

REPORT OF THE STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT COMMITTEE'S SPECIAL MEETING

The Student Achievement Committee (SAC) conducted a Special Meeting on Thursday, April 11, 2019 at 1:30 PM at the Cincinnati Public Schools Education Center in the Board Office Conference Room.

ATTENDEES

Student Achievement Committee Members

Chairperson Eve Bolton, Ozie Davis III, Mike Moroski

Board Members

Pamela Bowers, Carolyn Jones

Administration/Staff

Tianay Amat, Deputy Superintendent; Curriculum; Scott Adams, Chief Operations Officer; Susan Bunte, Assistant Superintendent; Laura Sanregret, Teacher, Early Childhood; Lauren Worley, Chief Strategic Communications Engagement Officer;

Community Members/Parents

Derek Bauman, Carol Gibbs, David Hapner, Jilda Vargus-Adams

Liberty Street Renovation

Due to members of the community contacting Board members about the recent discussions in Cincinnati's City Council and the neighborhoods of Over the Rhine, Mt. Auburn, and Pendleton the issue of the Liberty Street Renovation was raised at the Board meeting on April 3, 2019, and for reasons of expediency was assigned to the Student Achievement Committee for further research and review.

To that end, the Student Achievement Committee invited Derek Bauman to present an overview of the six-year history of renovation proposals and community and City engagement (attached). Recent discussions in the city have called into question the already agreed to and voted on Liberty Renovation.

At the core of the discussion are the issues of pedestrian safety and traffic mobility and neighborhood access. To address all issues a change in the number of lanes and calming effects have been planned. Prior to implementation, the Mayor and some other neighborhood leaders have asked for a review of the five to six to seven lane suggestions.

Mr. Bauman expressed concerns and some frustration with the attempt to review. He emphasized the need for consistency in engagement, planning, and decision making.

The possibility of the recent FCC Stadium development and the position taken by the Pendleton Neighborhood impacting the established proposal's future was discussed.

For Board members (committee and non-committee members), the focus was on the issue of pedestrian safety of our students and families within the school communities of Rothenberg, Taft High School, SCPA, and Hays Porter. Clearly the current lane number, width and traffic controlling equipment and hard scape configuration is viewed by Board members present to be unsafe and in need of renovation.

Over-the-Rhine Community Member Peter Hames contacted the Board office to recommend that public engagement be conducted on Liberty Street Renovations.

The Committee members also heard from Carol Gibbs, President/CEO Mt. Auburn Community Development Corporation. Ms. Gibbs addressed that among neighborhoods affected, there remains some concern about safety and congestion and loss of parking. Though previous votes have been made in support, the fact that so much time has passed that conditions also have changed. She seemed to advise the Board to take a more precautionary action than simply endorsing the original proposal be implemented.

ACTION: Board Members will submit a Resolution for consideration endorsing the need for calming efforts on Liberty Street and that the pedestrian safety for our CPS students be a top priority in the future renovations for Liberty Street.

Transportation

As a result of the continuing full Board discussion about Healthy/Later Starts for High Schools, the CPS Transportation Department's "Transportation Transformation Report" and the Superintendent's Eight Point Transportation Plan, the SAC held a special meeting. The meeting was held to gain a better understanding of the Transportation Department's concerns and efforts in determining the feasibility of creating a timetable for implementing a Healthy/Later Starts Plan at all CPS High Schools.

The discussion did establish that currently eight high schools are at healthy start times, two currently use or could use yellow bus to achieve or remain at Healthy Start, and that our Digital/Virtual High School are anomalies and not necessarily in the discussion. Therefore there are six remaining CPS High schools that are Early Starts.

The Early Start Schools are: Aiken, Clark, Dater, Walnut Hills, Western Hills, and Withrow High Schools.

In order to explain the complexity of implementing Healthy/Later Starts, Director Johnson reviewed the Two Tier Plus Mid Proposal for yellow bus elementary and some 7th/8th grade students. The Committee members were supportive of the efforts to improve routing and bus utilization for our elementary students.

The Committee members also were supportive of Mr. Johnson's negotiations and discussions with the charter vendors and the parochial school officials regarding the 2019-2020 CPS Start Times and the resulting need for changes in charter start times. Mr. Johnson expressed greater considerations regarding parochial elementaries and their high schools. The Committee discussed a number of possibilities. Mr. Johnson concluded this part of the discussion by sharing his understanding of the ODE requirements regarding CPS providing similarly provided service for non-CPS schools.

He then readdressed CPS enrollment and transportation policies that might need to be reviewed in order to make transportation changes. Policy Chair Davis assured Mr. Johnson that the Policy Committee is in the process of reviewing the policies Mr. Johnson suggested.

In that same vein, Mr. Johnson shared with the Committee that CPS is providing more services to its students than is required by law and that adds to the complexity. Ms. Bolton assured Mr. Johnson that Board members are well aware of that and it is unlikely that diminishing services or implementing state

minimums will be part of any future strategy endorsed by the Board. Nor is it likely that this Board will change the "no cost to family" practice regarding transportation.

Deputy Superintendent Amat spoke eloquently to this point by saying (paraphrase) "we can offer all the academic programs and support we want, but if we can't get the high schoolers to school...it won't matter what we do." It was then mentioned that we are also instituting an aggressive Attendance Initiative for 2019-2020 and that the District's Three-Year Strategic Plan is and will be the perfect platform from which to launch the discussed changes in transportation.

Finally, before getting into the specifics of optimizing routes and use of busses for Healthy/Later Starts, the need for the District to revisit high schools of choice, magnets, and neighborhood attendance boundaries was mentioned. So too was the need to create a geographic demarcation line or lines to reduce student travel time and route costs. The Committee agreed that reducing costs and travel time are very high priorities and those considerations must be a part of the future strategy. Committee Member Bowers expressed that careful consideration be given to such matters since many families find these choices as attractive. Chairperson Bolton emphasized that the Board has been reviewing and taking such action regarding reorganizing around the issues of geography and choice already. In fact we might be surprised how quickly many of these issues could be addressed, especially as part of the Strategic Plan.

As the discussion turned to Healthy/Later Starts for High Schools, the possibility of combining Healthy Starts for Aiken, Western Hills, Withrow, and Dater was determined by Mr. Johnson to not be possible at this time due to limited busses.

The Healthy/Later Starts Group's work was discounted because they didn't have enough, or the correct information from Metro or the District. In fact, Mr. Johnson contributed that it is hard for Metro to know who speaks for CPS when Metro has to also deal with the community group. It was stated then that that's why we wanted folks to work together. That particularly was Committee Member Davis's position.

As discussion continued, Mr. Johnson suggested a few reconfigurations for changed starts. However some reconfigurations would cause current Healthy Starts to become Early Starts. He suggested no additional schools to move to later starts because in part to change Aiken or other schools, even some parochial high schools would be impacted.

He offered that all schools starting at one time was not possible. The Committee said we understood that weeks ago. Committee Member Bowers asked if some sort of compromise might be available regarding acceptable starting times. Knowing healthy start times are a matter of fact, compromise was not a possibility. But combining some issues and knowing that the Board members present seemed determined to move toward healthy starts, some consensus began to emerge.

Therefore the Committee then began talking about start times and windows of staggered start times over a period of an hour or an hour and one quarter combined with reduced travel time if greater efficiencies could be realized began to make sense. Not mentioned but for discussion sake a combination (START TIME + TRAVEL TIME + GREATER EFFICIENCIES + SAFETY GAINED THRU DAYLIGHT) began to equal a proposed Board Resolution for passage emerged.

ACTION The Board will draft a resolution for passage regarding Healthy/Later Starts for High Schools implementation parameters and timetable.

The meeting adjourned at 3:45 PM.

Student Achievement Committee

Eve Bolton, Chair

Ozie Davis III

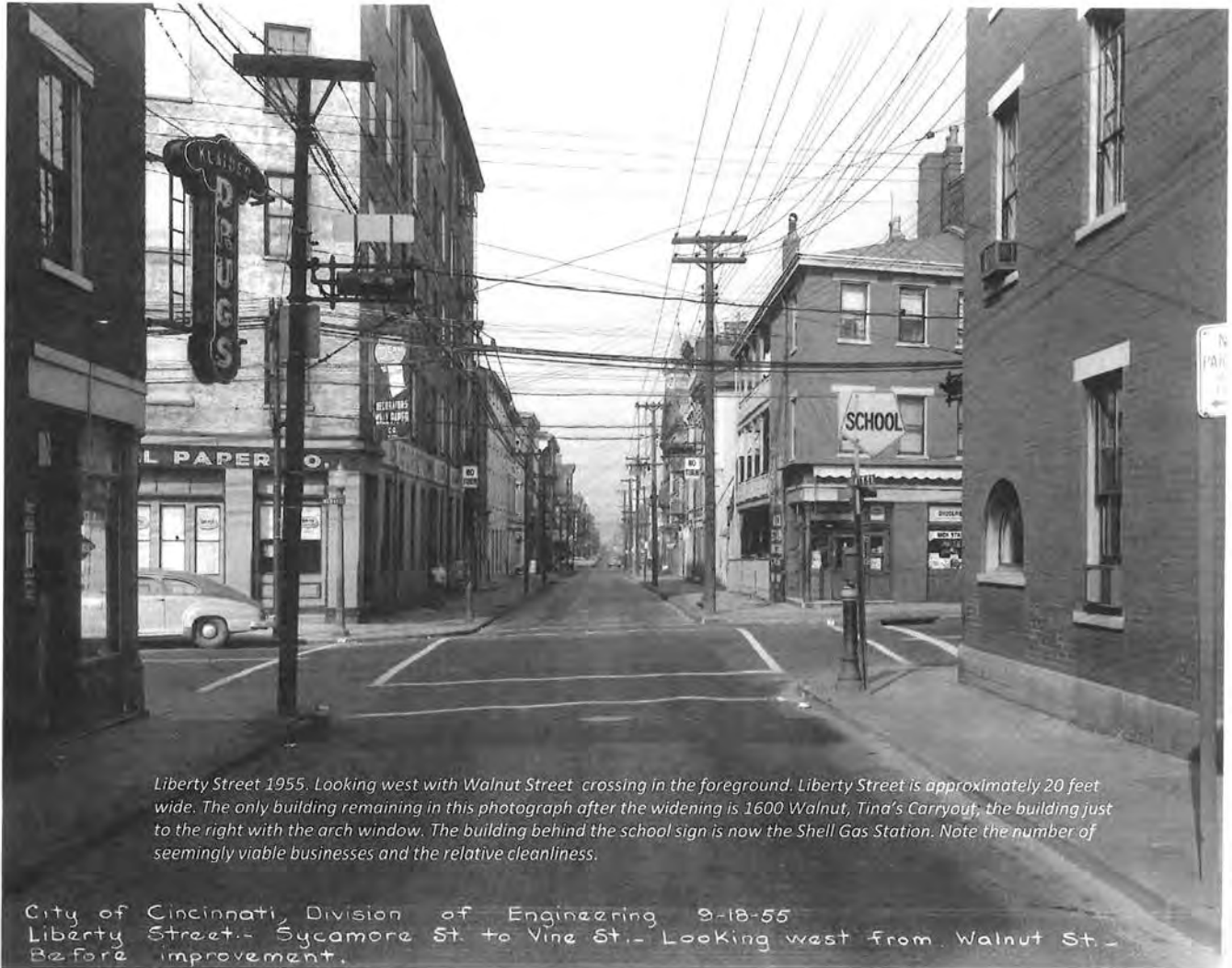
Mike Moroski

Staff Liaisons

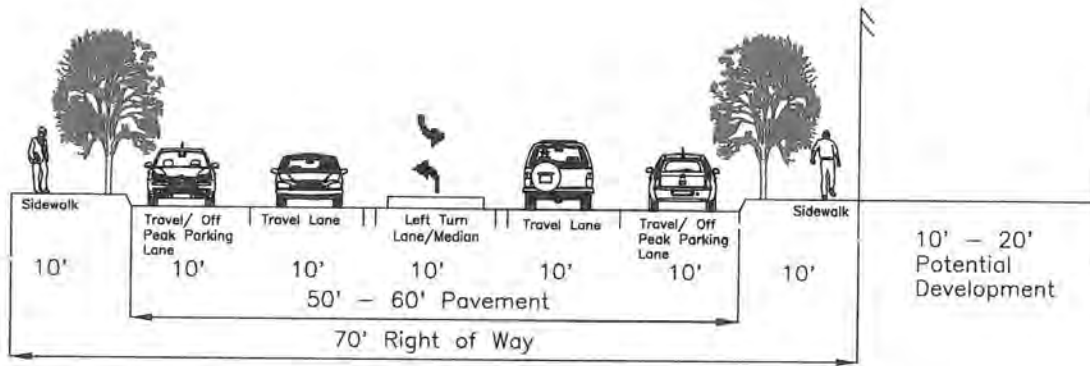
Tianay Amat, Deputy Superintendent

Susan Bunte, Assistant Superintendent

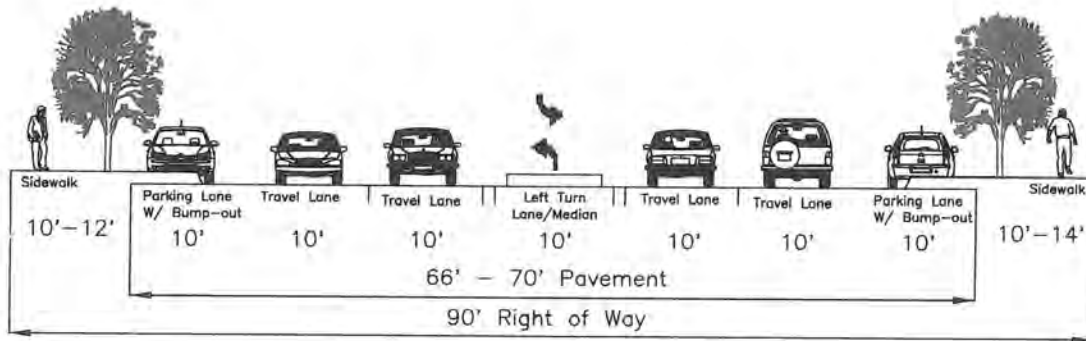
Bill Myles, Assistant Superintendent







5 Lane Option



7 Lane Option