

Public Hearing for Consolidating the Small Schools Model for Improved Quality and Efficiency

D.M. Therrell High School

March 10, 2015 (1st meeting)

March 17, 2015 (2nd meeting)

(Updated on March 27, 2015 based upon community feedback)



Public Hearing Agenda

Welcome

- Dr. Carlton Jenkins, Chief Academic Officer
- Ms. Shelly H. Powell, Principal
- David White, Associate Superintendent

Introduction

Proposal to close and consolidate: D.M. Therrell School of Health Science & Research, School of Law, Government & Public Policy and School of Technology, Engineering, Math & Science

- Dr. Timothy Gadson, Associate Superintendent for High Schools
 - Rationale for consolidation, improved quality and efficiency

D. M. Therrell Transition Update

- Ms. Shelly H. Powell, Principal
 - Ongoing Enhancements to School Culture
 - Highlights for the 2015-2016 School year

Questions & Answers/Next Steps

- Dr. Jenkins and Mr. David White, Associate Superintendent

Closing

Rationale for consolidating D.M. Therrell High School

- APS has been working hard to improve academic quality and efficiencies in its high schools. In 2014, APS began the work of consolidating Washington and Therrell high schools. Carver and South Atlanta are the only remaining campuses with small schools.
- Therrell began operating as a consolidated school earlier this year. Now, we are formalizing the consolidation process by holding public hearings and securing a vote from the Atlanta Board of Education.
- Students will benefit from a rigorous curriculum with expanded course options, aligned course offerings and enrichment programs.
- Streamlining programs will allow increased flexibility in master scheduling so that all students will be able to meet their four-year graduation plans with fewer scheduling constraints.
- Transition will include ongoing professional development opportunities for teachers to ensure that all student needs are met.



What is the rationale for streamlining programs at D.M. Therrell High School?



**Strengthens School Culture:
Common Vision and Purpose
for Students and Staff**



**Increases Coherence and
collaboration across common
administration for the entire campus**



**Aligns staffing, resources and
professional development to support
student needs**

What is the rationale for streamlining programs at D.M. Therrell High School? *(Continued)*



Enhances academic focus for strategic high school cluster planning



Increases access to rigorous curriculum, flexible scheduling and enrichment offerings



Boosts Sense of community by aligning efforts of PTA and Local School Council

Ongoing enhancements to school culture

- Greater opportunities continue for students to learn about the different academic offerings they can have as a result of the consolidation.
- Use of programs such as Positive Student Behavioral Support System and No Place for Hate will help bring the students together to strengthen school culture.
- Teacher culture-building activities will be ongoing and include use of the Professional Learning Communities. Training will be provided to focus on what students are learning, their deficits and next steps.
- The school will continue to benefit from a strengthened sense of community through establishing an aligned PTA and LSC structure.



Highlights for the 2015-2016 school year

- Launch Early College program
- Expand dual-enrollment options
- Increase number of Advanced Placement courses
- Culinary Arts Industry certification
- STEMS certification process begins
- Associates RN certification process begins
- New Pathway- Audio, Video Technology & Film



STEM
ACADEMY



Science • Technology • Engineering • Math



What is the transition plan?



- Inform staff, parents, students, and community stakeholders of proposal by March 6.



- Conduct two community meetings during weeks of March 9 and March 16.
- Collect feedback from community via online forum and Atlanta Board of Education town hall meetings.



- Curriculum & Instruction leadership team makes recommendation to Superintendent by March 23.
- Atlanta Board of Education votes on April 13, 2015



- Implementation of plan begins in April to ensure all personnel are in place.

What is the proposed staffing plan for Therrell?

#	Position
1	Principal
3	Assistant Principals
1	Graduation Coach
1	School Secretary
3	School Clerks
2	Non-instructional paraprofessional
.5	Full-time school nurse
1	Full-time RTI/SST Intervention Specialist
20.5	Core Teachers

#	Position
9	Elective Teachers
3	School Counselors
1	Media Specialist
.4	Full-time Social Worker
3	CTAE Teachers
2	Gifted Teachers
7	Interrelated Special Education Teachers
4	Remedial Program Teachers
2	JROTC Instructors
1	Special Education Paraprofessionals

*These allocations reflect only general funded positions and do not include special revenue funded positions.

Questions & Answers/Next Steps

Facilitated by:

- Dr. Carlton Jenkins, Chief Academic Officer
- Dr. David White, Associate Superintendent



For more information in the coming weeks please visit the APS website for updates and other materials www.atlantapublicschools.us/smallschools

Note: Next meeting is March 17 @ 6 p.m.