**Chicago Public Schools**  
**School Utilization Community Meetings**  
**Breakout Session Notes**

**Date/Time of Meeting:** January 29, 2013, 7:00-9:00pm

**Network:** Midway

**Schools represented by audience:** Pasteur, Fairfield

**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**

Two audience members noted that while they are pleased that CPS is holding meetings to gather their opinions, they fear it is just “lip service.”

- Afraid nothing will come of their input.
- Cite many previous examples of the same thing happening (CPS getting input, but not using it) as a basis for their fear.
- “Are they just checking off the box?”

One voiced concern that CPS’s general plan for closing schools will result in opening Charters.

- Marquette cited as a shameful example.
- Feel CPS created the utilization issues by opening all of the charters that they did.

Several of the parents in this session were very concerned about overcrowding and underfunding issues in their schools.

- Feel that their children are going to school in a far too crowded environment.
- Love their community, want neighborhood schools; just feel they are being ignored by CPS.
- Feel the community is already being hard-hit because of banks “stripping them from their homes;” feel strongly that CPS cannot add to this by taking schools from the children.
- Need more specifics of what the plan would be and how it would work.

One representative of all schools noted that parents should be taking their concerns to the Chicago Education Facilities Task Force.

- Feels that the Board does not care.
- Feels that the Board supports charters, not neighborhood schools.
School-specific Learning

**Pasteur** – Parents shared their major concerns about Pasteur:
- Need more space for all the kids. There is no lunchroom because those have been turned into classrooms. The gym roof is caving in, so there is not gym either.
- Art, music, science are on carts – so kids never even get a chance to leave their desks (even eat lunch at their desks).
- 7th & 8th graders are bused to a branch 2 miles from the main building.
- Staggered start times are also a problem at Pasteur.

**Fairfield** – parents as well as members of the SW Organizing Project shared concerns:
- Feel the “underutilization” label is incorrect for their school, based on how rooms are being used.
- Feel the new principal has brought in many new resources and these will be lost to the students of Fairfield if the school closes.
- Parents made a plea for help in getting more funds for the school so that kids could have afterschool programs that are needed to keep kids safe from gangs.
- Just as gangs are a problem in the high schools, they are a problem for elementary schools as well. Feel it would be very dangerous to move kids from Fairfield due to gang violence they would face.
- Special needs children have thrived at this school, and worry about losing that.