

South Middle School Steering Committee
Meeting #2 – Table Discussions & Requests for Additional Info
February 11, 2017

Requests for Additional Info

- District-wide mobility rates?
- School mobility rates?
- We say that we want schools to be racially diverse, but what is considered racially diverse?
- Do charter parents want to attend neighborhood schools?
- What is optimal size for a middle school to provide robust extra-curricular programs?
- With racial make-up of SW area will SW residences support a MS experience?
- What is the geographic distribution of Lincoln students?
- Data on school attendance at charter and private schools for students who live SOBC?

Q1: What takeaways do you have from the demographic, enrollment & survey data that we reviewed? Where are we?

Group 1

- How to retell narrative from middle school survey? i.e. need to improve perception of KCPS
- KCPD presence i.e. too much interference with the children

Group 2

- Population going down, but not enough to not support middle school
- Lincoln parents are pressuring the District to open up the Lincoln middle school
- With the right mix of race and economics SOBC could find an interest MS SOBC
- We could focus on science and tech strong programs to develop
- With more charters every year the numbers decrease for everyone

Group 3

- So small?
- What is optimal size for a MS?
- Population shift (decline)
- Split already small MS enrollment?
- Signature/charter demand
- Different models in different areas
- Class size/school size
- Programming

Group 4

- The children are in South Brush Creek, just not in KCPS
- Black large population decline with sometime white pop increase. Anecdote: fewer after school options – so black families move to suburbs, - white families could afford private afterschool
- It's not easy to participate in afterschool so makes difficult for MS
- Shocked by overall decline in pop 213,615 to 190,789
- Don't have enough data to know if we have enough kids to literally open a south middle school
- We cannot provide a robust MS & HS experience to compete with suburbs or private

Group 5

- It would be good to have data before meeting to absorb
- Good and detailed data
- St. Peters enrollment declining data interesting
- It's good there are positive feelings about the District. And more choices etc.
- How do we make the District appealing?
- Pre K option gives parents foundation etc.
- We need to continue to look at HOW we keep parents interested in the District and what it can offer students
- Surprised to see decline in Black population
- It depends on the parent
- Many parents feel trapped
- Communicate with neighborhoods in area
- We want to provide the best for all our children
- Parents have to explain why they choose the District
- Perception of the District is weaker than what it really is
- Extra-curricular activities are necessary

Q2. Where do we want to be? Why is there interest in a MS south of Brush Creek?
What are we trying to achieve?

Group 1

- Proximity to school
- Better accessibility to community partnerships
- Better programming
- Increasing # of students in 7-12
- Develop rental/condos on Bingham property

Group 2

- Maybe a hybrid between charter & KCPS
- There has to be a draw to a middle school
- Corporate sponsored MS to develop career oriented students/programs
- 7-8 grades school size of 400-500
- With racial make-up of SW area will SW residences support a MS experience?
- What is racially diverse?

Group 3

- SOBC – live near school
- Travel time, distance
- Location, location, location
- Stay together (friends)
- Community engagement
- Extra-curricular programs

Group 4

- We will still have choice
- White parents will not want to send their children to Central MS
- Want school closer to home
- You can come to us (diversity) but we won't go there (Central)
- Are we really talking MS short term but long term 7-12
- Financially 7-12 more viable
- Lincoln Prep left out

Group 5

- We want a middle school for South Brush Creek
- Parents do not want to send kids to Central too far and bad reputation
- We are doing the District a disservice not having a middle/high school in the area
- There should be a school close to the center of the District
- Why do our schools have bad reputations?
- Middle school needed to integrate our students
- If they build it they will come
- What is racially diverse?
- Only one middle school north and one south