Chicago Public Schools
School Utilization Community Meetings
Breakout Session Notes

Date/Time of Meeting: January 28, 2013, 7:00-9:00pm

Network: Ravenswood-Ridge

Schools represented by audience: Stockton, Brenneman, Courtenay, Stone, Trumbull

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

Basic confusion:
  What school utilization means, how determined, why schools might close
  How people will be informed
  How bilingual students will be switched
  Where do I go if my preschool closes?
  Will CPS tell me where to go, explain what will happen if my school merges?

CPS and general establishment directed anger:
  Should come to each school more, interact, hold individual meetings
  Should complete 10 yr plan before moving on to this
  Want a more open, transparent, elected board with more local representation
  Don’t want these issues addressed on FAQ page
  Truant officers should be on street to get kids to go to school
  Should make cutbacks to own salaries
  Charter schools taking over, getting mayor’s support instead of community schools

Safety concerns:
  Crossing major streets
  Going through bad neighborhoods
  Increased fighting among rival gangs
  Special ed kids being vulnerable to enticement to join gangs

Teacher related concerns:
  Loss of good child/teacher relationships, especially special ed
  How will teachers handle larger class sizes?

Class size concerns:
  Impact on large class sizes on teachers and students
Special Needs Concerns:
Neediest students aren’t being considered, classrooms can’t have more than 6-12 students. How figured into formula?

Curriculum related concerns:
Losing ancillary programs; these should be part of core curriculum
Want more tutor availability
Want community partnerships for extra curricular
Curriculums should be more relevant to real life vs. standardized test focused

Building concerns:
What will happen to buildings? What does “disposed of” mean?

Community:
Want schools they can walk to, volunteer at, feel comfortable in

School-specific Learning

Stockton Concerns:
Impact on special ed, autism classrooms
What will happen to Head Start programs
Impact on grant improvements, currently have all new resources/training
Concerns about child/teacher relationships, what will happen to teachers
Safety fears if have to cross Broadway

Courtenay: Impact on special needs

Trumbull: Impact on special needs, moving these kids around is very traumatic/disruptive

Brenneman concerns:
What happens to grant that provided redesigned classrooms, building upgrades
What will happen to administrators and teachers
Having to travel through unsafe neighborhoods

Stone concerns: Bringing more kids into already large (38) class sizes making it harder on students