



ATLANTA
PUBLIC
SCHOOLS

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February 2, 2018

Parkside Families,

We first want to thank the Parkside community for attending the community meeting on February 1st to address the recent School-Based Solution (process). We understand there was misinformation that surfaced regarding the potential solution and our process. We are glad we had a chance to address these concerns and develop some potential solutions going forward. This meeting was meant to be the beginning of a conversation we need to have as a community about the future of our schools and to clarify the School-Based Solution process. The challenges facing each of our schools, as it relates to enrollment, boundaries, programming and academic achievement, are real and require community-led conversations.

During a February 2nd Parkside GO Team meeting, the Parkside GO Team voted to withdraw its request for a School-Based Solution on rezoning for the 2018-2019 school year. Through the process of starting the School-Based Solution conversation, we discovered there was miscommunication regarding the process and the district and school role in final approval. It is our belief that to move forward with such an innovation, all GO Team members should be knowledgeable about the School-base Solutions process and our role as a school governance team. This will help us better communicate to the public and speak with one voice. We plan to learn from this experience and continue working together to address these challenges.

The next step in coming together will take place on Tuesday, February 6, 2018 at Barack & Michelle Obama Academy at 6pm. The principals will discuss the challenges they face, the amazing work being done at each school, and continue the conversations on how to ensure a quality education for all students. We understand that dozens of parents have visited Barack & Michelle Obama Academy and Benteen over the past week and have observed the outstanding work taking place. We hope more parents will follow suit and learn about all of our neighborhood schools.

As we continue to work together, we invite families to stay engaged and continue to join us in finding solutions to ensure that all students receive a quality education. Thank you for your ongoing participation in this important work, and we look forward to seeing you on February 6th.

Sincerely,

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Chair, Parkside GO Team

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