

Charter System Petition Community Engagement Session #1

Towers High School – 09/22/2015

Community Member #1

- Will this involve redrawing attendance lines?

(Comment) So schools with current charter status won't be impacted by attendance lines if they join the System Charter.

Community Member #2

- **(Comment)** Charter schools are failing our children. The responsibility of governance is going to be placed on principals that are not ready for this type of authority.
- **(Comment)** Principals will be in charge of who the local school governance team members are. This will be unfair, and they will choose their buddies.
- **(Comment)** Why can't we do what Gwinnett is doing. They are going with the IE2 option. They decided to go another route.
- **(Comment)** We are going backwards. We are headed in the wrong direction with this.
- What is going to happen with the School Board?

Community Member #3

- Can you explain the difference between theme schools, magnet schools and charter schools?
- **(Comment)** Theme schools and magnet schools have a rigorous curriculum.
- What's going to happen to our teachers? Will they have to reapply for their jobs?
- Why can't we have teachers from the north end of the district move to teach in the South part of the district and vice versa?

Community Member #4

- If everything is to stay the same, then why are we doing this?

- **(Comment)** The word “charter” is so bad.
- **(Comment)** DeKalb has not explored the other options.
- The graduation rate is an issue, we haven’t seen anything that says going to a Charter System will improve that.
- Why do we even have to select any one of the options?
- **(Comment)** We need to know more results of what becoming a Charter System can do for the students as far as college and career readiness is concerned.

Community Member #5

- **(Comment)** All children have a right to a quality education.
- **(Comment)** Right now, that’s not happening in the regular schools or charter schools.
- **(Comment)** I’m not sure this is going to work.
- **(Comment)** The same principals are being rotated around, and teachers only want to teach students that are like them.

Community Member #6

- **(Comment)** We have a history of selecting principals politically.
- **(Comment)** They should not be in charge of the governance teams.

Community Member #7

- Since the deadline was June 2015, can we go back and still submit to become a Charter System?

Community Member #8

- What will the training look like for principals and staff?

Community Member #9

- **(Comment)** According to the State, we will have to become a Charter System. There are many innovations that can happen as a result of becoming a Charter District.
- **(Comment)** My concern is how we will manage of the innovation.

Community Member #10

- What will the training look like?

Community Member #11

- What about accountability?

Community Member #12

- What will the schools that are not a part of the initial role out be doing during that time?