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

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

**Network:** O'Hare

**Schools represented by audience:** Taft, Murphy, Dever, Canty, Bridge, Wildwood, Stock, Farnsworth

**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:**
The audience was appreciative of the opportunity to give feedback.

Participants felt that their schools were already overcrowded so consolidation was not applicable.

- Classroom sizes was a big concern overall.
- Allocation of resources to improve facilities was also a big concern.
- Need for a facility plan.
- Being promised resources that aren't being delivered.
- Feel there is a need for smaller classes

The conversation focused on how to improve the overcrowding situation and allocation of resources.

- Concern that all schools have issues, but only some are getting the resources (squeaky wheel/unfair allocation of resources)
- Resources are not being used wisely – (e.g., spending money on expensive mobile units does not address the long-term problem)
- CPS is contradictory in their initiatives – closing schools/opening charters; health & wellness initiative, but no gym available for kids.

There was significant confusion and lots of questions about utilization criteria.

- Discrepancy with the formula (30 vs. 36 per classroom)

Strong concern that Board plans to close schools and then open charter schools.

- Feel this takes away the voice of the teachers and the parents.
There were two aldermen in the audience that came in with specific questions directed at CPS. Since the Aldermen were directing questions to CPS Staff, other participants wanted to do the same.

CPS officials addressed questions for about ¾ of the time.

**School-Specific Information:**

- **Taft HS**
  - Too overcrowded, flux of kids coming in from overcrowded feeder schools
  - Building maintenance poor
  - Lockers shared and broken
  - Seems to be at the bottom of the list for getting improvements
  - Fields need to be redone
  - Athletes should be at their own schools, as opposed to having to go to other schools because they have better facilities.
  - Can’t even see out the windows
  - New windows and paint promised in 2009, now CPS is saying they ran out of money to make those improvements

- **Wildwood**
  - Way too overcrowded, kids are having to eat lunch in the gym
  - At a tipping point and issues need to be addressed NOW
  - Classes sizes too large
  - Not enough resources to go around
  - Where and when does the Magnate Cluster become a solution?
  - Principal is advocating for the school and not being responded to

- **Stock**
  - The only school kids with disabilities and mainstream kids
  - Long waitlist to get in
  - Playground not accessible for kids with disabilities
  - Need more schools for kids with disabilities
  - Beautiful footprint that is not being utilized
  - Would like to bring lower grades over to school for

- **Farnsworth**
  - No lunchroom, kids eat inside the gym
  - Air conditioning is promised for this year, but is that really best use of funds when the school has so many other needs? AC is a luxury and CPS should address some of the more serious issues before they address AC

- **Stock and Oriole Park**
  - Parents moved to the neighborhood for the schools

- **Canty/Dever/Bridge (now two schools)**
  - Overcrowded
• Murphy
  o Need to know process for how moves to other schools will be handled, if students have to change schools