Chicago Public Schools
School Utilization Community Meetings
Breakout Session Notes

**Date/Time of Meeting:** January 30, 2013, 7:00pm-9:00pm

**Network:** Lake Calumet

**Schools represented by audience:** Lawrence, Gompers, Taylor, White, Poe, Pullman, Jane Addams

**Round:** I

**Disclaimer:** The following are notes of the discussions in the individual break-out sessions. They do not provide verbatim records or a comprehensive summary of what was said. Also, these notes do not represent the point-of-view of the facilitators or of CPS personnel. Any questions about these notes should be addressed to CPS staff.

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**General Learning**

There was the general theme of lifting up the assets that the schools, parents, teachers and students, and community have to offer. Participants touted test scores that were on the rise, inventive ways of using green space, looking at parents and school staff in asset based ways, creative teachers and resiliency. There was also the challenge of students crossing gang territories to get to another school if theirs close and the need for adequate resources in their schools. Home ownership, understanding the historical significance of the Pullman community and community safety play were key points lifted up by the Pullman Civic Organization. Pullman Civic Organization noted that they are trying to rebuild/revitalize the community. If schools close, it works against what the organization is trying to do. There was the concern of social services needs for students presently receiving services if schools are closed. How did we get to this point and what could have been done to address this earlier?

**School-specific Learning**

**Lawrence:**
There are 415 students presently at Lawrence. The third year Principal noted that the students were growing as a culture of learning is developing (turnaround for 3 consecutive years). Students are accessing the computer and science labs and the math scores have risen.
Lawrence is between 3 parks with heavy gang violence.

**White:**
The only school that is in West Pullman. It is surrounded by factories. Halsted is unsafe and would require bussing (many working parents who cannot drive kids to/from school). New principal in 2010. ISAT test scores have improved and it has moved from a Level 3 to a Level 2 (and is very close to being a Level 1). Attendance is on the rise. Received the ISBE award from the Mayor.

It's a small school that has a community feel to it. But, it is in need of facility upgrades for cafeteria. Have other needs also (e.g., librarian)
Wants the Board to know that it’s a “kick… school”.
Has a partnership with the park district. Kids are there early and stay late – park district provides services

**Pullman:**
School has a high education level and is on a historical site (building is 100 years old). In need of resources (Internet/AC/new books). How can the school be closed before there was an investment in the school?

**Gompers:**
Safety is an issue. Need to invest in the school. Parents are invested in the school and work with the students. Parent talked about multi-intelligences and utilizing the natural surroundings as learning tools for the students.

**Taylor:**
Parents and teachers working together. Building is old and in need of AC, better technology.

**Jane Addams:**
School is overcrowded. Taking mobile units from other closing schools to Addams.

**Poe:**
Doesn't receive any funding. Clinician feels they are at the max already, but they're not renewing the licenses from clinicians in the future. Students need social/emotional services. Safety is an issue.