

February 19, 2019

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To the Atlanta Board of Education:

Members from the Grady High School community, the Atlanta Public Schools' Facilities Department and architects from Cooper Carry have started the design review process for the Grady High School renovation and expansion. After our most recent update, the Grady GO Team has serious concerns about several areas of inadequacy in the proposed program. Those concerns are in four main areas:

- 1. Common areas and support spaces are not adequate for the planned larger student capacity or are not adequately functional in their current status.**
 - The cafeteria is not large enough to accommodate even the current student body for lunches and is not functional as a flex space for other activities.
 - The theatre stage size and seating capacity are inadequate for the current population/programming and are not addressed in the current project scope.
 - Classrooms for art and other pathway electives are inadequate.
- 2. Spaces to support Grady's signature theme, and particularly the AP Capstone program, are lacking.**
 - Locating the media center in the new addition would allow it to function in combination with other potential spaces nearby, such as the "project steps" common area, a proposed presentation hall, and other flex spaces, to support the collaborative research and presentation needs of our AP Capstone program and other classes, including our CTAE programs.
 - As part of our signature theme focus, Grady has more students enrolled in AP courses and taking AP exams than any other APS school. We need large flex spaces to accommodate our testing needs.
 - The current lack of larger flexible spaces for our signature program and testing needs often results in the disruption and displacement of other students.
- 3. Critical facility deficiencies are inadequately addressed.**
 - Sewer issues, deteriorated restrooms, a faulty intercom system, pedestrian accessibility, safety and security are among pressing

functional issues that are either not currently included in the scope, or which may not be adequately addressed due to budgetary restrictions.

4. **Funding is not guaranteed for anticipated construction inflation costs.**
5. **Expand Grady High School classroom capacity to match the capacity of the new Howard Middle School.**

As part of our Grady Cluster College and Career-focused strategic plan, our community set a goal to “build and renovate facilities to address current capacity and innovation in the learning environment.” In order to meet this goal and to accommodate a more comprehensive redesign at Grady High School, **the Grady GO Team is asking for increased funding for this project from the current SPLOST.** We have been told that there is insufficient SPLOST allocation for Grady to address the deficiencies outlined above.

It is crucial that these programmatic inadequacies be remedied while the project is still in the early stages of design. We respectfully await your prompt response.

Yours truly,

The Grady High School GO Team

Mario Herrera - Chair
Betsy Bockman - Principal
Sharon Bray
Keziah Corbett
John Hammond
Tamara Jones
Amy Leonard
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Gail Price
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Cc: Dr. Meria Carstarphen - Superintendent
Alvah Hardy - Executive Director of Facilities Services
Jere Smith - Director of Capital Improvements & Construction Management