

MINUTES

Action of the Virginia-Highland Civic Association Board Via e-mail

December 30, 2011

Pursuant to the discussion at the VHCA BoD meeting of 12-12-11, Mr. White and Ms. Carlisle attended a meeting on 12-17-11 with representatives from nearby neighborhoods to discuss challenges and problems posed by the pending redistricting proposals brought forth in November by the Atlanta Public School (APS) system. Present were representatives from Morningside/Lenox Park Association, the Virginia-Highland Civic-Association, the Poncey-Highland Civic Association, the Inman Park Neighborhood Association, the Fourth Ward Alliance, the Fourth Ward Neighbors, the Candler Park Neighborhood Association, and the Lake Claire Civic Association.

The group's discussion focused on finding an effective way to ask the APS to utilize a more orderly and systematic method of gathering input from parents and communities. There was unanimous agreement that the exiting process has been severely rushed and that the four options that APS originally offered pitted neighborhoods against one another. The consensus was to request that the local school councils (LSC) ask APS to meet with a combined task force composed of neighborhood and LSC representatives.

The group decided to draft a statement reflecting these points and present it to each neighborhood association for comment and approval.

The statement that follows was submitted on 12-28-11 to the VHCA board via e-mail by Mr. White, who moved its adoption. Both Ms. Forschler-Horn and Mr. Wolfson seconded. Voting concluded on 12-30-11; it passed unanimously, specifically supported by its movers and Ms. Berg, Ms. Carlisle, Ms. Ferrero, Mr. Gross, and Ms. Papner. Mr. Dworet, Mr. Glancy, Ms. Wilkes did not vote.

January 4, 2011

Principal and Local School Council

Henry W. Grady HS- Dr. Vincent Murray, Principal, and Interim Chair Wiley Sommerville

Samuel M. Inman MS- Ms. Paula Herrema, Principal and Chair Mike Szalkowski

Mary Lin ES- Dr. Brian Mitchell, Principal and Chair Jeff Shaw

Morningside ES- Ms. Rebecca Pruitt, Principal and Chair Elizabeth Rogan

Springdale Park ES- Ms. Yolanda Brown, Principal and Chair LeAnne Gilbert

Hope-Hill ES- Dr. Cassandra Miller-Ashley, Principal and Chair Priscilla Borders

To the Local School Councils:

We are committed to our neighbors in the decision to stay united with the communities with whom we have a history of shared SRT-3 and Grady High School Cluster focus.

On Saturday, December 17, 2011, a meeting was held between the Presidents and representatives from these neighborhood associations: Morningside/Lenox Park, Virginia-Highland, Poncey-Highland, Inman Park, Fourth Ward Neighbors, Fourth Ward Alliance, Candler Park, and Lake Claire. While this meeting

did not include all the neighborhoods in SRT-3 or the Grady Cluster, we are hopeful that all relevant entities will join us in this position as we believe that this process will give everyone a voice in the rezoning process.

The following was unanimously supported by the above-stated neighborhood organizations:

The neighborhoods feel strongly that a more deliberate communication process is required. Such a process would allow our communities to work together to reach a common ground regardless of APS demographic decisions affecting all children in SRT-3 and the Grady Cluster. Now that the December 16th deadline for public survey comment has passed, we propose augmenting the community input phase of the process at this point by adding the following action through our SRT-3 Local School Councils:

Combine our SRT's Local School Councils with the initial SRT-3 Focus Group to create a single task force charged with ensuring all community and stakeholder communication and inclusion in the rezoning process. Include also two representatives from each neighborhood, as defined by the City of Atlanta Neighborhood Planning Units, to join as stakeholders to the process.

Use this task force, under Local School Council bylaws, to build community trust through constructive parent and community stakeholder engagement across neighborhoods. Ensure that all voices and options relevant to this SRT and high school cluster are shared and clearly communicated from demographic process, to Superintendent recommendations, to final ABOE decisions.

We respectfully ask that the Local School Councils formally request that Atlanta Public Schools give serious consideration to adopting the above model for the next step of rezoning consideration. It is our strong belief that without this model, trust and confidence in the process can never be achieved and will further divide the communities from the school system.

We are committed to a process that is collaborative and inclusive and we are looking to our Local School Councils to provide the leadership for this effort. In order to ensure that this process can be included in a timely fashion, we request that the Local School Council's make this request no later than January 6, 2012.

Jay Sandhaus Candler Park Neighborhood Organization
Kit Sutherland, Fourth Ward Alliance
Matthew Garbett, Fourth Ward Neighbors
Regina Brewer, Inman Park Neighborhood Association
Peg Zeigler, Lake Claire Neighbors
Carmen Pope, Morningside-Lenox Park Association
Kip Coomb, Poncey-Highlands Neighborhood Association
Jack White, Virginia-Highland Civic Association