*Verbatim Response Document*
*SMALL GROUP WORK ACTIVITY*
SESSION - PROPOSALS FOR SCHOOL FACILITIES IN
TOWER GROVE NEIGHBORHOOD
☑ ROOSEVELT - OCTOBER 2, 2013
☐ CENTRAL/CLEVELAND - OCTOBER 5, 2013

SAINT LOUIS
PUBLIC SCHOOLS

## *ACTIVITY*

*VERBATIM RESPONSES*

### 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 #1: PROPOSAL RANKING | | |
|---|---|---|
| **TABLE #** | **PROPOSAL #1** - Renovate Shenandoah School and Build New Addition at the Shenandoah Site. | **PROPOSAL #2** - Construction of *New* School at the Shenandoah Site. Once completed, existing Shenandoah building would be demolished. |
| **1** | 5 | (No Response) |
| **2** | 1.5 | 1 |
| **3** | 5 | (No Response) |
| **4** | 1 | 1 |
| **5** | 1 (Proposal #3: Retain both Mann & Shenandoah as neighborhood schools and renovate — 5 - Most Favorable) | 0 |
| **6** | 3 (Proposal #3: Rehab Mann & Shenandoah — 5 - Most Favorable) | 1 |
| **7** | 1 | 5 |
| **8** | 4 | 5 |
| **9** | (no participants at table) | |
| **10** | (no participants at table) | |
| **11** | 5 | 1 |

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## 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?

| TASK #2: ISSUES/QUESTIONS/SUGGESTIONS | |
|---|---|
| **TABLE #** | **ISSUES/QUESTIONS/SUGGESTIONS** |
| 1 | • preserve historic value of neighborhood, architectural value to neighborhood is significant<br>• construction burden on neighborhood<br>• competence of building contractors and building commissioner<br>• community oversight committee should be created to ensure accountability and quality control of entire project…committee must have on-going involvement, not just superficial, initial influence…committee comprised of residents, construction industry leaders, parents, teachers and staff |
| 2 | • Five out of six people at our table support renovating both schools and keeping them open<br>• We <u>all</u> feel like we don't have enough information. We don't feel enough info was presented tonight to make an informed decision.<br>• We want the third choice, keeping them both open & renovating both.<br>• Here's information we would like to have. Funding, capacity of each school, how many are enrolled, what repairs have recently been done, what are the costs of repairs needed at the schools, what would new construction look like versus renovation & an addition, what are the positive attributes of each school, what are transportation plans<br>• Question: We are wondering if Shenandoah is in a historic district, has any sort of historic status? |
| 3 | • Where is the #3 proposal at<br>• We need more information<br>• Where is the money coming from?<br>• How will you conduct traffic if you merge both schools? |
| 4 | • Please include option #3—strong support to examine this option—KEEP BOTH SCHOOLS OPEN!<br>• Forgone conclusion to do this since no Prop S funds went to Mann so now it needs so much maintenance—put it in a bad position<br>• We want a neighborhood school to help with attendance, parental involvement, neighborhood support |

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| **TABLE #** | **ISSUES/QUESTIONS/SUGGESTIONS** |
| | • Mann building has higher facility rating. Also larger school.<br><br>• Don't care about buildings…care about administration, teachers and achievement<br><br>• Personal note—also as a parent, Mann is an amazing school and has done wonders for my kids. I am a middle class parent choosing a neighborhood school. We need more schools like Mann, not less. |
| **5** | • Proposition #3: Retain both Mann & Shenandoah as neighborhood schools and renovate—Proposal Ranking #5<br><br>• Why is Option #3 not up for discussion as indicated in advertisements for this public meeting? Mann school community and Shenandoah community will be destroyed. Mann school is currently thriving, as is Shenandoah. Both schools are doing well due to their support from their communities and improving. Proposal #1 & #2 will disrupt this progress.<br><br>• Tower Grove East option will create parking issues & traffic problems for the intimate nature of the neighborhood.<br><br>• Needless elimination of one of the most iconic buildings in the neighborhood due to lack of creativity and vision of the SAB. These buildings are an incredibly important part of these neighborhoods, as these buildings are part of the wonderful fabric that helps make these neighborhoods attractive.<br><br>• It is possible with creativity and forward thinking to save these structures and help them perform as needed, to do the sustainable, responsible thing.<br><br>• We choose to live in a WALKABLE URBAN NEIGHBORHOOD and understand that this requires creativity when dealing with the nature of the buildings that <u>create</u> these neighborhoods.<br><br>• We all want what is best for the students, and the community is what makes our schools great. The ability to operate good schools and maintain our historic buildings are not exclusive of one another. |
| **6** | • Proposal #3 – Rehab Mann & Shenandoah<br><br>• What happened to Option #3? Prefer Option 3<br><br>• Logistics regarding use of playground during construction<br><br>• A lot of great things happening in classrooms in old buildings: Woerner, McKinley<br><br>• There is no good reason why Shenandoah can have good lighting, security, sustainability, variety of learning environments<br><br>• Recruit good teachers and principals |

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| | • Moving away from "super" schools—new philosophy is smaller elementary schools, i.e. neighborhood schools |
| **7** | • Building with new facilities…with safety concerns. New school with natural and variety of learning environments<br><br>• Was a new school on the Mann site considered? Why or why not?<br><br>• Both proposals involve closing Mann. New construction will take 2+ years. When will Mann be closed and students transferred to Shenandoah? |
| **8** | • Option 3: Maintenance for old school—Rating 1 |
| **9** | (no participants at this table) |
| **10** | (no participants at this table) |
| **11** | • Architects working on the project state that renovating and adding on to Mann would cost less and be completed faster. Presentation should be favored to new school for these reasons. |