

Meeting Note Catcher

Community Meeting with Crown Community Academy of Fine Arts, Lawndale Community Academy, and Sumner Math and Science Community Academy School Communities

Register Here: <https://tinyurl.com/nl-proposal>

Date: Wednesday, November 11, 2020

Time: 6:00 pm - 7:30 pm

Purpose of Meeting: The North Lawndale Community Coordinating Council/North Lawndale Community Action Council (NLCCC/NLCAC) has been exploring an opportunity to bring a school with science, technology, engineering, arts, and mathematics programming to the North Lawndale neighborhood. On November 2, 2020 the NLCCC/NLCAC submitted a proposal to consolidate Crown and Lawndale into Sumner.

CPS held a virtual community meeting so the district could hear thoughts on a community-led proposal that would impact Crown Community Academy of Fine Arts, Lawndale Community Academy, and Sumner Math and Science Community Academy, if approved.

Meeting Attendees: Carl Hurdlik, April Figueroa, Bing Howell, Betty Allen-Green, Chip Johnson, Leonard Moore, Mirlene Doussous, Leonard Moore, Sherry Eagle, Shontae Higginbottom, Alex Cool, Aurelia Davis, Carly Kruzel, Carole Campbell, Catherine, Catrina Singletary, Cl Nevins, Cooke, Debra Kimbrough, Debra Wesley, Erica, Godacious Darvy, Galaxy J7 Refine, Hannah Leone, Heather's iPhone, Iliana Vargas, It's Me, Jaimi Johnson, Jenni, John Zeigler, Juan Maldonado, Julie Burnett, Kameryn Dye, Karen Henry, Katie Ellis, Katina Woodards, Kevin Sutton, Kimya Murray, Marvin Hunter, Michael Bryant, Michael Trout, Ms. Williams, Natasha Jones, Phil Jackson, Pam Price, Raise Your Hand, Rashorna's iPhone, Rochelle Jackson, Ryan Kelleher, Sharon Wingfield, Shatay Bryant, Shavon Coleman, Shiela McNary, Tiffany Kerr, Vanessa Pavlik-Brill, Yolonda, Ellen Moiani, Andrea 7-8, Phyllis Smith, Priscilla Harris, Tiffany Scuefield, Aisha Wade-Bey, Apostle Carolyn Vessel, Margaret Domian, Krishena Wingfield, 3/4Math- Janelle, James Lofton, Katina McNolte

Q&A
(Record the question or comment and the name of person who posed question or comment)

1. Debra Kimbrough- CPS product, Lawndale DL teacher.
Bused as a child to Disney and asked why resources weren't in her community. In favor of STEAM school but want to see that in all Chicago communities so all students can compete without having to travel far.

2. Shiela McNary- resident of North Lawndale since 2001. Things are getting worse here. We need to think about a new school, state of the art, STEAM school for our children. Why are we fighting for schools in disrepair? Current schools are very under-utilized and we need to work

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<p>together for our children's future</p>	
<p>3. Audrey Dunford- 2 daughters graduated from Crown (like myself). Former LSC member as well. We need schools teaching critical thinking, Level 1, state-of-the art, offering robotics. Need more parental engagement. When NLCCC and CAC partnered I felt this was a way to have my voice heard in the community. It's been 4 years with monthly meetings so I don't understand how people didn't hear about this plan.</p>	
<p>4. Rochelle Jackson- North Lawndale resident (born and raised). Rebuild North Lawndale or stay in the ashes? Sometimes we have to sacrifice for change, give your children a chance to fly. We have been left behind in the past. Understand gentrification but we can be rebuilt. New places are scary but so is not having a new school that will go elsewhere and old schools will eventually be closed due to under-utilization. Aren't you tired of looking at the same disrepaired buildings?</p>	
<p>5. Ms. Williams- community members, parent of 2 Lawndale students. Lawndale is doing amazing things with STEM. Added a theater and dance program lately. Students were crying when they heard about this proposal. Parents are not going to travel farther than 1 block away due to safety concerns. Safe Passage is not adequate to handle this merge. Not a safe option.</p>	
<p>6. Christina Wingfield- mother of Sumner student. Agree with the new building but what are your plans with the safety concerns and student travel?</p>	<p>CPS has put together a committee of different departments to address all the challenges of transportation and safety with multiple schools and students. Exploring options right now (Bing Howell) We are developing comprehensive plans for safety, security, transportation for all students attending the school (Chip Johnson)</p>

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<p>7. Katrina Singletary- resident and activist of North Lawndale. Appreciate that people are listening to each other during this process. This opportunity may not come around again. We have 29K registered voters and 3-4K are using old addresses. Only 5K voted last year. Looking forward to new developments and housing that could come to North Lawndale.</p>	
<p>8. Phil Jackson- Pastor in North Lawndale. Grandson goes to Lawndale. My concern is about safety. We work with both east and west Lawndale and this is a real concern. We need new energy and participation in this possible school for North Lawndale. CPD is currently overloaded with violence in the community.</p>	
<p>9. Aurelia Davis- long-time resident, educator, attended and taught in North Lawndale schools. When people stop taking control of their homes and neighborhoods that is when violence starts. This new school will bring about so many positive changes for Lawndale. Think about your children and their future careers. They deserve it, not another community. Don't let the ship sail away. What is the alternative?</p>	
<p>10. James Lofton- son attends Lawndale and I attended there. Why close a school when you can just invest in the current school? Why take students out of their comfort zone and the staff and teachers? Why put him in a new area where there is more violence? Invest and bring new programs in the current school. Make the old school a new school with new programs, investments, more parent involvement</p>	
<p>11. Tiffany Kerr- 2 children attend Crown. I know about the excitement of a new school but I am worried about the safety of our kids, especially with a son. Maybe the money should go into the current schools to make them better</p>	

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<p>12. Aisha Wade-Bey- Why are we making a decision during a pandemic and on the backs of our children? What happened to the moratorium of closing schools? Why not invest in the 3 schools? We don't need more charters or disinvestment in North Lawndale. The mindset is putting black again black. We have many resources (JPA) in our schools. The CTU has 20 sustainable schools. Don't close the schools.</p>	
<p>13. Phyllis Smith- internet issues so didn't speak</p>	
<p>14. Rochelle Jackson- comment to Ms. Wade-Bey. All the resources like JPA are not going anywhere. We are committed to be in the current schools as well as a possible new school. We are committed to North Lawndale as I am a resident of the community. It's about the children and the community as a whole.</p>	
<p>15. Katina McNolte- Long-time parent of Sumner. Our children deserve the best but you closed 50 schools in 2013. These 3 schools are in 3 different areas and residents don't cross. Sumner is totally different than K-Town. If you want equity, then invest in all 3 current schools and neighborhoods.</p>	
	<p>North Lawndale has gone from 120K population to about 40K today. This proposal comes out of that reality where 3 schools only have 25% utilization and thinning of resources. NLCCC-CAC came to CPS to share all the additional programs, curricula, and resources that students deserve in North Lawndale (Bing Howell)</p>