

Public Forums
 October 18, 2011
 Forest Park, Lovejoy, Mt. Zion & Riverdale High Schools
 Questions & Responses

Charter, IE², Status Quo Operating Systems	
Question:	What if we select “Charter” system; then can we change our mind?
Response:	Up to a certain point we can change our mind but as of June 30, 2015 there will be no changes to selection.
Question:	Give examples of areas in which a school would have flexibility under a charter.
Response:	Flexibility under a charter could include changing the length of the school day, school year, and/or days of the week students attend. It could also require more parent participation.
Question:	You do a great job with connect-ed calls but I would like to make a suggestion: Communicate more to local businesses like restaurants, recreation centers, courthouse, etc. by leaving flyers to show unity with the community as a whole.
Response:	Thank you for the positive comment. The Superintendent is on the Board for the Chamber of Commerce, meets monthly with law enforcement officials, the President of Clayton State University, and attends PTSA meetings. In all of these meetings he advises everyone of the activities and great things we have going on in our schools. We appreciate your suggestion and will start sending out flyers when appropriate.

Question:	Will every school name change under Charter system and how will you all decide a school's specialty?
Response:	No, school names will not change. We will be a Charter system, not individual charter schools. There will be dialog between our administrative team, school councils, etc. to determine a school's specialty, or theme.
Question:	How would a school be selected to become a charter?
Response:	The school will not become a charter, the district will. CCPS may choose to create a theme school or schools. Theme schools would require more parental involvement.
Question:	If the system chooses to extend the day, what happens to the meal?
Response:	That will be discussed along with how our choice will affect transportation, clubs and other school activities.
Question:	How much time will be given to teach? Even now there is not enough time for students to grasp understanding.
Response:	Time to teach? It's negotiable. We can write our contract or negotiate our charter to extend time. Understand, however, that you could be taking time from something else. Georgia High School Graduation Test (GHS GT) is going away; End of Course Test (EOCT) will be taking its place. Students will be tested on what they learn. We have a pre set number of hours to teach.

<p>Question:</p>	<p>If the school that we already attend is a charter school and graduation requirements are different from CCPS, could we transfer to a different school in hopes of meeting the graduation requirements there?</p>
<p>Response:</p>	<p>The graduation requirements will not be different. All requirements will be CCPS requirements; nothing will change with our choice. Students will have to meet CCPS graduation requirements as well as the requirements of the state of Georgia.</p>
<p>Question:</p>	<p>What is the difference in governance between the Status Quo and Charter?</p>
<p>Response:</p>	<p>Status Quo (No Impact) Local Board of Education maintains governance Board continues to set policies; Superintendent and administrative staff implement policies. Charter System (“Bottom Up” model of governance) Board continues to set policies; School-level governance councils have meaningful decision-making authority over budgets, programs, personnel, and/or innovation. The Local School Council serves as advisory units.</p>
<p>Question:</p>	<p>Who will make the decision as to which choice for innovation CCPS will choose?</p>
<p>Response:</p>	<p>There will be several public forums to hear the concerns of the community before the school board makes the ultimate decision.</p>

Question:	How will curriculum change for charter schools? How will it make us better?
Response:	Key word – flexibility. (Charter) Focus on following state standards. Charter school will be an enhancement to what we are already doing in Clayton County.
Question:	Will students’ have flexibility to go to any charter school?
Response:	That will be determined if the system elects that option. Feedback from the community will be a significant factor in the development of any charter agreement.

CCPS Math	
Question:	Can you explain in more detail about the integrated math?
Response:	<p>It is less restrictive; there are more ways to differentiate instruction and more ways for students to explain their answers.</p> <p>Instructional strategies used in classrooms require students to explain their work and award partial credit. That's how flexibility is allowed.</p>
Question:	How practical will the shifting of the new core standards be for our high school students?
Response:	Shifting of the new core standards for our high school students should not be difficult as we are approximately 87% aligned at this time. We will train our teachers to teach critical thinking.
Question:	How will Algebra fit into the integrated math?
Response:	<p>Algebra is integrated into any grade level and they build upon it for the next grade in middle and high school.</p> <p>Algebra will be evenly distributed throughout the domain and will be ramped up the next year.</p>

Question:	Which of the three math alternatives best prepares our students for a global economy?
Response:	Common core or the integrated model. Students recognize how all domains interact with each other which better prepares them for college and the work force.
Question:	Is it understandable that integrated math will be easier for elementary school students?
Response:	Easier, no! It will be telling me why $1 + 1 = 2$. Students will have to think more now, so that it is easier in the future.
Question:	Will the technology change to be more compatible with real life situations? Example CCPS's computer operating system is outdated.
Response:	We are working on updating our information systems, Business Services, Human Resources, and student information. We are in the process of changing how we use technology in the classroom. Students are receiving more hands-on technology.

Question:	With the use of new technological aids, what training is given to students and how does this affect students who do not have these same technologies at home?
Response:	<p>When CCPS started to use the iPad touch we had to train the teachers. Students are being trained as the technology rolls out. The equipment doesn't go home with the students, but students are not going to be penalized because they don't have one at home.</p> <p>We buy classroom sets so that every student has access.</p>
Question:	Why are we not using books for 12 th grade mathematics?
Response:	<p>Students in the Math IV classes are assigned a consumable workbook which should be brought home for additional practice and support in computation and analysis of mathematical processes. In the classroom, teachers use binders which contain performance and learning tasks that engage students in exploring concepts, analyzing real-world problems, and explaining their mathematical reasoning. These binders are kept in the class where teachers can guide and support students through this process. Along with the binders, students have access to a set of Pre-Calculus and Advanced Algebra textbooks which are housed in the classroom.</p>

College & Career Readiness	
Question:	In what way will these changes benefit the special needs students, especially high school because they aren't being prepared?
Response:	Any time you have consistency it helps our students. It is about teaching students how to modify their skills to adapt to their abilities. It will take parents, teachers, etc. working together to help prepare them.
Question:	In looking at the restricted time allotted for a class, how does the teacher do a better job in preparing to teach all students in a particular class regardless of their learning ability?
Response:	This is referred to as differential instruction which presently occurs in our system. If a teacher has a challenge in this area, the district will help give the teachers the tools to help them meet the needs of individual students.
Question:	If I have a child at Forest Park High can I come to the school to use the iPad?
Response:	No. But, if the school is having a training session, yes, you are invited. Additionally we have other forms of interactive technology which is advancing the learning process in our schools.
Question:	Does the ACT (achievement test that assesses high school course content) lower Clayton County's rating over all?
Response:	No.

Question:	Is the Georgia High School Graduation Test going away?
Response:	Yes. However the EOCT will be the major test for students. The incoming 9 th graders will not have to take the Georgia High School Graduation Test; only the EOCT.
Question:	Mathematics and science are important in education and preparation for ACT/SAT/ASVAB, however what makes children prepared to become innovators in science and technology as well as preparedness in the armed service?
Response:	There are several courses that will expose students to be successful in the science and technology fields. Students need 4 years of mandatory science; in addition, we offer AP and Honor's science classes. We also have a great CTAE Program that also assist with assuring success of the student.
Question:	Is there: A. Standardized gifted curriculum for CCPS? B. Where can I get more information on the accelerated supplements to the regular school day?
Response:	A. Yes, check with your child's school. Each school has a gifted teacher. B. You can get your information from your child's school or go to the CCPS Website. There are tests that CCPS requires of the students that want to be test for gifted.

Question:	Has any thought or research been done to review the benefit of offering an elective course for SAT/ACT prep?
Response:	Due to budget restraints, an allotted position for SAT/ACT Prep courses is not always possible. However, we looking forward to having the opportunity to provide at least one section of a class next semester (January-May). Students may always go on line to collegeboard.com , gacollege411 , and act.org for practice tests. Students also have the option of checking out work books in the media center as well as picking up student packets in the counseling suite. Parents also have the option of exploring other outside resources (Kaplan and Princeton Review)
Question:	What is AMO?
Response:	Annual Measurable Objective. Each school must meet or exceed the State's Annual Measurable Objective regarding the percentage of students scoring proficient or advanced on the State's assessment in Reading/English Language Arts and Mathematics, also in attendance.
Question:	What are the makeup dates for SAT/ACT?
Response:	College Board provides the information for makeup dates for the ACT/SAT.

Question:	Where is scholarship information maintained?
Response:	CCPS website, click departments to access the “Guidance & Counseling” page. The link to scholarships may be found on the left hand side of the page (scroll down).
Question:	When and where do the students start taking the PSAT?
Response:	The PSAT is administered each year during the month of October. Students take this test at their school site.
Question:	Do we track numbers of how many of our students are successful in college?
Response:	New college and career component tracks accountability for students. Provides schools’ a grade in post secondary careers. Also can be found on the DOE website.
Question:	SAT/ACT sessions?
Response:	Go on line to Princeton Review – must go to closest sight in CCPS.