

December 14, 2021 Meeting with Dr. Herring

Attendees: @ Hope-Hill Elementary:

- Amber Mungen-Davis, PTA Co-Chair
- Pam Moss, PTA Co-Chair
- Monica Jones, GoTeam Vice-Chair
- Alex Wu, GoTeam Chair
- Maureen Wheeler, Principal

APS:

- Travis Norvell, Chief Strategy & Engagement Officer
- Dr. Lisa Herring, Superintendent
- Larry Hoskins, COO
- Ron Applin, Chief of Police APS
- Daniel Drake, Exec Dir Facilities
- Robert Palmer, Dir Maintenance and Operations
- Anita Williams, Chief of Schools
- Yolonda Brown, Chief Academics Officer
- Kevin Maxwell, Assist Superintendent Innovation
- Tauheedah Baker-Jones, Chief Equity and Social Justice
- Natasha Speed, Equitable Resource Strategy

#### TOPICS DISCUSSED

- **Where are we (APS) in this process?** Is Dr. Herring reconsidering the recommendation?

The current proposal for the Inman Building remains a 4-5 Inman Academy. It has not been voted on by the Board of Education. The proposal could be altered based on the newer enrollment projections currently being conducted. The current delay in the process is due to the enrollment consultant requesting more time to complete the projections.

- **Trust and Support:** Hope-Hill believes that the culture of love and trust created at Hope-Hill is valuable and is integral in why we can achieve good results with a diverse SES population. Trust between teachers and students, between teachers and principals, between families and teachers are hard earned and we are worried/concerned that more transitions will impact these relationships. We are very concerned that IEP students and those at the lowest SES levels will have a disproportionate effect. We understand it is possible to mitigate these issues, but the concern remains.
- **Hope-Hill facility and security challenges:** Hope-Hill is physically between Martin Luther King, Jr. National Historical Park, Atlanta Parks and Recreation Property (which owns the bicycle park, gymnasium and media center/library), and a Georgia State right-of-way Boulevard. Although Hope-Hill often has good relations with its neighbors, constant coordination between jurisdictions makes operating the school challenging and at times unsafe, as one cannot properly

secure the surroundings. Hope-Hill is concerned that the presence of police officers in a predominantly black school may reinforce stereotypes that the problem is within the school instead of security outside the school. A long-term solution is desired.

- **Process and communications:** Hope-Hill takes pride in how their community has conducted itself in this process. How one does things matters; the process matters. So even if one disagrees with APS' decision, they can get behind the institution if a 'fair' process was conducted. The process has been unclear at some points.
- **Good Schools:** Hope-Hill feels it is perceived as the poor performing school of the Cluster. In reality, it may be one of the highest academic growth schools in the District and may be able to offer insights on how to replicate that in all APS schools.

#### NEXT STEPS:

- Facility security and control will be at the top of the list when discussing possibilities with the City of Atlanta's incoming Dickens Administration. There currently discussions with the Bottoms Administration.
- Chief Applin offered the Hope-Hill PTA to tour with their officers to see how they operate. The service has been trained with the latest de-escalation and sensitivity programs. The Chief is proud that his officers have a low 1% use-of-force rate.
- The APS admin commits to continue with engagement at Hope-Hill.
- APS understands more intentional communication can manage the rumors or misunderstandings that arise when there is lack of communication.
- APS has heard Hope-Hill's concerns about the impact of transitions and the importance of building student-teacher relationships as an important step to mitigate. APS will be intentionally about creating supportive structures to foster that culture of trust starting with seeking input on leadership for the new school.