Chicago Public Schools
School Utilization Community Meetings
Breakout Session Notes

Date/Time of Meeting: January 29, 2013, 7:00-9:00pm
Network: Midway
Region/Schools focused on in discussion: Azuela, Blair, Byrne, Dore, Edwards, Global Citizenship, Grimes, Hale, Kinzie, Hearst, Hurley, Kennedy HS, Lee, Twain

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

Prior to breakout sessions, Network Chief shared that most ES in Network are overcrowded. They will not likely have to close schools. He felt the main concern would be consolidating schools and the effects of bringing students in from outside the network.

Most of the time in this breakout session was spent on the CPS presentation and the translation of it. Only 20 minutes was spent to capture “concerns” from group.

School-specific Learning

Kinzie School – Principal presented concern about how the utilization rate is calculated. Kinzie has special education programs (26% of school) to serve the deaf children in the community. The fact that a lower number of children are in (and are allowed) special education classes is not accounted for in calculations. Because of this, the school appears “underutilized,” but it is not. Principal wants to know when he will be contacted with an answer about calculation of utilization with special ed classes taken into consideration so that he can let his parents know. Also, this school needs to remain to serve the deaf children and children with special needs, however the inability of these students to pass tests affects (without interpreter for deaf children) the school’s ranking (level) and therefore additionally puts them in jeopardy of closing. Strong concern about displacing special needs children.

Hearst School – Parents are passionate about not closing their school. They feel that have an excellent principal, and a very diverse school. They like the appearance of the facility which is brightly painted with murals. The school was recently renovated. A third of Hearst is special needs
and they have similar concerns about required class size for utilization calculation. Also, CHA is rebuilding in the area which will increase population (timeframe unknown/not addressed).

**Hearst parents are open to the idea of welcoming students from other schools in order to increase utilization if needed.**

Lee ES – they were recently mandated to add full-day kindergarten program, but school is already overcrowded and there is not space. How will this be addressed?

Hale – why can’t mobile buildings be used for overcrowding?

Closed schools – CPS presented possibility to have community use the school buildings of closed schools (re-purpose). A concern was raised about who would pay for the maintenance of school if used by community. They would prefer not to have closed schools turned into charter schools.