

Collaborative Review of Action Plans

The *Charrette* (also spelled *Charette*) is a process borrowed from the architectural and urban planning communities. Its purpose is to improve a design or a draft of work in progress, and to move it toward completion. It has been widely used in school improvement projects, for instance by the Coalition for Essential Schools and the National School Reform Faculty.

Modified Charrette: A Sharing and Response Tool

This is an adaption of the Charrette, a protocol designed to allow groups to offer peer support to improve a piece of work in progress. Originally developed in the field of architecture, the Charrette has been used by educators to stage structured conversations based on looking at student work.

Each team in the group takes a turn sharing and receiving response on their Strategic Action Plan. They then reflect back to the group what they are hearing and what revisions they might make to their plan. Each member/team gets 30 minutes for this process.

- 10 min. A team presents their Action Plan and the thinking behind it. They also present a need or request to the response group. This need or request is often formed as a question such as: How can we address the challenge of . . . ? How can we involve more voices in our planning process?
- 5 min. The response group asks any clarifying questions.
- 10 min. The response group discusses the plan while the presenting team takes notes and listens without engaging in the discussion.
- 5 min. The presenting team ends by summarizing what they heard from the response group.

