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**HIGH SCHOOL CLOSING OPPOSITION TAKING MESSAGE TO THE BOARD**

*Sexton supporters prepare to address the Lansing School District Thursday*

(LANSING, MI) – Stating a clear and repeating message that keeping Lansing Sexton High School open is crucial to the future of the historic Westside Neighborhood and the City of Lansing, a grassroots collaborative made their presentation to a packed room of neighborhood residents, teachers, counselors, coaches, administrators and public officials.

The Save Our Sexton (SOS) Campaign is preparing to take their concerns and information to the Board of Education meeting Thursday, January 19, 2012 at 7:00 p.m. at the Lansing School District Administration Building, 519 Kalamazoo, to address the pending decision of the Lansing School District to close a high school. Supporters are asked to wear red.

“Sexton, in my opinion, has a wider range of options economically in part to its location and it’s potential for future development in and around the school.” explained Sexton Senior, Jasaria Dorty at the Tuesday Press Conference.

As one request, SOS is petitioning the district to delay any decision on closing a high school until January, 31, 2013, in order to hire its’ next superintendent. Current superintendent, Dr. T.C. Wallace will leave the position on June 30th.

Former Lansing Mayor David Hollister, as part of an earlier community task force, presented a bold restructuring plan in early 2009, including cutting spending, creating a new academy for high school drop-outs, and close all three high schools and create one large new high school. Virtually none of those recommendations have been passed.

The Lansing School District has announced their intentions to determine this month whether Eastern or Sexton High School should be closed at the end of the 2011-2012 academic year. The Board will hear a report Thursday from Brian Ralph, Director of Operations that carries recommendations to fix a projected budget shortfall. This report comes on the heels of another report presented in December 2011 from a second community task force asked to look into restructuring the district.

SOS has posted an online petition and letter writing campaign. Visit saveoursexton.weebly.com for the link and more information.

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