

# **OPTIONS FOR SCHOOL FACILITIES IN THE TOWER GROVE AREA**

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## **COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT PROGRAM SUMMARY REPORT TO THE ST. LOUIS PUBLIC SCHOOLS**

**OCTOBER 9, 2013**

# SLPS BID PROCESS

- SLPS — firm to facilitate two public meetings
- Meetings – “share plans/access public will”

Research

Public  
Engagement

Public Relations,  
Communications

Elections

# UNICOM•ARC, INC.

- Responded to bid request/awarded project
- Background and Experience Seeking Community Feedback on Key Issues
- Impartial/Objective Process
- Worked with SLPS leadership—further define scope and approach
- Invited the participation of a certified facility planner to help with process

# WORKSHOP SESSIONS

## TWO SESSIONS SCHEDULED

**Session 1:** Wednesday, October 2 • 6:00 – 8:00 p.m.  
Roosevelt High School Cafeteria

**Session 2:** Saturday, October 5 • 10:00 a.m.– Noon  
Central VPA/Cleveland NJROTC

# OUTREACH AND COMMUNICATIONS

## INVITATION TO PARTICIPATE

The District publicized the Community Engagement meetings in the following manner:

- Press release was issued to more than 100 media contacts
- Flyers were sent to all parents at Mann and Shenandoah schools. They were translated in Spanish, Nepali and Vietnamese as well.
- Twitter and Facebook posts were utilized. Many of the tweets were re-tweeted.
- Neighborhood Association organizations and Mann and Shenandoah Alderwomen were briefed and supplied with flyers and press release to share with constituents.
- Automated phone calls were sent 4 times to all families attending Mann and Shenandoah. They were also recorded in Spanish, Nepali and Vietnamese.
- Pre-meeting stories were printed in the Post-Dispatch and aired on Channel 4.
- Post-meeting stories from Wednesday's meeting aired on Channel 4 and Channel 5, and a story ran in the Post-Dispatch.
- A website story about the meetings was featured on the home page of the District website from September 26 – October 5.

# THE SESSIONS — WORKSHOP FORMAT

- Attendees assigned to small group (4-6 per group)
- Completed sign-in sheet at table (small group)
- PPT Presentation/Background Information
  - Why we are here...
  - MGT Report Summary (particularly for the two schools)
  - SAB Planning
  - Characteristics of 21st Century Schools
  - Description of Potential Proposals
- Description/Instruction – Small Group Work Activity
- Small Group Work – Consensus on Key Questions
- Group Work Activity Sheet collected

# WORKSHOP SESSIONS

## ATTENDANCE (BASED ON SIGN-IN SHEET)

- 103 Participants-total for both sessions  
(approximately 50 per session)
- Balance of Parents and Community Residents  
(with slightly more community residents)
- 20 small groups for the two sessions
  - Wednesday – 9 groups
  - Saturday – 11 groups

# PROPOSAL 1 – RENOVATE & ADD ON TO SHENANDOAH SCHOOL

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## Description:

New addition connected to the existing Shenandoah building. Once completed, the existing building will be renovated.

## Characteristics:

- Involves the closure of Mann school, students enrolled into Shenandoah
- Instruction would not be disrupted – students would attend class in existing building while new construction occurs and move to new addition while renovation occurs to existing building



# PROPOSAL 2 – NEW SCHOOL AT SHENANDOAH SITE

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## **Description:**

Construction of New School at Shenandoah Site. Once completed, the existing building will be demolished.

## **Characteristics:**

- Involves the closure of Mann school, students enrolled into Shenandoah
- Brand-new school facility with a high level of “educational adequacy,” equipped to prepare students for 21<sup>st</sup> century success
- Instruction would not be disrupted – students would attend class in existing building while construction of new school occurs and move to the new school while demolition of Shenandoah.

# THE WORK ACTIVITY

## TASK #1 - PROPOSAL RANKING

Discuss the proposals in your group. Circle your group's level of favorability for each proposal with "1" being *least favorable* and "5" being *most favorable*.

## TASK #2 – ISSUES/QUESTIONS/SUGGESTIONS

What issues, questions and suggestions should the St. Louis Public Schools address in moving forward with either of these proposals?

# SESSION DOCUMENTATION

- **VERBATIM DOCUMENT FOR EACH SESSION**
- **SUMMARY REPORT**

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# FINDINGS / FEEDBACK / “PUBLIC WILL”

- Proposal 1 – only 5 of 20 groups indicated high favorability
- Proposal 2 – only 4 groups rated it “highest” favorability; 10 rated it as “least” favorable
- Alternate Proposal (referred to as Option 3 – repair/renovate and keep Mann & Shenandoah open)
  - half of the groups rated this as “highest” favorability

# “PUBLIC WILL” — REPAIR/RENOVATE/KEEP MANN & SHENANDOAH

## REASONS

- High performance of Mann
- Impact on redeveloping neighborhood
- Worries about larger school and transportation issues
- Future of building if closed as school

# MORE INFORMATION

- Participants expressed a desire for “more data” to make a more informed response/decision
  - ✓ Enrollment data
  - ✓ Demographics
  - ✓ Life cycle costs including staffing, operation and maintenance
  - ✓ Impact of building size on curriculum and instruction
  - ✓ Site considerations

# NEXT TIME

- More time
- More data/information
- Citizen involvement in planning

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**THANK YOU!**

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