

District 23 NPT Meeting Tuesday, March 19, 2013

Welcome

Dr. Winbush welcomed everyone and clarified that this meeting is open only to people whose names were submitted by their schools to be representatives. There will be two upcoming meetings to which other community members and interested parties will be included. It is the responsibility of team members to share the information discussed with their schools and other stakeholders.

NPT

What is it?

A group of stakeholders assembled to come together and explore issues and options. This NPT is concerned with the future of District 23 schools. Each school has representation.

Why was it formed?

To answer questions that have been brought to Dr. McGinley by the Board, gather input and information, and take to Dr. McGinley.

What is our task/goal?

To come up with a product/recommendations on which we all agree. All are voting members except Dr. Winbush. Things will be done democratically. Must be open minded and fiscally responsible.

How does it function?

A total of 6 meetings are planned, 4 of this group and 2 that will include other community members and interested stakeholders. This group will meet twice, then present ideas for comment/input at a community meeting. We will meet twice more and then hold a second community meeting. Finally, recommendations will be presented to Dr. McGinley.

What is the timeline?

Up to six months, but we can do it sooner. It is up to this group to decide.

What are our limitations?

We are not a decision-making group. We make recommendations.

- Dr. Winbush stated that one of the options we can present is for things to remain the same in District 23. That would be one option, but we must explore other options as well.
- Recommendations made by this team will not affect the 2013-14 school year.
- The Board has not made a final decision regarding the movement of 6th graders to Baptist Hill; however, we are moving forward with the Academic Planning Team (APT) meeting Wednesday, March 20, 2013.

District 23 Data Presentation

Dr. Winbush presented information regarding District 23 enrollment trends, PASS scores, cost per pupil for each school, etc.

Breakout Groups

Members were assigned to small groups to discuss and record factors that need to be considered when discussing options for District 23:

Group 4 – We have a marketing issue. Magnet schools recruit; some schools hold fairs to market the choice options. Why is District 23 the only one that does not have a magnet? According to the “Zone” concept, there should be a like school in every zone – this costs money and it’s ultimately up to the Board

Group 3 – Need to look at the programs offered and the quality of the programs, need to step up academic rigor. The rural school setting is different. Need to consider community and school relationships and how they are impacted. Need to highlight people who attended District 23 schools and have gone on to become very successful.

Group 2- Opportunities for students are limited. We need allocations. If we are going to make our schools appeal to the community, we need money. There is a perception of instability in District 23 because someone is always talking about changing things. Transportation concern – students are on the bus too early in the morning.

Group 1 – Eliminate transportation for choice schools, market our schools, create an AP academy, increase career and technical offerings.

Comments/Discussion

- District 23 schools have been labeled and it will take good people and hard work. Jane Edwards has slowly started making progress.
- Need to find a way to stop providing transportation to other schools.
Dr. Winbush stated that federal law requires that transportation be provided for students moving from “failing” schools. For schools that are no longer “failing”, many students have been grandfathered in for transportation.
- Transportation is still being provided for magnet schools.
- Montessori schools get support and they are often small schools.
- The District also looks at capacity, but how can our schools operate at capacity when students are being taken away?
- Common Sore State Standards and the new assessments will require that teachers have deep understanding of their content.
- According to Mrs. Pinckney, Edisto students are on the bus for approximately 48 minutes.
- Enrollment in District 23 schools began to decrease as magnet schools were created.
- To offer more opportunities and choices means additional funding is needed. CCSD would have to take from somebody/somewhere or raise taxes.

- Due to decreased enrollment, our schools often receive only partial FTEs for PE, music, etc. How are our students going to get into School of the Arts if they've never had the opportunity to take music or dance?
- CCSD is cannibalizing District 23. Why can't we take a little from some of the other areas?
- How do you convince a Board member to take from one school to give to ours?
- Vocational/technical offerings at the high school are determined by the number of students.
- Partnership with TTC, but students are not passing the entrance test.
- Ms. Goodwine reported that she is working with TTC and would like to offer a barbering program, EMT, other health sciences. They are planning several virtual courses for the future. Funding is an issue as always.
- To fix this, we will need to work together. It will take all of us and it will take hard work.

Next Steps

Next meeting was scheduled for April 9, 2013 at 5:00 at Baptist Hill

PLEASE NOTE THAT FURTHER MEETINGS HAVE BEEN PLACED ON HOLD AT THIS TIME.

**District 23 Community Task Force Meeting Notes
Planning for Our Community's Educational Future
Wednesday, September 25, 2013
5:00 p.m.**

The District 23 Community Task Force (D23CTF) meeting was called to order at 5:13 p.m. by Dr. James Winbush, Associate Superintendent of the Innovation Zone Learning Community. Light refreshments were served.

Dr. Winbush informed the committee members that he will be presenting to the community at large Thursday, October 3, 2013 in reference to the D23CTF meeting held on Wednesday, September 25, 2013 at 5:00 p.m. Dr. Winbush also stated to the committee he would send flyers out to the community in reference to the meeting that will take place Thursday, October 3, 2013.

The committee members worked in groups in order to address the following questions:

- 1. What is the task force mission/objective?**
- 2. What is your objective on this task force?**
- 3. CCSD has said that it does not plan to close any schools in District 23. Is that a good thing or bad thing?**

Task Force Members stated the following to the above questions:

- a. To make the schools better**
- b. To be informed**
- c. To provide input**
- d. To represent all areas of the community**
- e. Growth for the community and schools**
- f. Better education for the students**
- g. A plan that will work best for District 23**
- h. Coming together as a community**
- i. Location where schools are zoned for students**

The Associate Superintendent informed the task force that he is reorganizing the North Charleston schools.

Dr. Winbush posed the question, “What is the mission of the large groups?”

Response: To make the District 23 better (The mission)

The Associate Superintendent is trying to be fiscally responsible when it comes to the matters of District 23 schools.

Dr. Winbush stated “The Leadership Charter School will pull our students if we do not get better.”

District 23 offers the least amount of Advance Placement Courses than any other school in the district.

Baptist Hill Middle/High (BHMHS) School had eight (8) Career and Technology teachers (CTE) last school term, but as of this school year, BHMHS has four (4) CTE instructors.

It was referenced that sixth graders need to be prepared for middle school, as well.

The Associate Superintendent informed the task force that the group will no longer meet after November 2013. The budget for District 23 has to be submitted in December of 2013.

The questions asked/posed were the following:

- 1. What are we going to do?**
- 2. What do we want to do?**
- 3. What are our priorities?**

Nine schools in the Charleston County School District (CCSD) have over one thousand (1,000) students in attendance this school term.

Baptist Hill High School use to have one thousand two hundred (1,200) students enrolled at one point during its history.

The Leadership Charter School gained one hundred and thirteen (113) of District 23's students this school year.

District 23 has a total enrollment of one thousand one hundred and nineteen (1,119) students this school year.

The Associate Superintendent reviewed the data of Jane Edwards and Minnie Hughes Elementary Schools, respectively.

Dr. Winbush stated the district will not remove teachers from the various schools if student enrollment is low.

The Associate Superintendent shared the formula for allocating funding to small schools. He emphasized funding for teachers and substitutes. Dr. Winbush also discussed the seven day count, school roll up, overlays and the teacher point system, as well.

The discussion for the final segment of the task force meeting was to address the following:

- 1. How are we going to benefit by keeping the present District 23 Schools in place during the 2014-2015 school year?**

The Associate Superintendent stated "We did not see the Leadership Charter School coming our way."

Dr. Winbush developed 4 Options of school configuration in order to address the declining enrollment in the District 23 Schools.

The Options are as follows:

Option 1: All schools remain open with present enrollments (Jane Edwards en. 79), (Minnie Hughes en. 185), (EB Ellington en. 291), (CC Blaney en. 163), (Baptist Hill Middle High School en. 403)

Option 2: (Jane Edwards en. 79), (Minnie Hughes en. 267), (EB Ellington en. 373), (Baptist Hill Middle High School en. 500), (CC Blaney CLOSED)

Option 3: (Jane Edwards en. 79), (Minnie Hughes en. 185), (EB Ellington en. 291), (ECC en. 300 formerly CC Blaney), (Baptist Hill Middle High School en. 500)

Option 4: (Jane Edwards en. 79), (EB Ellington en. 650 EB Ellington & Minnie Hughes consolidated), (ECC en. 300 formerly CC Blaney), (Baptist Hill Middle High School en. 500)

The Associate Superintendent posed the following questions to the task force:

- a. What option would you like to have?**
- b. What would you like to add to the options?**

The task force formed five (5) groups in order to discuss the options.

Group 1: Chose Option 4 with additional changes

Keep sixth grade at Jane Edwards

Use a more nontraditional model, i.e. 1st & 2nd grades combined

1 classroom teacher

1 Master Reading Teacher

1 Associate Math Teacher

Minnie Hughes becomes a potential community center

EB Ellington numbers will decrease elementary 3rd - 5th not 2nd - 5th

Head Start through 2nd grade based in Schroder, using CC Blaney's facility to support

Option 3: Is the second choice

Group 2: Added Option 5

Jane Edwards merges with Minnie Hughes

EB Ellington remains

CC Blaney feeds into EB Ellington & Minnie Hughes

Create an ECC

All sixth graders attend Baptist Hill Middle/High School

Group 3: Choose Option 3

Keep all buildings open

All sixth graders to attend Baptist Hill Middle/High School

Make Baptist Hill Middle/High more attractive offering the arts

Group 4: Chose Option 4

Larger schools several teachers teaching at each grade level

Full-time P.E., Music, Chorus, Art teachers, etc.

More to offer students

Group 5: Chose Option 3

Added Option 5

Elementary Schools attendance grades 1st – 5th

Baptist Hill Middle High/School attendance grades 6th -12th

EC and Head Start in one building

Research attendance zones for Jane Edwards and Minnie Hughes

Option 6

Redraw attendance line on the east side of Minnie Hughes with the west line of Jane Edwards to 'capture' students living closer to the Intercoastal Waterway Bridge to increase the attendance of Jane Edwards Elementary School.

Create an ECC at CC Blaney for the Head Start (all 3 and 4-year olds), CD and Kindergarten

Maintain three elementary schools at Jane Edwards, Minnie Hughes and Ellington for grades First through Fifth

Send All sixth graders to Baptist Hill Middle High School

Groups 1, 2, 3, 4 & 5 agreed that Options 1, 3, 4 & 5 should remain for discussion.

Pros and Cons of Options

**Money saved throughout the district
Enrollment Increases
Schools receive more services**

**Extensive bus travel time for students
Losing students**

Dr. Winbush is on Facebook and Twitter.

**Dr. James Winbush, Associate Superintendent
Innovation Zone Learning Community
District 23 Community Task Force Meeting Facilitator**

Notes Submitted by Bonita J. Foster, Assistant Principal Baptist Hill/Middle High School

District 23 Community Forum
Planning for Our Community's Educational Future
Thursday, October 3, 2013

- A Community Forum such as this one will be held after every two meetings of the District 23 Task Force. This meeting is the first Community Forum. Information from this meeting will go back to the Task Force. All meetings will conclude by the end of November, at which time there will be a vote and recommendations will be sent forward. All sign in sheets and notes are being kept on file.
- Dr. Winbush announced that the IZLC now has a Facebook page and encouraged everyone to “like” us on Facebook and follow us on Twitter. This is just one of the many avenues through which the IZLC is keeping parents and others aware of important events and information.
- Dr. Winbush provided everyone a copy of the minutes from the Sept. 25 District 23 Task Force meeting and briefly explained what was discussed:
 - Members discussed the mission/objective of the group.
 - Dr. Winbush presented information regarding current enrollment in District 23 schools and how funds are allocated, pointing out that the amount of funding is tied to enrollment.
 - Several options for the future of District 23 schools were presented, members discussed the options, and added a few more for consideration.
- Dr. Winbush presented all the options that were discussed by the Task Force and explained how each one would affect each of the District 23 schools.
- Attendees formed 3 groups and moved to different locations to discuss the options and choose the one they preferred. Groups came back together to share the results:

Group 1

 - * What are other schools offering that we don't?
 - * Are the teachers qualified?
 - * It is up to us to demand what we want for our District. We need to work together.
 - * Two options received votes
 - Option 5 – all schools would have more students
 - Option 3 – would be best for academics, PASS, keeping students in the District

Group 2

 - * Leaning toward option 5
 - * Discussed the ECC going up to 1st grade, would like 2nd graders to stay with the 3^d graders.
 - * Combining Jane Edwards and Minnie Hughes would eliminate the stress on Jane Edwards staff – worrying that their school will be closed.
 - * Don't know which school would be used
 - * Concerned about long bus rides
 - * Students would receive higher quality education in a larger school
 - * One thing we can do to keep our students is for CCSD to stop providing transportation to other schools.

Group 3

- * Liked option 4, with adjustments, and option 5
 - * Question – if Jane Edwards and Minnie Hughes combined at Jane Edwards, what about the 6th graders?
 - * If 6th grade goes to BHMHS, perhaps add a 3 year old class at Jane Edwards/Minnie Hughes to make up for the loss in numbers.
 - * Would need to carefully rezone to keep the bus ride reasonable
 - * ECC should be Head Start through 2nd, but might want to keep grades 2 and 3 together.
 - * Would Ellington campus be able to accommodate 650 students?
 - * To make things more attractive, consider making Jane Edwards/Minnie Hughes a partial magnet
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- Dr. Winbush reminded attendees that the notes from this meeting will go back to the Task Force. They will meet twice more, then there will be another Community Forum.
 - Dr. Winbush also stated that members of the Task Force who have not attended meetings will not be included when the final vote is taken.

District 23 Task Force Meeting
Planning for Our Community's Educational Future
Thursday, October 17, 2013
5:00 p.m.

Facilitator: Dr. James Winbush

Review/discussion of Community Forum

Comments from Task Force members indicated that the forum went well. Those who attended seemed genuinely interested in working together for the good of the students and were calm and open minded as they discussed the pros and cons of each of the options presented.

Review of the process

1. Task Force meets twice to discuss options
2. Takes information to the Community Forum
3. Task Force meets twice to consider and discuss input from community forum
4. Takes information to the Community Forum again
5. Task Force considers input from community, vote is taken
6. Recommendations taken to Dr. McGinley
7. Board reviews for approval

Dr. Winbush stressed that this process will become critical as we move closer to finalizing recommendations by the end of November and noted that only Task Force members whose attendance has been regular will be allowed to vote.

Pros/cons of selected proposals

At this point, we are considering options 1, 3, 4, and 5. Other options have been eliminated during the previous Task Force and Community Forum meetings. Groups were formed to discuss and record the advantages and disadvantages of each option still on the table.

Group		PROS	CONS
	Option 1	Stable, no change	Enrollment remains low, not enough resources, inadequate access to programs, heavy workload for teachers
	Option 3	All ECC in one location, all 2 – 5 in one location, 6 th graders get core curriculum needed, consolidate resources	Doesn't increase enrollment, just moves grade levels, Ellington and Minnie Hughes ECC students would have to be bused to Blaney
	Option 4	6 th graders stay at Jane Edwards, more resources for Ellington and Baptist Hill	6 th go to middle from Jane Edwards
	Option 5	Resources, rezoning, increased stability for Jane Edwards	Community Center, other school, rezoning

Group		PROS	CONS
	Option 1	none	Cost to continue operation this way, fiscally irresponsible
	Option 3	ECC would pull resources, federal money	Still have 5 buildings open, Jane Edwards still too small
	Option 4	Reduces facility costs, Edisto served, low bus times	Ellington too close to capacity, Jane Edwards too small
	Option 5	Pooling of resources for ECC, more programs due to increased enrollment (may need to consider redrawing attendance lines)	none
Group		PROS	CONS
	Option 1	Students remain in their home community	Financial burden, all schools would not receive the same, lack of access and academic opportunity, all ECC students cannot be served
	Option 3	6 th graders in a true middle school environment, ECC separated from older students,	Financially irresponsible to keep a school of 79 open, inconvenience for families, facilities needs for ECC
	Option 4	Additional academics, full time staff, more money, students inclined to stay in district (the bigger the school, the more programs)	Irresponsible to keep a school of 79 open, different neighborhoods would need to adjust to each other
	Option 5	Showing financial responsibility by merging two schools, more economic and academic access for all students involved. (question – what would happen to the unoccupied building?)	
Group		PROS	CONS
	Option 1		
	Option 3	ECC at Blaney would mean more resources, central location	
	Option 4		Would have to close one of our schools, elementary school would be larger than middle and high school combined, Ellington is closest to West Ashley – would that make it more likely that our students would leave? Jane Edwards still small
	Option 5		

Establish a rubric

As we move closer to making recommendations, keep in mind that we don't do that based on what you feel and what you want. It should be based on what is good for students and the community and which option is the best. So we will set up a rubric with which we will rate each option.

Criteria to be used

In order to create our rubric we need to identify the criteria by which we will be judging each of our options. The group brainstormed and listed several possible criteria:

Enrollment

Resources

Transportation

Fiscal responsibility

Travel time

Academic choices/programs/quality of education

Funding/allocations

Facilities/accommodations

Parental concerns

Best grade configuration academically

Best for needs of staff

Future growth

Cost effectiveness

Rezoning

Before our next meeting, members are asked to take a look at the list and choose the ones you think should be included. We will meet again October 24, to finalize the criteria and the rubric.

Then we will present this to the community at the next Community Forum November 7.

Next Task Force meeting- Thursday, October 24, 5:00 pm

Community Forum meeting – Thursday, November 7, 6:00 pm

District 23 Task Force Meeting
Planning for Our Community's Educational Future
Thursday, October 24, 2013
5:00 p.m.

Facilitator: Dr. James Winbush

Review of previous meeting

Previous meeting's discussion included review of the 4 options still on the table, pros and cons of each option, and possible criteria for inclusion on a rubric for evaluating each of the options.

Selecting criteria for the rubric

Task Force members were provided the criteria list that was generated at the last meeting. In order to reduce the number of criteria, members were then asked to identify which items they felt were the most important to include on the rubric. Discussion and voting (by show of hands) led to the selection of seven criteria, some of which were combinations of several that had been previously listed. The criteria selected were:

- Enrollment
- Resources/academic choices
- Transportation costs
- Travel time
- Funding
- Parental satisfaction
- Cost effectiveness

Evaluating options

Dr. Winbush reviewed the four options being considered. Task Force members were then asked to rate each of the 4 options on a scale of 1 – 5 (with 5 being highest) for each of the criteria included on the rubric. Each member completed the rubric independently.

Results

Numbers were tallied and the results were as follows:

Option 1	248
Option 3	375
Option 4	430
Option 5	573

Next Steps

Explain the process for selecting the criteria and creating the rubric at the Community Forum. Present the results for discussion and feedback.

Community Forum meeting – Thursday, November 7, 6:00 pm

District 23 Community Meeting

Planning for Our Community's Educational Future

Thursday, November 7, 2013

- Welcome
- Review the process
- Review options
- Work of the Task Force to date
 - ✓ Considered/discussed options
 - ✓ Listed pros and cons of each
 - ✓ Selected criteria and created rubric
 - ✓ Used rubric to evaluate each option
- Presentation of results
- Breakout groups
- Discussion/sharing
- Next steps