolved.

October 1, 2016

Event: CTM Education Open House

Attendees: Approximately 15 attendees

Agenda:

- Approximately 30 minute presentation given by CTM Education Committee members providing statistics and data analysis regarding lottery results, enrollment data, census data.
- Small group discussions facilitated by CTM Education committee members w/ discussion prompts.

Summary: Overall positive response to starting new school. Discussions regarding location were more detailed.

January 14, 2017

Event: Open House for families with potential students

Attendees: Approximately 15 families from Clifton and CUF attended

Agenda: informal conversation, gathering community feedback regarding start of new school

Summary: Families are very excited about the possibility of a new public elementary school. Families of 4 year olds now have not heard about lottery results and are very concerned about this. Families of 4 year olds need a preschool this year (2017). One family is 80-90% leaning toward Annunciation. The idea of a partnership with UC is very attractive.