

RECOVERY

School District

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Sarah T. Reed High School Future Siting
Community Engagement Process Planning Document

Overview of Engagement Process



- **Objective**
- **Working Group**
- **Community Engagement Model**
- **Timeline of Key Activities**

Objective

An integral component of the Recovery School District's (RSD) vision for the creation of a system of autonomous high-performing schools of choice is investing school communities in effective turnaround strategies. The RSD is implementing an engagement process that will build social capital and give voice to parents and community stakeholders in the creation of a high-quality school at the Sarah T. Reed facility.

The engagement process will seek to answer the following two key decision points:

- I. **What type of school do we want?**
- II. **Who will be the operator of the desired school?**



Working Group

Working Group Overview

Group Composition

- Comprised of parents in the N.O. East area with elementary aged students, representatives of faith-based institutions in the N.O. East area, and representative from: RSD, OPSB, STAND, VAYLA, NSNO, Viet, OPEN, ENONAC, Little Woods Neighborhood Association, Village De'Lest Neighborhood Association.

Responsibilities

- Participate in activities designed to increase internal knowledge on effective school programs and foster dialogue with community stakeholders on values and priorities for the future operator of the Sarah T. Reed High School Facility.

Key Deliverables

- Determine what type of school should be in the Sarah T. Reed High School Facility
- Determine who will be the operator of the school

Working Group Composition

The working group will be compromised of no more than 21 members made up of the following representative members:

- 5 - 6 parents in the N.O. East area with elementary aged students
- X number of representatives of faith-based institutions in the N.O. East area
- 1 voting representative each from:

RSD
OPSB
STAND for Children
VAYLA
Viet
NSNO
OPEN
Reed Alumni Association

ENONAC
Little Woods Neighborhood Association
Village De'Lest Neighborhood Association
Liberty Bank
Fast Forward New Orleans

Working Group Meeting Participation



- In order to remain part of the voting process, members cannot miss more than 2 consecutive meetings, with the exception of parent members, who cannot miss more than 3 consecutive meetings. For members who are representing organizations, they may send a substitute if they cannot attend a meeting, provided that the regular member updates the substitute on the work to date. The working group will not refill positions if members decide not to attend.



Community Engagement Model

Community Engagement Model

The diagram features a large, light gray arrow pointing to the right, which serves as a background for the four steps. Above the arrow, there is a horizontal bar with a purple segment on the left and an orange segment on the right. The four steps are contained within dark blue rounded rectangles, each with a white title and a bulleted list of activities.

Step 1:

- Convene Working Group
- Build Collective Knowledge Base

Step 2:

- Convene Focus Groups
- Convene Charettes

Step 3:

- Working Group Reviews Community Priorities
- Determine Desired School Type

Step 4:

- Working Group Determines Operator for School Type



Building Collective Knowledge Base

Working Group Knowledge Base

With members coming from so many different backgrounds, and with varying levels of engagement in the work of school transformation, it is important that we take the time to build the collective knowledge base of the group and a shared understanding of the current educational landscape in New Orleans. This will be achieved through:

- School site visits – to see work in action and help answer the question, “what do great schools look like?”
- Panel discussion with education leaders – to help answer the question, “what does it take to create great schools for all kids?”
- Discussion with Louisiana Department of Education leaders, New Schools for New Orleans leaders, and GCR leaders – to help answer the questions, “what is the current offerings of schools tell us, and what is the expected population of public school students for the near future?”

Working Group Knowledge Base

The collective knowledge base of the group will also be enhanced through community visioning activities in the form of focus groups and charettes.

- Focus groups with parents and educators from the N.O. East Community – to gather feedback and help answer the question, “what type of school do we want?”
- Charettes open to the public and held in the N.O. East Community – to gather additional perspectives and input and help answer the question, “what community based priorities should guide us in determining what type of school we want?”



Focus Groups

Focus Groups

Working in collaboration with professors from a local University, the RSD will convene a series of focus groups of local stakeholders designed to explore attitudes and perceptions on:

- Challenges & obstacles impeding school improvement
- Community values on public education
- Aspirations for the school program to be housed in the Sarah T. Reed school facility

The Working Group will use the data provided through these focus groups to facilitate discussions in two community visioning charettes.



Community Charettes

Community Visioning Charettes



The Working Group will convene two community-wide visioning charetttes in the New Orleans East community to solicit feedback and generate discussion on the themes for community priorities articulated through the focus group data.

The feedback from these community charettes will provide a deeper understanding of key priorities that are important to the New Orleans East community in the work of school transformation and the vision for the program that will be housed in the Sarah T. Reed school facility.

The data collected through these charettes will serve as an anchor to help guide the decisions of the Working Group on what type of school program should be in the Reed facility and what operator should be identified to run that school..



Timeline

Timeline of Key Activities

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|-------------|---|
| April | Develop Working Group - Identify key stakeholders for working group |
| May | <p>Convene Working Group – Introductory meeting to review goals, responsibilities, engagement process</p> <p>Conduct School Site Visits – Working group visits schools to deepen collective knowledge base of current school program types in New Orleans</p> <p>Discussion of Market Analysis – Working group meets with LDOE, NSNO, GCR to discuss city demographics and public school portfolio as it currently stands</p> <p>Dialogue with Education Leaders – Working group meets with Principals and Charter Management Organization leaders to discuss current landscape</p> |
| June – July | <p>Focus Group with Teachers – To identify priorities for a school to be housed in the Sarah T. Reed facility</p> <p>Focus Group with Parents – To identify priorities for a school to be housed in the Sarah T. Reed facility</p> <p>Working Group Convenes – To discuss feedback and priorities uncovered through focus group meetings and to prepare for the charettes</p> <p>Community Charettes – Working group actively participates in the community visioning charettes and gathers information on community wishes for the type of school housed in the Sarah T. Reed facility</p> <p>Working Group Convenes – To discuss feedback and determine the type of school is desired for the Sarah T. Reed facility</p> |
| August | Working Group Convenes – To discuss feedback on prospective school operators and work toward final decisions on what type of school and what operator is desired for the Sarah T. Reed facility |
| September | <p>Working Group Convenes – To discuss final decisions on what type of school and what operator is desired for the Sarah T. Reed facility</p> <p>Final Decisions Made – September 30, 2014</p> |