

- I. **Welcome and Introductions:** The 07/15/13 meeting of the Chicago Educational Facilities Task Force-Master Planning Subcommittee was called to order at approximately 9:40 am. In attendance: Subcommittee Chair Cecile Carroll, Blocks Together; Michael Rendina, Chicago Public Schools; Sarah Hains, Chicago Teachers Union; and Dr. Clarice Berry, Chicago Principals & Administrators Assoc. Other CPS representatives: Todd Babbitz, Laura Farr, Pat Taylor, David Favaro, Wendy Thompson, Leonard Langston, Terry McGuffage, staff from CPS Real Estate Dept. (Liza Balistreri? did not sign in); and *pro bono* advisors Jacqueline Leavy and John Keigher. CEFTF member Valencia Rias-Winstead, Designs for Change, arrived near the end of the meeting. Also in attendance: State Rep. Mary Flowers and Ms. Marrice Coverson (representing State Sen. Mattie Hunter).

II. **10-Year Master Plan Development**

- a. **CPS' F.A.C.E. Office Update on Public Input:** Ms. Thompson distributed a chart showing recent meetings at which CPS made presentations and sought input about the Draft 10- Year Educational Facilities Master Plan (EFMP). Ms. Thompson explained that CPS is utilizing already-scheduled meetings of various parent advisory bodies to discuss the EFMP: CPS gave presentations at 8 meetings in June at the already- scheduled meetings of CPS Collaboratives (the geographically-defined regions under which CPS Networks operate); the Parent Involvement Advisory Board, and LSC Advisory Board. Mr. Babbitz is giving these presentations, using a PowerPoint presentation adapted to each session, and a survey questionnaire. The Chair and Ms. Leavy requested that Ms. Thompson and Mr. Babbitz provide the CEFTF with the presentation materials and Ms. Thompson's 7/15 report electronically. The presentation and survey will also be presented to upcoming July meetings of CPS' CACs (Community Action Councils), the regional planning groups that CPS has set up in several areas of the city. Mr. Babbitz invited the Task Force to give him feedback.

The F.A. C.E. Office also plans to hold meetings for specific stakeholder groups, and 2 meetings per CPS "Collaborative" (the larger geographical areas under which its Networks are organized). These meetings are yet to be scheduled. CPS also plans to organize a Youth Forum for CPS students sometime in late August (after the beginning of the new school year on 8/26/13). Discussion following Ms. Thompson's and Mr. Babbitz's oral reports included the following key concerns and comments from various CEFTF members:

- ***The need for a separate meeting at which to gather feedback from state legislators and other local elected officials.*** Subcommittee Chair Ms. Carroll asked what CPS is doing to engage elected officials. Ms. Farr from CPS stated that CPS plans to invite them to briefings on the 10-Year plan at CPS HQ sometime in September. Rep. Flowers recommended that state legislators convene such a meeting at the Bilandic Bldg in July or early August, rather than waiting until the plan is virtually final. Rep. Flowers stated that September is too late, and that she and her colleagues want a dialogue and input into the 10-Year Plan sooner rather than later. Sen. Hunter's observer, Ms. Coverson, agreed that a special meeting is needed soon. Ms. Coverson reported that Senator Hunter and other elected officials remain very concerned about the School Transitions in the wake of CPS' recent school closures, and are very concerned about what will happen with the school buildings that CPS closed. She also stated that engaging elected officials would be better handled by the CEFTF, because the Task Force provides a different climate than CPS does.
- ***CPS needs to recognize and include educators*** – teachers, support staff and principals – as key stakeholders – and encourage their input and feedback on the 10-Year Plan. CPAA's Dr. Berry stated that despite CPS' past surveys, principals do not feel they have had adequate input into

the 10-Year plan, and overall have been made to feel that they cannot speak freely about critical issues affecting their schools.

- **Additional Input needed from other stakeholder groups:** The Chair Ms. Carroll called on CPS to get **more input from community-based organizations**, pointing out that many clergy are not necessarily in the neighborhoods or adequately knowledgeable about the needs of students and schools. CTU representative Ms. Hains pointed out that in addition to parents, students, educators and faith-based groups, CPS must also seek input for the plan from the **major universities and colleges** in the City (as per the state statute) - including Chicago City Colleges.) She also recommended that CPS **get input from the Federation for Community Schools**, a network whose perspective and input have been overlooked to this point.

Mr. Babbitz reiterated his request for feedback on the survey and presentation materials that CPS is using at various meetings. He also reported that over 400 schools (59.3%) did eventually respond to the initial Master Plan survey questionnaire that CPS circulated earlier this year, and that CPS may consider issuing such a survey again. He also noted that when he has made presentations on the Draft Master Plan, meeting attendees frequently raised questions about the future use of closed school buildings.

Ms. Leavy requested that going forward, CPS should provide all of its reports electronically so that they can be sent to all CEFTF members, and also requested that the Task Force be notified of the dates and venues at which CPS plans to make additional presentations on the Master Plan. CPS' Mr. Langston pointed out that the meetings at which Mr. Babbitz has spoken were not "special" meetings about the EFMP, but rather regularly scheduled meetings. Ms. Leavy requested notice of all such presentations.

b. Planning the CPS-CEFTF Joint Briefing for Sister Agencies on Master Plan

Ms. Leavy distributed an outline (see attachment to the Meeting Notes) listing the various sister agencies and local governments (as per the statute) that should be invited to the Briefing. Additionally, while not required by the statute, she recommended that the regional planning agency, CMAP – the Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning – should also be invited to participate. Representation by the Chicago City Colleges is also important, given their ongoing partnerships and collaborations with CPS. While CPS should already have lists of contacts at its sister agencies, Ms. Leavy also suggested that if Task Force members had specific suggestions for invitees, to be please provide them to her and Mr. Langston.

- **Proposed date:** Mr. Rendina reported that Monday August 5th is the date that CPS prefers. Time: 10 AM – 2 PM.
- **Location:** Dr. Berry and other subcommittee members recommend that the event should be held at the Bilandic Bldg. CPS' Ms. Farr and Mr. Langston responded that CPS wants to host the event at Central Office, 125 S. Clark. Mr. Rendina stated that he would check availability of CPS' 15th floor Conference Room. Ms. Leavy and Mr. Langston are assigned to coordinate and resolve the logistics.
- **Proposed Agenda:** Mr. Langston and Ms. Leavy are assigned to coordinate; initial proposed agenda items include: (1) Introduction of the EFMP and the state law; (2) Expectations for the Day; (3) Overview of CPS' Draft EFMP; (4) Presentation by the CEFTF; and (5) Discussion and Feedback.

c. Follow-up on June 10th Report by Pat Taylor, CPS Facilities Dept.

- **Progress toward completion of facility condition assessment:** All schools' new assessments are now completed. CPS is reviewing the consultants' reports to be sure that nothing's missing

from the Assessments. Then CPS priorities which improvements should be done first, and what buildings are in the worst shape.

- **Process, Notification of, input from schools re: new assessments:** Ms. Taylor stated that principals are notified before CPS' consultant teams come out to do the assessments but that there is no procedure to get any direct input from the school staff onsite. Principals do get a "self assessment" survey about their schools' building conditions. It was not clear if CPS intends to provide Principal and LSCs with the results of the new facility condition assessments for their individual schools.

d. Follow-up from June 10th Meeting: Updates on CPS' real estate transactions from prior year and Status of Re-Bids

Staff from CPS' Real Estate Dept. Liza Balistreri did not have a written report to present. She stated that 20 properties were let out for re-bidding as of July 12th, 2013. In the first and second rounds, CPS accepted 3 bids in each round. Regarding the 20 properties being re-bid in the 3rd round, CPS plans to offer certain waivers and exemptions to previous guidelines. Ms. Leavy pointed out that despite numerous previous requests since the beginning of 2013, the CEFTF has never received anything in writing regarding CPS' guidelines. She stressed that transparency and broad public input are needed. The Subcommittee Chair requested that CPS provide the CEFTF with details in writing on each of the properties CPS is putting out for bid, as well as details on the process of how CPS will determine the future use or disposition of the school buildings that were closed by the Board this year. Ms. Balistreri was not able to provide any further updates or details about CPS planning for disposition and/or repurposing of closed schools (as had been requested for the June 10th and the July 15th Master Planning meetings. CPS is to follow up and provide the CEFTF with these updates in writing (and electronic format) to be disseminated to all CEFTF members.

Additionally, CPS staff were not able to provide any specifics regarding community and public engagement results to date regarding the disposition or re-purposing of school properties. The survey being used as part of CPS' presentations to stakeholder groups on the Draft EFMP does not include a question regarding the disposition or re-use of closed schools or CPS surplus properties. CPS also did not provide any information on how is CPS appraising, setting value for properties. This is a continuing and pending agenda item from prior Master Planning subcommittee meeting agendas. CPS is to provide the CEFTF with a written response on this matter as well.

III. Capital Improvement and Operating & Maintenance Requests and Budgeting

(as per June 10th meeting notes)

- a. Principals' requests and concerns:** Dr. Berry referred repeatedly to the survey that the Chicago Principals & Administrators' Assoc. has conducted recently, through which hundreds of principals have raised complaints and concerns about the Central Office takeover of supervision of their building engineers. Dr. Berry stated that this is in violation of the IL School Code, which expressly gives principals the right and responsibility to oversee the engineers, and ensure that the school is kept in good order. Dr. Berry further stated that CPS has imposed a new layer of bureaucracy in the form of Facility Managers that have put principals in an untenable situation. School cleanliness and hygiene have declined; common supplies are not readily available, including until recently toilet paper for bathrooms; and simple but important repairs are not getting done. She stated that the conditions are only going to worsen, once CPS completes the recent massive round of school closures and consolidations, which will push many schools up to near 100% capacity.

Ms. Taylor responded that she and her department do not determine Operating & Maintenance budgets; that in previous years, principals were given lump sums for O&M and often depleted those dollars; and that last year, she did try to free up and distribute extra dollars from her department. Ms. Taylor also insisted that CPS did save money (\$36 million in overtime charges) and create "efficiencies" by placing the building engineers under the direct control of Central Office. Rep. Flowers stated that she was very concerned to verify if in fact CPS was violating State law, and that she is aware of deplorable conditions in schools based on complaints from her constituents. Rep. Flowers cited Clara Barton School as an example of her and her constituents' concerns about declining cleanliness, sanitation, and overall poor state of repair of neighborhood public schools in her District and communities with increasingly distressed populations.

- b. Further discussion-More LSC/public input into CPS capital budgets and CIPs:** Task Force members again reiterated (as in past meetings) that CPS needs to get much more input from LSCs and the public, and return to holding well-publicized capital budget hearings every year. Additional discussion was curtailed due to time constraints and is to be taken up at the next meeting.

IV. Public Comment

The Chair indicated there was very little time left and asked members of the public who wished to testify to be brief.

Mary Welter, representing the Bridgeport Alliance: Ms Welter stressed that even area residents who no longer have students in school care very much about all of their neighborhood public schools. She urged CPS to let communities know directly what CPS is doing, and specifically share and distribute the Draft Master Plan much more widely, and the Plan should be on prominent display in our neighborhood libraries and at Harold Washington Library. CPS needs to get input from organizations like hers. Ms. Welter also stated that her organization and others like the Brighton Park Village Assoc., the McKinley Park community organization, and the South Loop Assoc. are not regularly getting information about CPS about what the school district is doing and planning. CPS cannot put the burden of disseminating information to all parents and the neighborhoods on principals and LSCs.

Ronal Jackson, Tilden HS LSC: testified that LSCs are legally entitled to and should get much more information about their local school budget, including O&M and capital projects. LSCs should not have to FOIA CPS for this information. Regarding CPS having a good system for prioritizing capital investments: Mr. Jackson pointed out that the swimming pool at Tilden HS has been closed and out of commission for 10 years. Such neglect is inexcusable.

In response to the Public testimonies, the Chair added that CPS needs to have a structured process in place through which LSCs, concerned parents (not on the LSC), and others at the local school site get to reviewing these new facility condition assessments and provide feedback. Rep. Flowers added that she would like to see CPS have to post publicly the date of the most recent facility inspections and condition assessment, as well as post the key problems which need to be corrected, along with updated postings when the needed corrections are completed.

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 12:20 PM. The next meeting is scheduled for Monday, August 12, 2013 at 9:30 AM. The Bilandic Bldg will be requested.