

St. James Santee Elementary School Redesign Public Engagement
Wednesday September 24, 2008

Notes

Group 1 (Terri Nichols)

- Why do we need 3 leaders in a school under 100
- Small schools have limited programs
- More info on per pupil cost
- Children need the same things regardless of size and location
- Why not bus in vs. out
- Everyone needs to be heard

Group 2 (Brenda Nelson and Doug Gepford)

- Enrollment decline how long-other variables that impact
- Money spent per student per pupil cost/teacher costs
- Hours of operation –will it impact different grade levels
- Planning should have considered multi-level schools
- Have we considered not transfer-students out to save transportation costs
- Concerned about ratios of pupil: teacher will go up impacting quality
- Why are parents transferring – maybe it is an issue of program offerings
- If McClellanville had programs as Wando, we would not have lost so many students
- Building schools in Berkley Co. because we lost students in Chas. Co.
- How can CCSD plan in several year increments
- State funding formula needs to be addressed
- McClellanville needs a new HS building
- Need to use research when considering regrouping students of different ages
- Include best practices for instructional programs
- Will CCSD consider issues that could occur when mixing different ages
- Use independent research when making decisions
- Could District 1 get a technical school like Garrett HS
- Would not like k-12 programs
- Other think it is ok for k-12
- Staggered schedule
- Send people back to district 1 and build new HS
- McClellanville is part of East Cooper this is issue
- We are the forgotten area
- District owns 20+ acres at St.JS – consider building comprehensive school on this site-classic justice dept law suit coming

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Group 3 (Audrey Lane and Sue Holiday)

- Consider student experience rural schools have different needs
- Impact of separating children MS – created from data which is the same (20yrs)
- Discriminatory
- Rezone-how would we enforce
- Zones and accommodate students coming in
- Transfer outs-county decision-should not be considered
- Program offerings – have impacted transfers
- Concern about combining middle school and high school students-data indicates problems
- New physical building for Lincoln and course offerings
- Timing consideration with busing-parents feel forced to make a choice
- Impact on teachers – will they have a say which school
- Certification of teachers

Group 4 (Clara Heinsohn and Chris Swetchie)

- How can you be exact w/demographics
- How does the national economy picture impact the facility criteria
- Is there another process for rating our schools – competition vs. size of schools
- Breakout of per pupil according to funding source (ie state, local, federal)
- How does the approval of transfers impact a school's per pupil expenditure
- What impact does the funding of charter schools have on our schools
- How does the Ed. Lottery help our schools
- How can the lottery funds be redistributed
- What is the relationship between school resources and school ratings (impact on enrollment)
- Add CTE/Vocational @LHS – this would increase enrollment
- How often are transfers evaluated – reasons why
- When we increase resources we will increase enrollment
- Eliminate criteria regarding age of facility as it is inequitable
- Busing does not work
- Who evaluates the busing (time/district criteria)
- Looking for upgrade of community
- With redesign has the district looked at projected growth – availability of building and developable space
- Are we getting as much funding per pupil as excellent and good schools

Group 5 (Elliot Smalley and Michele English-Watson)

- What is the minimum school size – please define
- Does school size matter
- What is the actual cost per student in a small school

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- Concerns – physical quality of a school, quality of the education they are getting, schools closed – long travel time
- Teacher quality is an important criteria-why wasn't it included
- How bad is the status are the schools in this #1 area
- Are there schools that just will not be considered for change
- Why can't we have more vocational programs in this area
- What is spent on charters if we turn our 3 schools into charter
- Why isn't safety a factor in criteria-discipline referrals at larger schools-takes more people and \$ to operate
- Schools are center of community is most important in rural areas
- Would we consider using 23 acres for new facilities "Porcher" lot
- How is the lottery funds used to help rural schools – federal funds
- If we close schools in area – it would affect jobs
- Why do we have so many children leaving our area for magnet schools
- Build these schools up to eliminate the transfers out
- The County Board overrides the transfers constituent Board denies
- Why are the magnet schools able to offer more programs than the traditional school
- We need to look at the quality of schools-programs offered. Discipline safety etc
- Re-determine the mission of the redesign of the school
- I would argue that smaller schools have a better quality class size vs. school size
- Concerns that the county already has pre-conceived ideas as to which schools they want to close
- We are doing this process too fast. We need more time. County needs more time to involve community – gives impression that county has already made decision
- Do not the MS & HS mixed
- Consolidate schools through internet
- Only reason why teachers teach in this area is to work off their student loan. Why isn't teacher quality one of the criteria's
- Why did we have this meeting because the decision was already made

Group 6 (Michael Bobby and Terri Shannon)

- How will the decision be made about what score will be used to make decisions
- Current statistics when will we provide
- Decline-have/will we look at reasons/transfer
- Will we bring students back to home schools
- Are we counting as part of Laing (MGAP) or part of home school
- How does magnet school choice effect community school enrollment
- What is cost to bus students to schools out of area (after school care) childcare
- Will we consider the time it takes to travel to other schools-distance/time/cost
- Ability to participate/support
- What purpose does consolidation with Mt. Pleasant hold if they continue to grow and get new schools/only adds to overcrowding

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- Consider reverse busing Mt. Pleasant to St James/Lincoln
- Why have we targeted certain schools
- The real problem is busing to Garrett Academy
- If we had programs we could keep students
- Why are minority schools targeted
- Career Tech programs we use can impact district (forestry)- to use local resources Archibald Rutledge AP (partnerships) courses
- We should look in to partnerships with businesses to expand offerings for students
- Have we taken into consideration impact on parents and students vs. staff
- Remove a school removes a part of community
- CLUB is a disadvantage because choice is not readily available
- Feel that we don't get equal attention, only leftovers
- Why can't we have all programs that others offer? Ex. Wando HS
- Little change 1977-2008
- Is low academic performance caused by lack of vocational programs skilled trades
- If students are bussed to Mt. Pleasant causing drop out are they considered NCLB drop-outs
- Have we considered student attitudes –getting up early long bus rides...effects on behavior
- Can we move MAP program here
- Long bus rides/limit time to do homework
- Removes schools as center of community
- We should create vocational programs that the business/vocation of local area. Rural Community – Ag/forestry/?
- Are teachers encouraging our students to leave to go to other schools
- Concerns about what teachers teach our kids
- PTA – no meeting, no notice, why
- Would we consider building a new building