

1/25/2011	School Assignments - Council District D - Lake Area/Greater Gentilly HS - PUBLIC COMMENTS
NAME	SUMMARY OF SPOKEN COMMENTS
Jean-Paul Morrell	State Senator - District 3 - Introductory remarks.
Freda Jones	Knows change is inevitable. 16 year old son is at Greater Gentilly High School. Students love it here. Good recipe to provide well rounded individuals. Urges to make students first priority.
Cynthia Hedge Morrell	New Orleans Councilperson District D – Wants to hear what community says - as councilperson and as someone who has puts 30 yrs in education. Wants children to receive respect and educated for life-long period.
John Nepal	Good to see new Parkview going up - wants to know what's up with it.
Jeanne Jean	Represents Fairmont Park Assn. About Bradley ES - there are no schools on river side of Gentilly. Bradley is a better location. Also, environmental study should be done on Avery Alexander - thinks there could be things in the ground. It seems a given that UNO is taking over schools – but they were even failing before Katrina and still are. Doesn't understand the criteria to make these decisions.
Vanessa Thomas	Parent of 10th grader at Greater Gentilly HS. Wants fairness in merger with Marshall.
Nikkisha Napoleon	VP of PTO at Greater Gentilly HS. Likes the current administration there. Says resources are not being invested into kids and buildings. Does not like UNO - they have abysmal financial and academic achievement. The RSD says it wants innovation - that is with the current administration, not UNO. Principal Beverly Johnson looks out for best interest of the kids.
Seandré Napoleon	Is 10th grade student at Greater Gentilly HS. School is providing her what she needs. Wants to remain under Beverly Johnson's leadership.
Chrishell Lennox	11th grader at Greater Gentilly HS. Returned to NO from Houston. Could not go to MLK because they wanted her to repeat classes. Is on honor roll. Wants to keep structure.
Lovella Maxey	In 10th grade at Greater Gentilly HS – says they have flourished under Beverly Johnson. Being told they may lose their leaders. Is against it.
Samantha Davis	Parent - lives one block away. Loves this school from principal to teachers to students. Against merger. Concerned about bringing in outside group to run school, breaking apart school bonds that have been strengthened and the current kids safety. Doesn't want to have to uproot her son from Greater Gentilly HS.
Diva Mubarak	Daughter is President of student body at Greater Gentilly HS. Concerned about bringing in outside group. This is the first full year in the building. Just got uniforms. Have heard about violence coming in potentially with other program.
Dr. Robert Little	On Greater Gentilly HS steering committee. Requested grant to enable school to be founded. And worked for years to create school. Mr. Vallas has stymied some of their input – not been receptive. How can RSD guarantee input will be accepted in future? They want a good, successful school.
Karen Parsons	President of Oak Park Civic Assn. - Principal author of Quick Start application - resolution to have UNO-RSD communication has been difficult. Hi-tech curriculum has not been followed per quick start application – wants it honored. Took \$650,000 from Walton Foundation. Wants UNO Early College HS to come in and preferential enrollment form certain [nearby?] zip codes.
Sandra Ewell	She has no children in school system, but loves the community. Is on steering committee at John McDonogh HS - lives near there. Found out Kipp is taking over John Mac – no notice was given to community - don't throw people aside. Wants that improved.
Karla Rivera	Community Coordinator at International HS-NO at Rabouin. Had seven real estate company visitors show up for tours. Wants to know if building is being taken away now.
Cynthia Rhode	From Oak Park area near here. A graduate of UNO. Wants association with UNO early college school.
Nick Varrecchio	Impressed by Greater Gentilly HS representation. Is a member of Kennedy HS alumni. Wants dialogue about naming a high school for Kennedy at some point. Thousands of alumni around who can start new traditions - wants to be an asset to school system. There is no reason why continuity can not happen.
Amelie Oriol	Oak Park resident - supports UNO early college high school
Dr. Ken Ducote	Opposes plans for Lockett and Frantz schools. Is President of Ruby Bridges Foundation. The foundation has worked with RSD in the past FEMA process to support plans for Frantz. Foundation is putting together charter application for Frantz but was told could not apply until Summer of 2011. Wants current Mays appointment to Frantz to be changed to Lockett, and give them a chance to go to Frantz.
Lisa Benson	Mother of 10th grader at Greater Gentilly HS. Past few days there has been high emotion with information that a charter is taking over in a back room deal. Says it's at the cost of their children. Doesn't think Paul Vallas is intending to throw Greater Gentilly HS under bus. Wants to stay with current staff and administration. Says that their test scores should have been used as a baseline
Willie Jones III	Student at Greater Gentilly HS – feels they are taking their school away. Says students deserve better than this.

Freda Jones	Parent of Willie Jones. Formerly on steering committee. Is on PTO. Says thank you for the new building but RSD is hurting children by under the table deals. Says scores are failing but why wasn't community asked if they wanted a charter school. They have been through two principals already. Please respect their wishes.
Karran Royal	Is an Oak Park resident and public school parent. Steering Committee Chair. Led to believe that the school they RSD is creating did not have to be a charter. Now, finds out that is not true. Does not believe chartering is savior for schools and they are being forced to charter. She tried to work something out with UNO and RSD to make UNO a partner with what is happening at Greater Gentilly HS. New-Tech model is not being implemented properly. She supports UNO coming in only if certain needs are met by UNO: 1- New-tech mission. 2 - all students integrated into program. 3 - [not clear]
Larry Barabino, Jr.	Kennedy alumni - They have lost their school. This is their district. Wants to be a part of the district. Would like Lake Area to be named Kennedy.
Lionel Powell, Sr.	Son attends Greater Gentilly HS. Came from YMCA uptown. Son talked to him about protesting Marshall taking over Greater Gentilly HS. Says school is good. Says RSD will do what it wants but he likes the current administration.
Katherine Prevost	President of Bunny Friend Neighborhood Association - Talking about Frantz and Lockett in Master Plan Now hears that is not happening - Lockett may not be brought back. Says she has letter promising. Does not want Frantz as an open school - wants Frantz brought back as a community school so kids can walk to school, not be bussed. Wants those schools opened correctly - in a holistic way Wants RSD to talk to the community, not do back door deals. To come to their community meetings at Mt. Carmel.
Crystal Harris	Son attends Greater Gentilly HS in 11th grade. Son looks normal but wants an education. Gets up at 5am to catch bus to come to school. Was at Carver. He told mom there were fights at Carver. It's safe here. Wants community input to be followed.
Tela Branch	Mother of student at Greater Gentilly HS. Sad about merger. The current administration supports the kids here. Wants to keep school and faculty.
Bonnie McKenna	Educator at Coghill Accelerated School. Has suggestion. Has read Coghill students will not be assigned to Parkview. Says there are 600 kids at Coghill modular campus. They should be located at Parkview. Coghill is a mere walk from Parkview. Community kids should be able to walk to school.
Nabila Kesrewan	Student at GGHS. Never hurt here. Some kids were mean. Thank you to Ms. Johnson. She thanks god for Greater Gentilly HS. Hears about fights at other schools. But peaceful here. Goes to NOCCA half a day. Her friends at private school have not grown like she has over last year and a half.
Jeanne McGlory	On faculty at Coghill now and also before Katrina – is dreaming of working at Mirabeau x Louisa. Is a former cop. Wants an investigation if school taken away from them. Coghill was not failing before or after Katrina now. Baffled that RSD took over in the first place.
Gabrielle Thomas	Likes Greater Gentilly HS. It's a place that encourages her and values her.
Sorya Cain	Student body President at Greater Gentilly HS. Says students are doing poorly at charter schools. She's afraid of losing unity at Greater Gentilly HS. Pleased with curriculum. Administration has a good relationship with parents. No reason to shift to another school. Walk-out was supposed to take place – but it did not because they would have jeopardized the staff. Thurgood Marshall's principal came by and said they were taking over and would not hire current staff. Greater Gentilly HS is positive and Marshall is negative energy. Has questions about transcripts and how that would be handled. They were told it was a takeover, not a merger. Says UNO is about a business, not the education of children.
Willie Jones	She was at a charter school. Test scores were so low, they retook the test. Does not want to be here - is in 9th grade - school is her home. When she had rough time, Ms. Johnson said she missed her when she came back after a long break. Greater Gentilly HS was in trailers before moving to this building.
Patrick Walsh	Master teacher at Greater Gentilly HS. Is a new tech network system. Points out that students who spoke tonight had good oral schools. Says technology is being used appropriately here. This is a project based curriculum. The new tech model is being used. Oak Park Civic Association has not been in the school this year. Says this curriculum is community involved. Requests that Oak Park Civic Assn. call him tomorrow.
Christie Briggs	She is junior at Greater Gentilly HS. Says students are happy. They are a family. Expresses thanks to Ms. Johnson and Dr. Watts.
Rhonda Bush	Parent of 10 th grader. Her daughter is on the honor roll for the first time ever. There are supportive teachers who are concerned. She is also a 1990 Kennedy HS graduate. Her daughter was at a UNO charter before and it was a failing school. Her daughter is up at 5am to catch bus for here. The kids were told they will not be here and that the administration will not be here.
	END OF COMMENTS