



Act 91 Unification Advisory Committee: Meeting #1

Wednesday, June 1st, 2016



OPSB Mission & Vision

- ▶ Mission: To be an exemplary, student-centered school district that values excellence, choice, autonomy, accountability, and public engagement

- ▶ Vision Elements:
 - ▶ Student Achievement
 - ▶ Unified, Locally-Accountable & Accessible Governance
 - ▶ Efficient Operations & Finance
 - ▶ Lean Organizational Structure
 - ▶ Collaborative Community & Public Relations



UAC Meeting 1 Agenda

- ▶ Welcome
- ▶ OPSB Vision for Unification
- ▶ Act 91 Overview
- ▶ Unification Transition Plan Development
 - ▶ Framework
 - ▶ Executive Team
 - ▶ Advisory Committee
 - ▶ Task Force
- ▶ Timelines
- ▶ Public Comment



Today's Objectives

- ▶ Understand OPSB's vision for a unified system of autonomous public schools
- ▶ Understand Act 91, and the role and responsibilities of the Unification Advisory Committee
- ▶ Introduce the Task Force on School Unification
- ▶ Understand the timeline for Unification Transition Plan development
- ▶ Understand how the community will be engaged throughout the transition plan development process

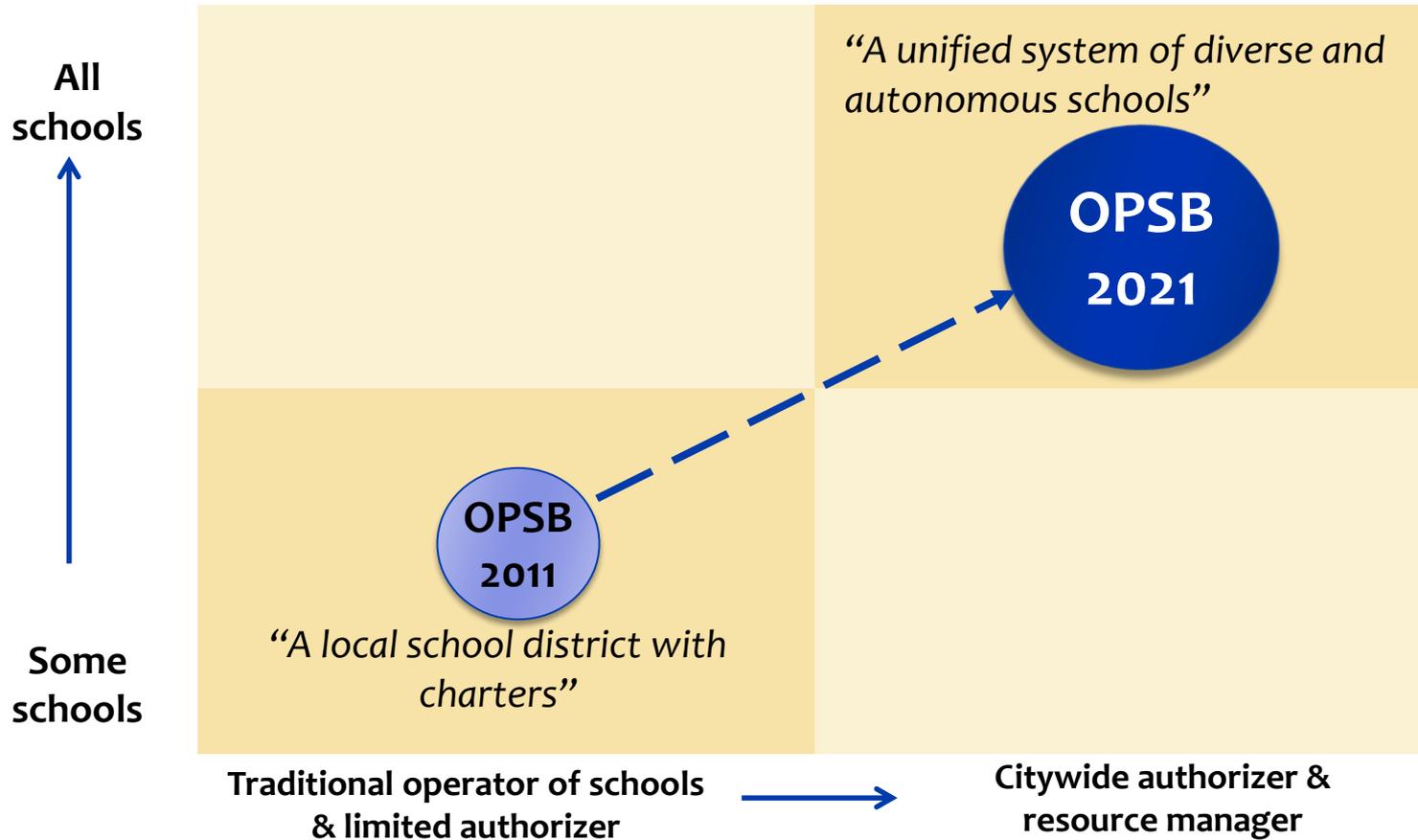


OPSB Vision for Unification

OPSB's Vision for Unification: From School District to System of Schools



Over the last five years, OPSB has made progress in transforming itself to meet the needs of educators, students, and families in New Orleans.



Over the next five years, OPSB will complete this transition into the manager of a citywide portfolio of high-quality educational options for all students.⁶

OPSB's Vision For Unification: Core Commitments of a Unified System



New Orleans' Public Schools Will Be The Best-Performing Urban System of Public Schools in the Nation

New Orleans' Public Schools Will Ensure Educational Equity and Fairness For All Students

New Orleans' Public Schools Will Be A Model of Financial Efficiency and Responsible Fiscal Stewardship

OPSB's Vision for Unification: Empowering Families & Schools



- ▶ **Parental choice**, where families are empowered to select from among high-quality school choices based on their child's unique abilities and characteristics
- ▶ **Diverse & Autonomous schools**, where those closest to students are empowered to best serve each individual child and are held accountable to high standards without interference from the district

OPSB's Vision for Unification: District Roles & Duties



▶ The **School Board's** role:

- ▶ Serves as the system-wide resource manager and oversees the system's overall financial health,
- ▶ Establishes fair performance standards and policies for all schools,
- ▶ Ensures the system's compliance with laws and regulations, and
- ▶ Supports partnerships with the community to provide citywide services

▶ The **Superintendent's** duties:

- ▶ Ensure the delivery of quality education by recruiting, supporting, and expanding a diverse array of high quality options while swiftly intervening to address non-performing schools,
- ▶ Uphold the fair and equitable treatment of students by ensuring access to and provision of educational services across the system in accordance with the law, and
- ▶ Advocate for schools and students by identifying emerging needs and facilitating proactive approaches to resolve them, in partnership with the community



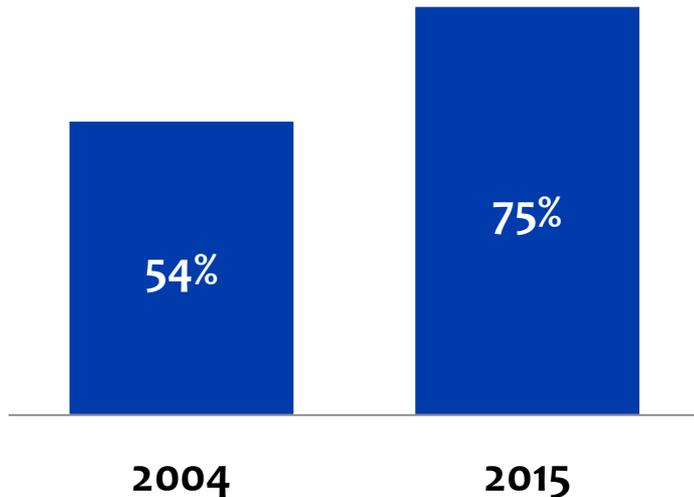
Overview of Act 91

Ten Years of Progress: Unprecedented Gains for New Orleans' Students



More Students Graduating

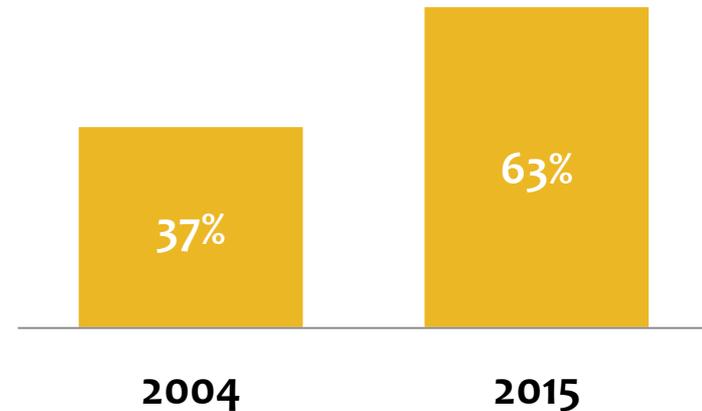
On-Time Grad Rate



- Increase of over 20%
- Grad rate for African Americans, economically disadvantaged students, and students with disabilities in New Orleans exceeds the state average

More Students Enrolling in College

College Enrollment Rate



- Increase of over 20%
- 2015 rate in New Orleans exceeds most recent rate for state average



Ten Years of Progress: Critical Elements of the New Orleans System

- ▶ This progress is due in large part to a new form of school governance where
 - ▶ lean governmental entities protect the rights of students to a quality education
 - ▶ parents and educators work together to make the most critical academic decisions for their students
- ▶ In New Orleans, we have pioneered a number of elements critical to supporting a system of schools that equitably serves all students and families.
- ▶ These changes were made through a patchwork of changes to the law, policy adjustments, collaborative agreements, and good will.

OneApp and common student expulsion system

School Facilities Master Plan

School Facilities Preservation Program

Citywide weighted student funding formula

LEA status & financial autonomy

Youth Opportunity Center

New Orleans Therapeutic Day Program

Citywide Exceptional Needs Fund



Act 91: Overview

- ▶ Act 91 will unify 24 OPSB and 52 RSD schools into a single, unified system of diverse and autonomous public schools.

- ▶ Act 91 codifies, for the first time and in a comprehensive fashion, the elements of the system that have most contributed to students' successes:
 - ▶ Autonomous public schools
 - ▶ Citywide family choice
 - ▶ Stringent standards for school authorizing and accountability, and
 - ▶ A Focus on equity for all students

Act 91: Key Provisions & Alignment With System-Level Values



Return of Schools & Facilities to Unified Local Oversight	<p>All RSD schools & facilities in Orleans Parish required to return by not later than July 1 2018; OPSB or BESE may seek a delay of up to one additional year based on statutory triggers</p> <p>Guarantees for completion of facility projects with RSD funding obligations, and liability protections for OPSB related to RSD's use and control of facilities</p>
Protecting Parental Choice	<p>Requires all schools to participate in common enrollment and common expulsion system</p> <p>Provides for limited geographic preference (up to 50% of seats, except grandfathered schools)</p> <p>Provides for local policy to ensure diversity of high-quality school operators in the system</p>
Advancing Equity for All Students	<p>Requires the School Board to provide for the allocation of state & local funds to schools based on student characteristics</p> <p>Empowers the School Board to enact policies to manage the common enrollment system and ensure a diversity of school operators</p>
Maintaining Stringent Authorizing & Accountability	<p>Provides for clear authority for the Superintendent to recommend and implement charter authorization actions (approvals, extensions, renewals, closures, monitoring & intervention)</p> <p>Provides for School Board authority to review authorization actions by the Superintendent, with a supermajority able to overturn decisions</p>
Ensuring School Operator Autonomy	<p>Full operational guarantees, modeled from current OPSB Policy HA provisions</p> <p>Opportunity for all schools to petition OPSB for independent LEA status, in order to receive federal and state grant funds directly</p>



Act 91: Summary of Sections

- ▶ Enacts 17:10.7.1
 - ▶ (A) – (D) provide for the return of schools and school facilities to local oversight by July 1, 2018, and addresses related matters
 - ▶ (E) – (F) provide for the respective duties of the School Board and Superintendent in operating of a system of autonomous schools
 - ▶ (G) addresses autonomy guarantees for charter school operators, including granting ability for all schools to independently apply for & receive state and federal funds (LEA status)
 - ▶ (H) – (I) provides for transition planning, including establishing both an advisory committee and provisions for delay of transfer based on triggers identified in the law

- ▶ Amends facility millage legislation (17:100.1) and portions of charter school law (17:3995 and 17:3999) in accordance with new statutory provisions



Unification Transition Plan Development

Unification Transition Plan Development: Overview



- ▶ Act 91 charges the OPSB Superintendent with the development of a plan “to effect the return of schools” from the RSD to OPSB by July 1st, 2018
 - ▶ The law requires this plan to be submitted to the School Board for approval by September 1st, 2016

- ▶ The law also requires the developed transition plan to include certain elements:
 1. Consideration of equitable funding for governmental functions
 2. An implementation timeline which includes a detailed list of tasks and benchmarks

- ▶ OPSB, in consultation with RSD, school operators, and the community, will design a plan that addresses the following areas:
 - ▶ Citywide Vision and Strategic Goals
 - ▶ Accountability, Authorization & Planning
 - ▶ Facilities
 - ▶ System-Level Services & Resources
 - ▶ Transparency & Community Responsiveness

Unification Transition Plan: Engaging Stakeholders & The Community



- ▶ During the Summer 2016 transition plan development process, three core groups of stakeholders will be convened
 - ▶ **Unification Executive Team**, composed of OPSB and RSD leadership charged with plan development and implementation
 - ▶ **Unification Advisory Committee**, including representatives of charter operators and key education advocacy organizations
 - ▶ **Task Force on School Unification**, which will engage more than 100 community leaders, representing a broad cross-section of diverse perspectives

- ▶ Additionally, extensive outreach will be conducted to engage core constituencies through the development process
 - ▶ Charter Governing Boards & CMO leaders
 - ▶ Educators
 - ▶ Parents
 - ▶ Community members at-large



Unification Advisory Committee

- ▶ 13 members, appointed by OPSB and RSD Superintendents; roles and scope of committee defined in Act 91
- ▶ Meets monthly during plan development period, then at least quarterly through transition period
- ▶ Sunsets once all schools have been returned from the RSD to local governance
- ▶ Advisory committee is subject to state open meetings and public records laws, as well as OPSB Policy BBF provisions on ad hoc Board committees

Superintendents

- Dr. Henderson Lewis, OPSB Superintendent
- Patrick Dobard, RSD Superintendent

4 Type 5 representatives

- Sharon Clark, S.B. Wright
- Jay Altman, FirstLine
- Kelly Batiste, Fannie C. Williams
- Rene Carter-Lewis, ACSA

2 Type 1 & 3 representatives

- Jamar McKneely, InspireNOLA
- Alexina Medley, Warren Easton

1 OPSB Network School representative

- Nicolette London

2 Education Advocates

- Erika McConduit, Urban League
- Deidre Johnson Burel, OPEN

2 Joint Appointments

- Rhonda Kalifey-Aluise, KIPP
- Dr. Doris Hicks, Friends of King

Act 91:

Statutory Charge to Advisory Committee



- ▶ H(1)(b): “the local school superintendent, in consultation with the superintendent of the Recovery School District, shall convene an advisory committee to assist in the development of the [transition] plan.”
- ▶ H(2): “the advisory committee shall be subject to the provisions of Louisiana Open Meetings Law, the Louisiana Public Records Law, and all local school board policy regarding public meetings and public documents.”
- ▶ H(3): “the advisory committee shall be comprised of thirteen members as follows:”
- ▶ H(5): “after the local school board has approved the plan, the local school superintendent shall convene the advisory committee as often as he deems necessary, but at least on a quarterly basis, until all schools have been returned from the Recovery School District to the local school system.”
- ▶ I(1) “The final transfer of schools from the Recovery School District to the local school board... may be postponed only by a majority vote of the full membership of [the local school board or BESE], and at least one of the following shall apply...
(f) the advisory committee, by a majority vote of its full membership, officially requests the local school board or the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education to consider such postponement

Unification Advisory Committee: Role & Responsibilities



- ▶ The UAC will provide technical expertise and support the OPSB Superintendent in the development of the Transition Plan by September 1st, as required by Act 91
- ▶ The UAC will serve as a venue for community input and feedback regarding the transition plan and process
 - ▶ Public meetings, with comment periods
 - ▶ Feedback from Task Force on School Unification
- ▶ The UAC will assist the OPSB Superintendent in assessing the implementation of the approved plan, and in resolving any identified challenges



Task Force on School Unification

- ▶ The OPSB Superintendent will convene more than 100 individuals, representing a broad cross-section of community stakeholders, through a Task Force on School Unification, in addition to the statutorily-established UAC.

- ▶ Prior to September 1st, Task Force members will provide technical expertise and support in developing the Unification Plan, through working groups organized around four functional areas
 - ▶ Accountability, Authorization & Planning
 - ▶ Facilities
 - ▶ System-Level Services & Resources
 - ▶ Transparency & Community Responsiveness

- ▶ After September, the Task Force will provide ongoing support and technical expertise, and will assist the OPSB Superintendent and UAC members in assessing the implementation of the plan.

Unification Transition Plan: Milestones for Plan Development



Milestone	Date
Legislation Enacted & Advisory Committee Selections Announced	May 12, 2016
BESE RSD Committee of the Whole	May 25 th , 2016
<u>Advisory Committee Meeting #1:</u> Introduction, Framework, Task Force	June 1 st , 2016
<i>Task Force Working Groups #1</i>	<i>June 6th – June 24th, 2016</i>
<u>Advisory Committee Meeting #2:</u> Draft Plan Presentation	July 14 th , 2016
<i>Community Review Meetings</i> <i>Parent & Educator Focus Groups</i>	<i>July 21th -- August 11th, 2016</i>
<u>Advisory Committee Meeting #3:</u> Revised Draft Plan, including Community Review & Focus Group feedback	August 11 th , 2016
<i>Task Force Working Groups #2</i>	<i>August 12th – 24th, 2016</i>
<u>Advisory Committee Meeting #4:</u> Final Plan Presentation & Advisory Committee Endorsement	August 25 th , 2016
OPSB Superintendent Presents Final Transition Plan to School Board for Approval	August 30 th , 2016 (statutory deadline: Sept 1 st)



Stakeholder Engagement & Community Review

How Will Schools Participate in Unification Transition Plan Development?



- ▶ Board Chair Briefings
 - ▶ Regular email updates
 - ▶ In-person meetings with Superintendents

- ▶ Citywide School Leaders (CEOs)
 - ▶ Regular email updates
 - ▶ In-person meetings with Superintendents
(in conjunction with Board Chairs, as appropriate)

- ▶ Educators
 - ▶ Focus Groups to receive input on draft transition plan will be scheduled during August

- ▶ Parents
 - ▶ Focus Groups to receive input on draft transition plan will be scheduled during August

How Will the Public Participate in Unification Transition Plan Development?



- ▶ Public Comment Portal on OPSB website (www.opsb.us)
- ▶ Public Comment to Advisory Committee
- ▶ Community Feedback Sessions in late July
- ▶ Regular Office Hours with Unification Executive Team members
 - ▶ Dates & times to be posted to OPSB website
- ▶ Public Review Period for Draft Transition Plan
 - ▶ Full Plan provided in draft form by July 15th, 2016
 - ▶ Plan and presentation to be posted to OPSB website



Next Steps

- ▶ Task Force Meetings: June 6th – 24th

- ▶ Unification Office Hours
 - ▶ Schedule to be posted to Unification portal on OPSB website

- ▶ UAC Meeting #2: July 14th, 2016, 5pm at McDonogh #35
 - ▶ Presentation of draft transition plan