South Middle School
Steering Committee

May 25, 2017 – Meeting #6
AGENDA

Recap: Group Work from Meeting #5

Discussion: Key Takeaways

Finalize: Memo & Recommendations

Next Steps
GROUP DISCUSSION TOPICS

1. Revise school size standards/smaller middle schools (less than 450-800)
2. Remove middle school grades from signature high schools (Lincoln, Paseo) and K-8 schools (FLA, AC Prep)
3. Make MS 6-8th grade
4. Re-open Lincoln Middle School building
5. No testing/no signature middle schools
6. Don’t reopen Lincoln Middle
7. Could the district be the single authorizer for any new or expanding charters?
8. Change Middle School locations (one north and one south)
9. Make Central Middle kick-ass
10. Attempt to find a MS that is west of Troost
11. Can AC Prep be PK-6, and then 7-8 be more exploratory to attract more families
12. Use Southwest for MS and build to HS later or another complimentary use (support center, training, etc)
13. 7th grade center at Bryant
14. Create a 6th grade center
15. Separate MS buildings
GROUP DISCUSSION SUMMARY

#1: Revise school size standards/smaller middle schools (less than 450-800) – 13 votes

What do you like about the idea?
- Small school communities provide opportunities for students to be known/feel known
- Easier to intentionally diversify
- Geographic diversity
- Relationships and support system are better—closer community
- Behavior is better
- For social/emotional learning/personalized
- More neighborhood feel (sense of community)

What concerns do you have? What are the potential pitfalls?
- Money (financial feasibility)
- Less resources and high-quality staff (Human Resources)
- Lack of resources
- Expense (don’t have enough kids)
- Neg impact
- Min enrichment opportunities (inequitable and ↓ academic excellence)
- Does it prepare for HS

Could the idea be modified to be improved? How?
- Less resources: then you can partner with other schools
- Leveraging resources already in the community → District-wide
- Cost share w/ charters for enrichment and sports
GROUP DISCUSSION SUMMARY

#3 Make MS 6-8th grade - 7 votes

What do you like about the idea?
• We’ve changed our mind

What concerns do you have? What are the potential pitfalls?
• Equity: Too many elementary schools are depending on K-6th population (Montessori needs 6th grade to solidify all previous lessons)
• 6th graders need a chance to be leaders
• Many schools (charters) end at different levels
• Should be 7-8, contingent on signature schools releasing their middle schoolers
• SEL of 6th

Could the idea be modified to be improved? How?
• Modify to 7th and 8th OR 7th, 8th and 9th → to keep 9th graders from dropping out
GROUP DISCUSSION SUMMARY

#10: Attempt to find a MS that is west of Troost – 6 votes

What do you like about the idea?
• You can’t have true diversity without having a school west of Troost
• White people will come
• Makes sure that KCPS has a strong footprint on the west side

What concerns do you have? What are the potential pitfalls?
• All schools should be excellent choices/high quality education
• Look at research
• Equality and equity and diversity in the student and staff populations

Could the idea be modified to be improved? How?
• Feeder patterns: boundaries would have to be thoughtful in terms of diversity
• How can you make sure the new innovative school pushes positive change in other schools north and east
#9: Make Central Middle kick-a** – 5 votes

What do you like about the idea?
- Start with what you have, make it great and then replicate
- Great location
- New leadership coming

What concerns do you have? What are the potential pitfalls?
- All schools must be kick-a** equally
- Doesn’t solve perception issues that exist
- All schools should be kick-a**
- How to change the culture

Could the idea be modified to be improved? How?
- Good things happening at Central MS—marketing—make it known—strategic plan for marketing
- Determine what you want to see there. What’s the end game? How do we get there?
#2 Remove middle school grades from signature high schools (Lincoln, Paseo) and K-8 schools (FLA, AC Prep) – 5 votes

**What do you like about the idea?**
- Pulling them out will help us to have a more full school instead of several ½ empty
- ↑ diversity
- Opportunity for exploration
- ↑ size of school and resources
- Could help with ESL and AE if properly resources
- Provides more students for new school
- 6-8th creates a safer environment that allows youth to grow at a separate pace from high school

**What concerns do you have? What are the potential pitfalls?**
- No feeder for FLA and AC Prep so doesn’t make sense, but yes for Lincoln, Paseo, yes.
- Needs strong, consistent leader
- Communication to parents and community
- Negative impact on the signature schools
- Parental/family impact
- Could lose students focused on those programs
- Take away options

**Could the idea be modified to be improved? How?**
- Remove testing requirements (to get into middle) which encourages parents to stay longer
- Need to grandfather in transitions (Could do it over years and not immediately)
- Have data and support to come with the change
- Just make 7-8
- Have to create an innovative alternative at those middle schools
- Share resources between middle schools
The committee is tasked with the important work of “conducted 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.”
What are your key takeaways from the committee discussions (opportunities & challenges in creating a 3\textsuperscript{rd} middle school SOBC)?

<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>
<td>- Resources spread too thin</td>
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<td>- Could achieve diversity</td>
<td>- Too many middle schools</td>
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<td>- Increase enrollment (stop the loss of students)</td>
<td>- Don’t know what kids are offered currently (academics/extra-curricular/supports)</td>
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<td>- Physical presence in south would help build connection to KCPS</td>
<td>- Don’t know why families are leaving</td>
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<td>- Community partners that would like to engage with extra-curriculars</td>
<td>- How do we define a “successful school”</td>
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<td>- Attract students from elementary charters</td>
<td>- Instability in the current system</td>
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<td>- Attract more families for elementary (if have solid MS option)</td>
<td>- Neighborhoods aren’t diverse (someone has to give something up)</td>
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<td>- Capitalize on positive energy around making changes in KCPS</td>
<td>- Impact on Central Middle</td>
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<td>- Forming a community within the MS (because located closer to where families live)</td>
<td>- Financial feasibility</td>
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<td>- Create a network between district and charters (breaking ground)</td>
<td>- Segregation of KC (comfortability)</td>
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<td>- Create awesome school</td>
<td>- Will families take a chance on a new school (especially at the MS level)?</td>
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<td></td>
<td>- Equity</td>
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Other Recommendations

• Does the committee support the creation of a 3rd middle school SOBC?

• If so, under what conditions?

• 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

• 12 months for research

• Look for some quick wins (i.e., Lincoln admissions requirement; build community support for Central Middle and awareness programs for Central (tour of school);

• Consider on-going / implementation committee