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: Carson, Edwards, Hernandez, Homan, Sawyer, Talman

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.

General Learning
Despite complaints regarding schools being overcrowded, parents are frustrated, angry and concerned their children’s schools will be closed. They want to be better informed and have a timeline that conveys the future of their schools.

Overcrowding is the major issue. Too many children in one room (e.g. 36 in a room). Closets and teacher’s lounges being converted into learning areas. Safety is also an issue e.g. lack of security cameras, no secure area in a school in case of a shooting or tornado, physical structures falling apart. No space for physical activities and the arts.

Although there are major problems being faced, there is an abundance of school pride. Principals, teachers, and parents are proud of their students’ academic and extracurricular accomplishments. They want to keep improving the schools, moving forward not back.

School-specific Learning

Carson
Issues/Concerns
• Overcrowded (3 rooms for 5 groups of incoming kindergarteners)
• Lack of safety (near a major boulevard)
• Old buildings (need new windows, cold classrooms/no heat)

Favorable Aspects
• Offer art, music, dance, band
• High parent involvement
• Offer adult workshops

Edwards
**Issues/Concerns**
- Overcrowded
- Classrooms are small, not enough physical room for students
- Old Modulars (wall falling down)
- Building is 87 years old, needs major repairs
- No art or music room
- No computer room
- No teacher’s lounge (used for other classes or activities)
- Promised a building but was given to a Charter School
- Not enough security cameras, only the main building has them

**Favorable Aspects**
- Strive for students to be well-rounded through academic studies and the arts
- Bilingual teachers
- Open until 6pm and on Saturdays
- Nationally recognized History Club
- Offer Ballroom dancing and orchestra
- Six security guards on premise and a buzzer system

**Hernandez**
**Issues/Concerns**
- Overcrowded
- ESL programs for adults were cut. Parents want to learn English.

**Favorable Aspects**
- Offer movie night and use money for upkeep of the playground

**Sawyer**
**Issues/Concerns**
- Overcrowded
- One building is over 100 years old - doors do not lock
- Hallways used as classrooms
- Special Ed in a tiny room
- No safe area to hide in case of a shooting
- 3-4 Floors, no elevator
- Not handicap accessible
- Unable to get all students out in time during a fire drill
- Modulars were meant for short-term are now old

**Favorable Aspects**
- Involved parents
Talman
Issues/Concerns
• Overcrowded
• No music room
• No cafeteria (children eat lunch at their desks)
• No gym
• Art class is conducted a hallway