Community Engagement Process for the Future School at Reed High School

Together with a diverse set of stakeholders, the Recovery School District is implementing an engagement process that will 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:

- 1) What type of school do we want? (For example, OPSB directly operated school, charter school, magnet school program)
- **2) Who will manage the desired school?** (The path to determining this answer will depend on the answer to the first question)

Community Engagement Model:

Step 1: Convene Reed Working Group Step 2:
Convene Community
Visioning Charette
Conduct Focus Groups

Reed Working Group reviews community priorities generated by charette and focus groups and uses this to determine the desired type of school

Step 3:

Step 4:

Reed Working Group
determines who should
manage the school given the
desired type of school

Who:

Working Group Members: 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, Reed Alumni Association, ENONAC, Little Woods Neighborhood Association, Village De'Lest Neighborhood Association, Liberty Bank, Fast Forward New Orleans

Community Visioning Charette: Open to the public and geared toward citizens who are interested in being part of the brainstorming process about what type of school should be in the Reed facility.

Focus Groups: Several focus group conversations will be conducted through local university experts to ask parents and educators about perceived challenges & obstacles impeding school improvement, community values on public education, and aspirations for the school program to be housed in the Sarah T. Reed school facility

Working Group Responsibilities: Stakeholders will participate in a series of capacity building activities this spring/summer on topics which include understanding school performance data and assessing the effectiveness of school programs through visits to high performing schools in the region. Stakeholders will also take part in focus group discussions and community charrettes with additional members of the community to generate ideas for a long term

vision for the school site. Finally, working group participants will be part of a collective decision-making process to determine what type of school based on larger community feedback, recruitment of potential school operators, and final decision on selecting a school operator.

Parameters for Participation in Working Group

In order to remain part of the voting process, members cannot miss more than 2 consecutive meetings (there will be up to 10 total 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.

Timeline of Key Activities

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