

# Charter District Petition Community Engagement Session

## Lithonia HS – 08/26/2014

### **Community Member #1**

- *(Comment)* I'm an advocate for charter schools because it allows for schools' unique needs.
  - *(Comment)* There is a need to address students from different backgrounds and cultures.

### **Community Member #2**

- *(Comment)* Quality of education has an impact on home values. I am for charter schools.
  - *(Comment)* There is a need for a focus on vocational education.
  - How does the business community influence the charter schools process?
  - How does this impact vocational education?
  - How will the district's charter petition impact each school?
  - *(Comment)* Innovation is needed in incorporating the business community.

### **Community Member #3**

- *(Comment)* The assumption is the word "charter" means something positive.
  - Will we know more about the other alternatives?
  - *(Comment)* There is not enough understanding of the different options.
  - *(Comment)* It appears that the district was leaning toward the "Charter" option from the beginning.

### **Community Member #4**

- Why can't this decision be made by the public?
  - Why can't there be a public referendum?

#### **Community Member #5**

- *(Comment)* Out of the three options, it appears the Charter System option is the best option.
  - What is unique about the Charter System that is going to change what we have now for the better?
  - Are there any other innovative ideas from other Charter Systems?

#### **Community Member #6**

- *(Comment)* Do your due diligence to research the charter options. Have an open mind about the options.

#### **Community Member #7**

- What is going to happen if my child transfers from one end of the county to the other?
  - How will the funding work?
  - Will there be equity across the district?

#### **Community Member #8**

- What is being done for parents that are not able to attend the 6:00 pm meetings?

#### **Community Member #9**

- *(Comment)* There is a concern that we are still not clear on the meaning of a Charter System.
  - How are you going to go about choosing the local governing teams?
  - What about the training, Who, What, and How?
  - *(Comment)* There is a need for more visible ideas.
  - Can we have concise handouts on the process?
  - *(Comment)* There are still lots of unanswered questions.

#### **Community Member #10**

- *(Comment)* There is a need for more information to decide which option is best for the district.
  - How do individual board members fit into this process?

- *(Comment)* They should be in their communities providing information to the public.
- *(Comment)* Math should be considered when deciding which option is best.
- *(Comment)* Math needs to be life applicable.

**Community Member #11**

- What are the considerations for the current magnet schools?
  - *(Comment)* Parents of magnet schools are concerned about how this impacts magnet schools.

**Community Member #12**

- *(Comment)* If the governance is not there, then the Charter System will not be successful.

**Community Member #13**

- How much fiscal responsibility does the governance board have?

**Community Member #14**

- Do you have to create a budget?
  - Who is on the governing board?
  - Do you get more money if you pursue Charter System status?
  - How much money is currently allocated to the district for each student?
  - How many of the existing Charter Systems are using consulting firms?

**Community Member #15**

- What is meant by innovation?
  - Will the principal have the ability to determine what the waivers will be?
  - Is there any flexibility on adding different waivers as time goes on?
  - What is the difference between school councils and local governance teams?

**Community Member #16**

- *(Comment)* In this district you need “equity” not “equality”.

### **Community Member #17**

- Will the “start up” charters remain as such, will they have district support?
  - Will the “start up” charters be forced to become a part of the Charter System?

### **Community Member #18**

- Will the Board of Ed approve Charter Clusters?

### **Community Member #19**

- Are there any ideas on which schools/areas will start the Charter System first?

### **Community Member #20**

- Once the petition is drafted, will there be additional public meetings on the petition?

### **Community Member #21**

- Whose idea was this?
  - What are the advantages and disadvantages of conversion charters vs. Charter Systems?

### **Community Member #22**

- Do you get less money if you remain Status Quo?

### **Community Member #23**

- Will there be the possibility for students to go to schools outside of their attendance zones with the Charter System?

### **Community Member #24**

- Does the charter petition/application include the Druid Hills Cluster charter petition?

### **Community Member #25**

- Will the vote on October 6<sup>th</sup> be the final vote?

### **Community Member #26**

- What is the process to rescind the letter of intent to become a Charter System?
  - We would like to have a list of the district’s deficiencies.

### **Community Member #27**

- Will the Charter System schools have required parental participation hours?

### **Community Member #28**

- What will be the policy regarding attendance zones?

### **Community Member #29**

- What are the plans for addressing what local school autonomy look like?

### **Community Member #30**

- What can we do to affect the October 6<sup>th</sup> vote?

### **Community Member #31**

- *(Comment)* There is a need for local school governance teams to have the autonomy for innovation.

### **Community Member #32**

- Do the attendance zones change?
  - How will the Charter System impact athletic zoning of students?

### **Community Member #33**

- *(Comment)* There is a difference between the north and south parts of the district.
  - What will the Charter System do to address the lack of equity on both ends of the district?

### **Community Member #34**

- What is going to be done differently under the Charter System to change things?

### **Community Member #35**

- *(Comment)* The community wants to have a say in ineffective teachers staying on staff.

### **Community Member #36**

- *(Comment)* There is a need for an environment conducive to teaching and learning.

### **Community Member #37**

- ***\*\*Local governance teams should have input on the selection of principals.***

### **Community Member #38**

- Can the regions be cross-sectioned (i.e. north end schools blended with south end schools)?

**Community Member #39**

- Can we look at hiring teachers outside of the certification if there are shortage areas?

**Community Member #40**

- (Comment) Consider unique situations as you draft the petition.

**Community Member #41**

- Would the schools have the flexibility for counselors and social workers to serve in expanded roles?

***\*\*Comments/questions that are in bold and italicized were highly emphasized***