

Turnaround Academy Transition Planning Update

September 4, 2018

In 2012, the Indiana State Board of Education (SBOE) elected to assign special management teams to assume responsibility for five public schools that had endured years of poor academic performance. After public hearings and an application process, the SBoE selected *Charter Schools USA (CSUSA)* to run *Emmerich Manual High School, T.C. Howe High School, and Donnan Middle School*.

CSUSA's contract to operate Manual, Howe and Donnan expires in June 2020. Now the SBoE must decide what's next for each school. Should they return each school to its school corporation – the Indianapolis Public Schools (IPS)? Encourage them to apply to be a charter school? Adopt another intervention?

In order to help them make this decision, the SBoE is seeking input from an array of stakeholders within the communities that these schools serve. The input of residents, parents, students, business owners, civic leaders and neighborhood associations are central to the SBoE's decisions. They've enlisted the help of Charlie Schlegel, founder and principal of [School.Community.Insight](#), to steward this process and serve as the SBoE's *School Transition/ Transformation Liaison*.

With guidance from the SBoE, Schlegel has organized a ***School Transition Task Force***, representative of the various groups invested in the future of Donnan, Howe and Manual. This Task Force includes:

1. **Jessi Chrisentary**, a parent of students at both *Donnan & Manual*
2. **Jackie Cissell**, a representative of *Charter Schools USA*
3. **Dr. David Freitas**, a representative of the State Board of Education
4. **Karen Lightbourne**, a Community Representative
5. **Jessika Osborne**, a staff member at Manual High School
6. **Aryn Schounce**, a Community Representative
7. **Jamie VanDeWalle**, a representative of the *Indianapolis Public Schools*

Over the next eight months, this **Task Force** will meet six times, beginning on Sept. 11, 2018. In order to gather input from a broad array of stakeholders invested in the educational options of the south and east side of Indianapolis, the Task Force will oversee the develop **Community Advisory Teams**, lending input and vision specific to the communities in which each of these school reside.

During its meetings, the Task Force and the Advisory Teams consider a range of important factors, including academic performance, governance, financial stability, community connections and overall fit among the options available on the south and east sides of Indianapolis. The meetings will also afford representatives from CSUSA and IPS the opportunity to update the public on the progress they've made and plans each entity might have for the schools if involved in each school's future.

Based on input from various stakeholders and discussions during its meetings, the Task Force will formulate recommendations and present them to SBOE in May, 2019. In the end, the SBoE expects to have input from all stakeholders before making its decision as to what is next for Donnan, Howe and Manual High School.