



Alliance to Save Cleveland High

Press Release

Tuesday 12/12/2006

Press Release

For Immediate Release

Public Statement Concerning Partnership Effort to Save Cleveland High School

Now is not the time to lose momentum for all of our partnership efforts

St. Louis, Missouri – December 12, 2006 – We understand that Cleveland High School will be a topic of discussion in the President's report at tonight's school board meeting. We feel it's necessary to outline the progress of the partnership, and publicly announce our position at this important junction of the broad-based community effort to save Cleveland High School.

The Alliance to Save Cleveland High and the current SLPS Administration have been working together since August to implement the last board resolution (Section 5) to "prepare a comprehensive evaluation of the Cleveland building and engage in raising private funds to supplement School District funds for renovation of the Cleveland Building... to return students to Cleveland as soon as possible." This partnership has been growing and has made important progress:

- The joint team, consisting of community architectural and engineering resources, and staff from Building Commissioner Deanna Anderson's team, has completed its walk-through of the building and the final report is scheduled to be released after the holidays, along with the interim transition plan proposal for 2007. Our preliminary finding is that the majority of the issues at the building are related to routine maintenance.
- A Community Town Hall meeting, facilitated jointly by the Building Commissioner and members of the Alliance, gathered input from the community while building a shared vision on how to restore the building and return students to Cleveland.
- We rallied the 300,000 strong alumni organization during the 90th class reunion this fall, and continue receiving commitments from the alumni community for financial and in-kind donations throughout 2007.
- We signed an agreement and formally established a fundraising relationship with the St. Louis Public School Foundation.

- We are in the process of bringing trade groups and continuing education partnerships into the Alliance

We are able to make this progress despite setbacks created by bad weather and man-made turmoil. Now is not the time to lose momentum for all of our partnership efforts. We believe strongly that any attempt to divert or diminish this school-community partnership is against the interests of the community and our children. We believe this partnership can become a successful model for implementation at other schools within the District. We ask you continue your support for the collaborative action to save our school, our children and our community.

This public statement will be delivered by Alderwoman Dorothy Kirner this evening at the St. Louis Public School Board Meeting.

About Alliance to Save Cleveland High

The Alliance to Save Cleveland High has been established to serve a coordinating role to restore Cleveland High School for the purpose of returning the Junior Naval ROTC program to the school with a healthy physical learning environment and a plan to improve the building for the future.

Saving community school from closure and restoring the architecturally significant building are not only urgent issues facing south side community, but also an important one in virtually all communities in the City of St. Louis. The effort to save Cleveland High School from closure is relevant to all citizens and community organizations in the region. More information and how you can sign up to support this effort can be found at: www.saveclevelandhigh.org or call the Hotline: (314) 442-4551.

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