OPENING, CLOSING, SITING WORKING GROUP: MEETING 2

April 14, 2017
Working Group
Meeting

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WHERE WE LEFT OFF

PCS perspective of the problem

DCPS perspective of the problem

- No transparency of information from each sector on how they decide to open, close, or locate schools
- Little to no advance notice so other sector can plan when other sector opens, closes, or locates.
- Lack of meaningful community engagement and input into the planning process

Public/community perspective of the problem

MEETING GOAL

- Examine information from other jurisdictions to inform future conversations about current facilities policies and processes in DC.

CURRENT CROSS-SECTOR COLLABORATION EFFORTS ON FACILITIES PLANNING IN OTHER JURISDICTIONS

CONTEXT

- Several cities provide examples of cross-sector collaboration in practice on facilities planning and opening, closing, and siting of schools.

- Oakland, CA and Denver, CO provide the clearest examples of cross-sector collaboration on a framework for coordinating the opening, closing, and siting of schools. Philadelphia, PA and New Orleans, LA provide additional examples of possible structures that could be used collaboratively.

- Each city has different governance structures. By putting forth these examples of collaboration, we are not suggesting changing the governance structure here.

CONTEXT

- Recent paper from the Center for Reinventing Public Education: "Bridging the District-Charter Divide to Help More Students Succeed"
    - Facilities sharing and coordination is relatively "high-cost, high-reward" compared to other types of cross-sector collaboration
    - What district and charter leaders can do to support successful cooperation:
        1. Recognize mutual interests and help others do the same
        2. Build a strong coalition for a citywide approach to education
        3. Find and use "boundary spanners"
        4. Focus on issues that will lead to clear accomplishments
        5. Make "trades" that give each party a win
        6. Develop focused partnerships, but do not stop there
        7. Consider creating a dedicated governance entity for cooperation

WHERE IS CROSS-SECTOR COLLABORATION ON FACILITIES HAPPENING?

City/ District (% charter)	Charter authorizer/ Governance structure	Common standards around decisions to open/close schools	Collaborative facilities planning body	Facilities-related cross-sector information-sharing
Denver, CO (17%)	District authorizes charters	✔	✔ (School Board)	✔ (Strategic Regional Analysis)
Oakland, CA (30%)	District authorizes charters (Alameda County can also authorize charters in OUSD)			✔ (Strategic Regional Analysis)
New Orleans, LA (93%)	District and state-led district authorize charters		✔	✔ (Facilities master-planning)
Philadelphia, PA (33%)	District authorizes charters	✔ (for traditional public schools)		

WHAT KINDS OF FACILITIES PLANNING AGREEMENTS AND INFORMATION-SHARING ARRANGEMENTS EXIST?

COMMON PLANNING/PROCESS

- New Orleans: School Facilities Master Plan (SFMP) (2008) and Master Plan Oversight Committee (MPOC)
  - Multi-year construction plan to rebuild facilities managed by Recovery School District (RSD) and Orleans Public School Board (OPSB)
  - Plan based on community engagement and current and future projected student demographics
- Oakland: Equity Pledge Facilities Working Group
  - Cross-sector group working on "establish[ing] clear process that facilitates long-term leases; launch[ing] facilities Request for Proposals for long-term leases]

COMMON INFORMATION (1/2)

- **New Orleans: 2014: Cooperative Endeavor Agreement (CEA)**
  - Among other things, allows for collaboration on facility improvement, including land purchases, building swaps, sale or lease of surplus property, and tax credits
    - Established "regular bi-weekly or monthly meetings to share information on school facility master plan projects and the assignment of school facilities"
    - Agreed to "discuss future assignments of public school facilities for the benefit of all public schools in Orleans Parish"
    - Agreed that "any future assignments of facilities to Type 2 charter schools to facilities owned by OPSB will first be approved by OPSB"

- **Oakland: Strategic Regional Analysis (SRA)**
  - Provide a picture of where there are quality schools and where there are gaps; guide planning efforts
  - Includes analyses of: Regions & Schools, School Environment/Place Matters; Demographic & Enrollment; Capture gap; Transition gap; Performance Gap; School choice; Live/Go patterns; School programs; Building conditions; teacher retention
  - Used to guide the district's "Call for Quality Schools" project proposals; project proposals are evaluated based on their

COMMON INFORMATION (2/2)

- **Denver: Strategic Regional Analysis (SRA)**
  - Identify current state of enrollment, capacity, and school performance by region
  - Identify gaps that might require district intervention
  - Findings of the Denver SRA impact the "Call for New Quality Schools", which encourages new school applications that meet the needs areas identified in the SRA and ensures community engagement
  - Includes analyses of:
    - Enrollment Forecasts
    - Student Demographics
    - Choice Participation and Access
    - School Performance
    - Programmatic Choice
    - Facility Utilization

WHAT ARE EXAMPLES OF CURRENT CROSS-SECTOR POLICIES ON OPENING AND CLOSING SCHOOLS?

OPENING SCHOOLS

- **Denver: Facility Allocation Policy**
  - Provides "principles guiding facility and resource allocation decisions and criteria aligned to the educational priorities of the District"
  - Outlines criteria to be considered by the Board when allocating facilities or investment resource (and the District when making a recommendation to the Board)
    - Criteria 1: Academic Growth and Student Achievement (relies on the common School Performance Framework)
    - Criteria 2: Alignment to Priority District Needs (Strategic Regional Analysis alignment)
    - Criteria 3: Enrollment Demand

CLOSING SCHOOLS

- **Denver: School Performance Compact**
  - Process for how DPS will handle school (charter and traditional) restart or closure
  - Relies on historic performance on common School Performance Framework (past 3 years) and on student academic growth during the most recent year
  - Guiding Principles: 1) Accountability Across Governance Type; 2) Transparency; 3) Equity; 4) Engagement with Communities and Families

CLOSING SCHOOLS (FOR BOTH SETS OF SCHOOLS IN A JURISDICTION)

- **Philadelphia: Facilities Rightsizing Policy**
  - Process for how SDP will handle closing/restarting traditional public schools
    - The need to support the rightsizing policy is discussed in district-charter compact
    - There is also a separate charter Nonrenewal/Revocation Process
  - Policy purpose: "Ensure the equitable distribution of resources, programs, and facilities throughout the school system aligned with the actual census of students."
  - Employs the Rightsizing Policy to decide whether or not to close, consolidate, or relocate students
  - Uses particular criteria to evaluate a school (e.g., Capacity Utilization, Academic Performance, Safe & Orderly Environment, etc.)
  - Goes through with changes only when certain conditions are met (e.g., will result significant net savings, receiving schools are of higher quality and have clear transition plans, substantial public input has been collected, etc.)

NEXT STEPS

NEXT STEPS

- Next meeting: April 25, 2017 at EducationCounsel (101 Constitution Ave. NW Suite 900)
- At the April 25 Task Force meeting, we will discuss current opening, closing, and siting processes for DCPS and charter schools.
- The DME is currently working on comparing the information in a Strategic Regional Analysis with the data that is already gathered and analyzed in DC.

RESOURCES

- Center for Reinventing Public Education: Bridging the District-Charter Divide
- Denver School Board Facility Allocation Policy
- Denver: School Performance Compact
  - Additional article on Denver SPC
- Denver Strategic Regional Analysis (2016)
- Education Counsel Case Studies
- New Orleans Facilities Master Plan
- New Orleans Compact
- New Orleans CEA
- New Orleans Governance Poster
- Oakland Equity Pledge
- OUSD Call for Quality Schools Fall Call Guidelines
- OUSD Strategic Regional Analysis Executive Summary (SY 2015-2016)
- California Charter Schools Association: Oakland 2014-2015 Fact Sheet
- Philadelphia Rightsizing Policy