

**LONG-RANGE PLANNING COMMITTEE MEETING**  
**January 23, 2006**

The meeting was called to order by the Long-Range Planning Committee co-chairs, Ms. Bryce Cooper and Ms. Jennifer Trotter, at 6:30 p.m.

Dr. James Victory gave opening remarks to the committee, covering the committee's charge and responsibility of discussing and developing recommendations to the Board of Education in the following four area's:

- the most effective organizational structure for delivery of a quality, world-class educational program;
- demographic information including enrollment trends and projections, and the implementations for both program and facilities;
- a comprehensive study of all district facilities, including a prioritized list of projects to address necessary improvements, consolidation and expansion;
- changes in the attendance boundaries of the schools to provide equitable and efficient use of all facilities.

Next, Mr. Joshua Vautrain of InteloQuent, addressed the committee on his responsibility to provide unbiased information on enrollment projections. His findings included a decrease of 25% student enrollment from 2000-2005; and a projected decrease by 2007 of 37%. The four groups that attend our schools that this information was taken include resident students, SSD students, non-resident students (of District employee's) and tuition paid students.

Mr. Charles Brown of Christner, Inc., presented next on an on-going facility study. Christner has been charged with providing a strategic facilities assessment, with data taken from four areas:

- data gathering - building conditions, space use
- benchmarks/best practices
- analysis and illustration
- collaborative involvement and recommendation

Following the presentations, the committee was divided into six groups, comprised of not more than nine parents, teachers, principals and community members. To gain a deeper insight to the committee and their concerns, they each conducted a group activity and answered the following questions:

1. In hearing the presentations tonight and considering the charge to the committee, what issues or challenges do you believe the committee will face as we develop recommendations?
2. What additional information or materials do you think you will need in order to make informed recommendations in the four areas? (listed above in Dr. Victory's charge to the committee)

## GROUP RESPONSES:

*Question #1: In hearing the presentations tonight and considering the charge to the committee, what issues or challenges do you believe the committee will face as we develop recommendations?*

### Group #1:

1. Academics - improve performance
2. Perception - reverse the negative perception in the community
3. Reverse declining enrollment
  - a. Identify cause
  - b. How do we increase percentage of U. City kids using U. City schools?
  - c. Get accurate demographics on these issues
4. Role of poverty in our students performance

### Group #2:

1. Needing to know class size; actual building conditions
2. Not wanting to face the realities of the numbers
3. How reliable are the numbers documented or including educational larceny
4. Development of new housing that doesn't cater to families

### Group #3:

1. Focusing on what is best for all children versus individual school or interest groups
2. Maintaining focus on raising academic achievement
3. Inclusion of all stakeholders including those unable to attend these meetings
4. Overcoming the resistance to change
5. Financial situation of the District

### Group #4:

1. Homeless population - is it taken into consideration? Why such a high percentage in U. City District?
2. Issues of closing buildings - how to decide
3. Which/how many school may go K-8?
4. Would redrawing boundaries be considered?
5. Equity of school size
6. Merge with other school districts
7. Dissemination of information to community (staff/teachers especially). i.e. - Website
8. Should a boundary line change, committee be formed - NOW

### Group #5:

1. Who do we compare ourselves to?
  - A. We are not as high as Hazelwood (taxation) but similar
  - B. Are Clayton and Ladue good comparisons?
2. Where do we move within School District?

3. Housing vacancy rate?
4. What is benchmark of public school system?
5. What about merging and/or closing of our schools to accommodate loss?
6. How does this relate to a student's education? How do our schools amenities relate to students?

Group #6:

1. Issues/challenges - what is meant by re-organizational structure; physical configuration? As in K-6? 7-8? 9-12?
2. To take into consideration housing opportunities (feasibility, size, affordability)
3. What are the causes of declining enrollment beyond demographics? More information needed.
4. How does academics play into charge of committee?
5. What is the academic component as it relates to this work?
6. Public perception of the schools influences enrollment.
7. What type of communication has taken place with city government to affect perception?
8. What kind of impact will possible closure have on the community? Particularly families with multiple children.

*Question #2: What additional information or materials do you think you will need in order to make informed recommendations in the four areas?*

Group #1:

1. Access to demographic data
2. What facility plans are available now?
3. Priority rank of physical plant
4. Data available on academic performance of District students
5. Research on why parents remove or avoid U. City Schools
6. Perhaps each group could be assigned an issue to research in-depth

Group #2:

1. Need more information about any and all models proposed as a recommendation (K-8, etc.)
2. If any school is proposed to be closed we would like to see the actual figures and reasoning behind that decision
3. How is the list of improvement or expansion to be prioritized?
4. Will the scheduled improvements being made to the school be taken into consideration?
5. What standards are being used to determine what is efficient and what is not?

Group #3:

1. Why the decrease in enrollment is occurring? Why did parents take students out?
2. Information regarding educational larceny, homeless, lower birth rates, transfers in and out of the district.

3. Research on effective organizations for schools K-8, 9-12 versus K-6, 7-8, 9-12 versus K-6, 7-9, 10-12.
4. Status of funds from bond issue and sale of McKnight
5. Tax rates
6. Information broken down by school

Group #4:

1. Research on K-8 trend: beneficial or not?
2. Data on effectiveness of small schools
3. Research on why enrollment is dragging in U. City
4. Number of students in Jewish/Parochial schools
5. General profile of buildings with regard to dollars - effectiveness

Group #5:

1. General economic breakdown of students needed
2. Rezoning changes relating to housing going from ownership to rentals have great effects. Homeless also has great effect.
3. Section 8 property - how much and where? Much mobility

Group #6:

1. General census information from the District and the City
2. Demographic particulars

The above reports were given by each group's chosen spokesperson.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:05 p.m.

The next Long-Range Planning Committee will be held on February 7, 2006, at 6:30 p.m., in the McNair Administration Building. The topic of discussion will be grade level configuration.

## LONG-RANGE PLANNING COMMITTEE GROUPS

### **Group 1**

Garry Aronberg - Parent - UCHS  
Al Haushalter - Teacher - UCHS  
Todd Gilyar - Parent - BJ  
Mike McCray - Parent - FP  
Sue Smorodin - Parent - NH  
Robert More - Teacher - NH  
Tammy Sekou - Parent - JG  
Victoria Gonazalez-Rubio - Principal - DH  
Ralph Bowser - Community-At-Large

### **Group 2**

Nancy Burstein - Parent - UCHS  
Leannett Payne - Parent - BJ  
Carmen Blumer - Parent - FP  
Lynne Glickert - Principal - FP  
Jennifer Trotter - Parent - NH  
Yolanda Louis - Parent - JG  
Marlon Johnson - Teacher - BW  
Corinthia Bishop - Teacher - PER  
Greg Herbster - Community-At-Large

### **Group 3**

Shari LeKane-Yentumi - Parent - UCHS  
Carole Niere - Facilitator - ALT School

Linda Peoples - Parent - BJ  
Sonja Harvey - Teacher - BJ  
Jan Hulett - Parent - FP  
Neal Butler - Parent - NH  
Chani Smason - Parent - JG  
Colleen Davidson - Teacher - JG  
Carlos Diaz-Granados - Principal - JP

### **Group 4**

Beth Bender - Principal - UCHS  
Elliott Shostak - Principal - NH  
??? - Parent - BW  
Ernest Green - Parent - DH  
Jill Lemon - Teacher - DH  
Lesia Shakelford - Parent - JP  
Marvolene Advins - Parent - PER  
Ed McCarthy - Community-At-Large

### **Group 5**

Linda Thompson - Teacher - FP  
Andrea Foster - Parent - BW  
Bernadette White - Principal - BW  
Sarah Heyman - Parent - DH  
Ed Dietzler - Prent - JP  
Karen Payne - Parent - PER  
Cynthia Houston - Principal - PeR

Tom Peters - Community-At-Large

**Group 6**

Sandra Bell - Principal - BJ

Lucille Sibert - Principal - JG

Anders Carlsson - Parent - BW

Yossi Shapiro - Parent - DH

Bryce Cooper - Parent - JP

Kelly Mueller - Teacher - JP

Tanya Wesley - Parent - PER

Walter Daniels - Community-At-Large

**District Personnel**

James Victory - Superintendent

Charles Nicastro - Asst. Superintendent

Scott Hafertepe - CFO

Daphne Dorsey - PR Coordinator

Chauna Williams - C&I Coordinator

Gary Corbin - C&I Coordinator

Juli Ward - Admin. Assistant