South Middle School Steering Committee
Meeting #6
May 25, 2017

The committee members reviewed the group discussion notes from the April 22nd meeting and shared additional feedback, which included:

#3: Make MS 6-8th grade

- The question of where kids go for MS
- 6th grade should be with 7 and 8 (2 people) Montessori doesn't need to keep until 6
- Some ES feed 6th into MS and some should keep them as a potential plan?
- There is inconsistency with how we matriculate → we need to fix (ie: K-6, K-8, 7 & 8, 6-8)
- 9th grade centers?
- If we do a 6-8 it should be 6-8 across the district
- More neighborhood market research needed
- Investments in schools need to be equitable

#9: Make Central Middle kick-a**

- Central MS has a location issue
- Academie Lafayette has some cultural issues: There is some research that needs to be done
- We have too much choice: Baskin Robbins example: people were happier with 3 choices (chocolate, vanilla, strawberry)
- Need to get everyone to the table: district, charter, private

#10: Attempt to find a MS that is west of Troost

- A South Middle School shouldn’t drive progress for other schools, all should be independently great
- Agree that a MS on the west side is needed
- Is this (a 3rd MS) REALLY viable?
- First wave of loss: Kindergarten; 2nd wave: 6th grade
- Need to ask the charters: how much do you care to serve 6-8 if we open this MS? Would you partner with KCPS for the MS?
- Interim step: reopen Lincoln MS & remove/lessen testing requirements
- Pathway Academy: kids want to go to school in their neighborhood, kids leave the charter at 5th grade to go to Kauffman
- Parents have their own internal feeder system
- 63rd Street corridor: charter row
- Is this a KCPS issue or a Kansas City issue?
- Should we make the school a signature, test-in school?
The committee reviewed the purpose of the committee – “conducting an assessment and providing a recommendation to the Superintendent and School Board about the opportunities and challenges in creating a third middle school south of Brush Creek” and identified the following opportunities and challenges:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>OPPORTUNITIES</th>
<th>CHALLENGES</th>
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<tr>
<td>- Not a KCPS issue, it’s a KC issue</td>
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<td>- Could achieve diversity</td>
<td>- Resources spread too thin</td>
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<td>- Increase enrollment (stop the loss of students)</td>
<td>- Too many middle schools</td>
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<td>- Physical presence in south would help build connection to KCPS</td>
<td>- Don’t know what kids are offered currently (academics/extra-curricular/supports)</td>
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<td>- Community partners that would like to engage with extra-curriculars</td>
<td>- Don’t know why families are leaving</td>
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<td>- Attract students from elementary charters</td>
<td>- How do we define a “successful school”</td>
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<td>- Attract more families for elementary (if have solid MS option)</td>
<td>- Instability in the current system</td>
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<td>- Capitalize on positive energy around making changes in KCPS</td>
<td>- Neighborhoods aren’t diverse (someone has to give something up)</td>
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<td>- Forming a community within the MS (because located closer to where families live)</td>
<td>- Impact on Central Middle</td>
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<td>- Create a network between district and charters (breaking ground)</td>
<td>- Financial feasibility</td>
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<td>- Create awesome school</td>
<td>- Segregation of KC (comfortability)</td>
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<td>- Will families take a chance on a new school (especially at the MS level)?</td>
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<td>- Equity</td>
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After discussing the opportunities/challenges, the committee was asked “Does the committee support the creation of a 3rd middle school SOBC? If so, under what caveats/conditions”? All the committee members present (except one) expressed support for the creation of a 3rd middle school SOBC, but with caveats/conditions/next steps to determine the viability/impact of a 3rd middle school. The group agreed that a 12 month timeframe was realistic to complete the necessary due diligence/research:

- KCPS and charters need to define what are our expectations (curriculum, extra-curriculars, programming) to create great experiences for MS students. And What it will take to achieve this (school size, etc)
- Doesn’t negatively impact existing MS (equity) emphasis to serve kids that can’t move, etc
- Research what kids are currently offered at MS and HS
- Research why families are leaving (what are there needs) and why they are making the school choices they are making
- KCPS and charters need to talk (create pathways and system that better serves K-12 system & MS students)
• Develop a feeder system (from elementary and where they are going for HS)
• Has to grow the pie or stop the bleeding
• Demonstrate that students needs will be better served
• Look for some quick wins (i.e., changing the Lincoln admissions requirement; build community support for Central Middle and awareness programs for Central (tour of school)
• Consider creation of an on-going / implementation committee

Next steps: KCPS staff will made edits to the draft memo (based off the feedback/discussion) and circulate to the committee members for comments/edits.