



South Region Elementary School #11

Board District 1 (LaMotte) | Local District 7 (McKenna)

Local District 7/UTLA (Lugo).....	APPROVED
Community-Powered Public Schools (Sievers).....	REJECTED

RATIONALE

Local District 7/UTLA (Lugo)

- The writing team presents a solid, well-written and research-based proposal informed by the local district’s experience and successful track record of improving student learning at the elementary school level.
- The instructional approach and core curriculum outlined in the proposal are student-centered as well as standards- and evidence-based; and provide ample opportunity for core academic learning and enrichment through the arts. The instructional program also includes programs such as enVision, Full Options Science Systems and HistoryAlive! The Ancient World. Several strategies are proposed to attend to the whole child and to incorporate and support different styles of learning and socio-emotional development.
- The proposal proposes two small learning communities, one for students in kindergarten through third grade and the other for students in grades 4 through 6. Core instruction for students in grades 4 through 6 will be organized around thematic units (e.g., Science/Medicine, Math/Engineering, Arts, etc.), all with an emphasis on technology.
- Schedule includes an on-site, seven-hour day, two days per week for enrichment and intervention, as well as vertical/horizontal articulation with the feeder middle schools.
- The proposal also includes a series of waivers that will give the staff control over crucial matters such as hiring of staff, professional development and other activities. The rationale is clearly articulated and aligns with the direction of the instructional program and the professional culture desired at the school.

Community-Powered Public Schools (Sievers)

- The plan lacks relevant data and research-based strategies. There is no concrete evidence that the proposed curricula are effective, nor whether it will effectively support the needs of the students at the school. Professional development was not adequately addressed, nor was there an explanation of how data will be reviewed to inform and differentiate instruction.
- While the plan describes a belief in formative assessments as an integral component, there is no detailed timeline on how the proposed assessment will be implemented or how the results will be used to establish a culture of continuous improvement and accountability.
- Overall, reviewers were concerned that a basic understanding of the requirements for an elementary school was missing from the plan. Furthermore, the proposed governance structure, including a Local Board of Directors, was deemed unsound and not a viable option. The same plan was also submitted for four other schools, which raised serious questions of how the plan addresses the needs of each unique student population.

NEXT STEPS

Local District 7/UTLA (Lugo)

- Approval is contingent upon the enactment by UTLA of all waivers requested by the design team.
- Further details regarding upcoming support activities including, but not limited to scheduling follow-up parent meetings, dates of upcoming workshops, implementation support over the summer, etc., will be communicated to the team by the PSC Team in the coming weeks.