

Community Meeting for the Co-location Proposal: Richard T. Crane Medical Prep HS with Chicago Talent Development HS and Richard T. Crane Technical Prep HS

April 6, 2013; 3:00 to 5:00 p.m.

Location: W. Young HS, 211 S. Laflin Street

CPS Staff in Attendance: Myetie Hamilton, Chief Officer, School Support Center, Paul Osland, Executive Director of Transportation, Theresa Plascencia, Chief of West Side HS Network, and Randle Josserand, Deputy Chief of West Side HS Network

Brief Summary: The purpose of the meeting was to receive public comments on the proposal for the co-location of Richard T. Crane Medical Prep HS with Chicago Talent Development HS and Richard T. Crane Technical Prep HS. There were six (6) community members in attendance and five (5) speakers. The speaker comments focused on a variety of topics including; the need for Chicago Talent Development HS to have a new setting, additional safety and security resources for longer hours, and thanking CPS -Board of Education for not closing any high schools.

CPS Presentation

Ms. Hamilton welcomed those in attendance, including the Chicago Police Department representative and elected officials. Ms. Hamilton then presented an overview of the proposal. She explained that this is the 1st of 3 meetings. The next meeting will be held on April 13 from 3-5pm and there will be a public hearing on May 20 at Central Office from 2-4pm. She referred the audience to the handout. She highlighted the investments proposed. Mr. Osland explained the meeting rules and procedures. He noted that if anyone has any notes/handouts they'd like to provide to CPS to please leave them with the note taker.

Public Comment

Aston Coleman, member of Crane Transformational Task Force and Dean of Students at Crane HS

Mr. Coleman fought in 2011-2012 to gain equitable educational representation and resources for the children in the West Haven community when they were informed that Crane HS was on the list of schools to be phased out. Through countless meetings, CPS decided to partner with Crane and allowed them the opportunity to start RTC Med Prep. The group is here to challenge and oppose the co-location of RTC Med Prep and Crane HS with Chicago Talent Development HS. They anticipate great difficulty working to collaborate between schools with different curriculums, cultures, and disciplinary infrastructure. They feel that an alternative location for Chicago Talent Development HS is needed for four main reasons. He discussed the first reason, the physical building conditions and usage of resources. Mr. Coleman noted that in Barbara Byrd-Bennett's email announcing these proposals, the following statement was included, "We must make certain that every child can attend a school that has the supports and resources needed to help every student flourish. By consolidating schools we can focus

on safely getting every child into a better performing school close to their home.” If this is a genuine statement, then RTC Med Prep being forced into a co-location will impact its supports and resources from inception. Mr. Coleman thought that a better question is, “why is a brand new CPS-partnered magnet high school being dumped into a “co-located” scenario?” A new school needs its own fresh start. Having to share resources (labs, auditoriums, cafeteria, gymnasiums) limits each school’s access and use of equipment and facilities. This forced cluster of schools will create competition between school leaders trying to ensure the best for their school. Moving forward, massive construction and rebuilding will also need to take place each year to accommodate downsizing and/or growth occurring in all three schools. Mr. Coleman expressed that an excessive amount of money will be needed to do this.

Stephen Godfrey, IT and business teacher at Crane HS

Mr. Godfrey discussed the group’s second point, CPS’ current state, fostering climate and culture and growth. Mr. Godfrey asked how many selective enrollment high schools share space under co-locations. He thinks it is critical for schools to establish their own culture and that when schools are combined conflicts arise. These conflicts disrupt learning and the growth of the school. Students perform better and thrive in learning arenas that offer safety, necessary and adequate resources, cutting-edge and innovative technology and materials. A Consortium of Chicago School Research report (University of Chicago) published in 2011 state that the gathering together of many students with low academic achievement and weak attachment to school that is most problematic for school safety. Crime in the neighborhood accounts for a little over one quarter of the differences across schools in student and teacher reports of safety and peer interactions, while poverty around the school explains approximately 20 percent of these differences. The characteristics of the students’ home neighborhoods are more important. Schools are safer when students are from communities with more resources.

Jessica Lafranz, Social Studies teacher at Crane HS

Ms. Lafranz discussed the group’s third point, Chicago Talent Development’s Report Card. The focus of RTC Med Prep is to create a high school geared towards college and career ready preparation. Talent Development’s Illinois State Report Card reveals concerning data. Talent Development does not meet federal NCLB standards. Talent Development only has 3 percent of students meeting/exceeding on the PSAE compared to the state standard of 77 percent. The school did not meet AYP metrics set by CPS. It is a level 3 school, has 206 student enrolled out of 600 available slots. This means Talent Development HS would grade at 34 percent under-utilized. Chicago Talent is under-utilized and under-achieving. It is imperative that another space is selected for Talent Development HS.

Aston Coleman, member of Crane Transformational Task Force

Mr. Coleman discussed the group’s fourth point, safety and security. Implementing and facilitating safety is an influential piece of school culture. Attendance is bolstered and social capital is improved when a safe and secure environment is promoted. With co-locations, many unknown variables are

present. In a November 2006 Bulletin, CPS' Office of Communications reviewed suspensions and posted statistics for the most serious offenses involving violence (levels 4,5,6) under the Student Code of Conduct handbook from the 2004-2005 SY to the 2005-2006 SY. After closing Austin and Calumet HS, receiving schools such as Wells HS, Clemente HS, and Orr HS showed increases in suspensions.

On April 4, 2013, a large brawl was reported between Talent Development, Michelle Clark, and Austin HS on Oakley Street after school involving girls from all schools. The Chicago Police was notified and arrests were made.

In order to provide comprehensive safe passage for all schools additional patrol and resources would need to be allocated over longer hours to accommodate for these schools' schedules.

On April 1, 2013, CPD's Gang Unit alerted us to increased gang activity and retaliation between the Gangster Disciples/Vice Lords in the Saint Stevens Projects and the Black Disciples - a three-day shooting spree took place from 3/29-3/31. Safe passage workers witnessed bullet holes in nearby homes.

Secure another alternative location for Chicago Talent Development HS. The task force feels it is necessary for Crane Medical Prep HS to have adequate space, resources, support, and funding necessary to establish itself as the successful neighborhood school they envision. They are dedicated to the task and in partnering with CPS ask to continue to work together and dialogue.

Alderman Burnett

Alderman Burnett thanked the Board of Education and CPS for working with him and the people of the community. He asked that the students from Crane HS not go to Wells HS because that would be a dangerous situation. He thanked the Board of Education for not closing any high schools. This new high school is being created based on an agreement made with the community with the Board of Education; because they met with the community. Everyone has had an opportunity to meet with the new principal. They are very excited about the medical program, the partnership with Malcolm X College and Rush Medical Center. This will be a good school for children and more people will want to move into the community. Thank you.

The meeting concluded at 5:00 pm