

2019-2020

Atlanta Public Schools

# SUCCESS SNAPSHOTS

**With a caring culture of trust  
and collaboration, every  
student will graduate ready  
for college and career.**

## ABOE Addresses Domestic Minor Sex Trafficking

As Atlanta continues to address the terrible and tragic problem of domestic minor sex trafficking, the ABOE adopted its own policy, separate from the City's ordinance, to ensure the District is doing everything it can to support students and keep them safe. Adopted in December 2018, the policy requires all APS employees and volunteers to report instances of suspected domestic minor sex trafficking to the appropriate administrator at the school. Persons making such reports are immune from any civil or criminal liability which might otherwise be imposed. In addition, the policy creates a system of supports for students who may be touched by sex trafficking. Board Member **Erika Mitchell** was selected to present the policy at the Georgia School Boards Association, Council of Urban Boards of Education and Council of the Great City Schools conferences later this year.

## Welcome Back!

The Board is excited to welcome back students, staff and teachers to the 2019-2020 school year. We look forward to seeing you in the classroom!

## Message from the Chair

I hope you and your family had an enjoyable and restful summer! Your Atlanta Board of Education (ABOE) continued working over the break, reviewing the past school year and preparing for the one to come. We are excited to share our progress with you in this report. The end of the summer marks the closing of this elected body's first full school year together, and I am proud of what we have accomplished in such a short period of time.



Thanks to the hard work and dedication of Atlanta Public Schools' faculty, staff, and leadership, we have exciting results to report:

- The APS Graduation Rate for cohort 2018 grew to 79.9 percent, and produced the largest class of APS graduates since the state aligned with national standards.
- We recognized academics, arts, athletics and other talents of more than 500 students at our annual Board Meeting for APS Recognition in May.
- On a newly designed College and Career Ready Performance Index (CCRPI), 34 APS schools scored above 70. Of that number, 14 schools achieved an overall score at or above 80, and 5 achieved an overall score above 90!
- In the State of Georgia's "Beating the Odds" analysis, 46 APS schools (more than half) performed better than similar schools in the state. In addition, APS exceeded the state's performance average, and we were second among the large metro Atlanta districts.
- All 17 APS turnaround schools, receiving targeted or partnership support, have improved over the past two years by reducing the number of beginning level learners. In addition, 13 of the 17 schools increased their CCRPI percentile rank after two full years of implementation.

Thank you for all you do to support Atlanta Public Schools and this Board. We assure success for our students in partnership with you and every APS employee, parent, community stakeholder and volunteer.

**Jason Esteves | Chair, Atlanta Board of Education**

# At-Large Board Members Hold Listening Sessions

**A**t-Large Board Members — Seat 7, **Kandis Wood Jackson**; Seat 8, **Cynthia Briscoe Brown**; and Seat 9, **Jason Esteves** — hosted listening sessions in each of APS' nine clusters during the 2018-19 school year. Because the At-Large members represent the entire city, they wanted to listen to and learn from APS stakeholders in every school and every neighborhood across Atlanta.

"The 2018-2019 school year was the first year we hosted these meetings, and we believe it was a great idea as they each

were a huge success," said Jackson. "We met at restaurants and community centers to help make the meetings far more informal than our board meetings."

Nine listening sessions were held and were well attended. Feedback from the sessions helped the At-Large members discern trends and issues across the District and impacted the Board's planning process for the upcoming school year. Due to the success of the listening sessions, the At-Large Board Members decided to continue a second round. Stay tuned for future dates and locations.

## ABOE Works on 2020-2025 Strategic Plan

In March 2019, after an extensive and thorough eight-month engagement process, the Board authorized the Superintendent to develop the 2020-2025 Strategic Plan with ongoing community and stakeholder engagement. The strategic plan will be in alignment with the Vision of School Excellence, APS's Portrait of a Graduate and the Equity Policy. Community engagement on strategic planning, including the State of the Clusters and other community forums, will take place during the first semester of the school year.

### **Tuesday, Aug. 20, 2019**

#### **Therrell Cluster**

D.M. Therrell High School  
3099 Panther Tr., SW 30311

### **Thursday, Aug. 22, 2019**

#### **Carver Cluster**

George Washington Carver High School  
55 McDonough Blvd., SE 30315

### **Monday, Aug. 26, 2019**

#### **Jackson Cluster**

Martin Luther King, Jr. Middle School  
545 Hill St., SE 30312

### **Thursday, Aug. 29, 2019**

#### **North Atlanta Cluster**

North Atlanta High School  
4111 Northside Pkwy., NW 30327

### **Thursday, Sep. 5, 2019**

#### **Grady Cluster**

Henry W. Grady High School  
929 Charles Allen Dr., NE 30309

### **Tuesday, Sep. 10, 2019**

#### **Mays Cluster**

Young Middle School  
3116 Benjamin E. Mays Dr., SW 30311

### **Thursday, Sep. 12, 2019**

#### **Washington Cluster**

Booker T. Washington High School  
45 Whitehouse Dr., NW 30314

### **Wednesday, Sep. 18, 2019**

#### **Douglass Cluster/B.E.S.T./**

#### **Coretta Scott King**

Frederick Douglass High School  
225 Hamilton E. Holmes Dr., NW 30318

### **Tuesday, Sep. 24, 2019**

#### **South Atlanta Cluster**

Crawford W. Long Middle School  
3200 Latona Dr., SW 30354



**Atlanta Board of Education**



## ABOE Adopts Equity Policy

In April, the ABOE approved the first Equity Policy in APS history. Thanks to the generous funding from the Annie E. Casey Foundation and guidance from the National Equity Project Board members on the Equity Task Force were able to do extensive work on the policy over a six-month period, including research into similar policies nationwide, four retreats with the full Board, 62 stakeholder interviews, and five community engagement sessions, in addition to numerous meetings with the nine community members appointed to the Equity Taskforce Advisory Committee. At-Large Board Member **Cynthia Briscoe Brown**, who chairs the Policy Review Committee and participated in the Task Force, stated, "This new policy puts equity front and center in every decision we make and every dollar we spend. Making equity part of everything we do moves us toward our goal of remedying opportunity and learning gaps in the school system and creating a barrier-free environment which will enable all students to graduate ready for college and career." More information is available at: <https://tinyurl.com/ABOEequitypolicy>.

## APS Developing a New Facilities Master Plan

# SUCCESS SNAPSHOTS

## Atlanta College & Career Academy Expands

In December 2018, the ABOE began the implementation of a Phase Two expansion of the Atlanta College & Career Academy (ACCA). Understanding that ACCA is a critical component not only for realizing APS' mission of preparing students for college and career, but also for meeting new state standards within CCRPI, the ABOE began a comprehensive design process which resulted in an innovative program grounded in an in-depth understanding of the students and families to be served. The new ACCA will provide strong, deep, and relevant career education which students can attend while also being fully involved in their local schools, and will also improve access to internships, exchange programs, and work-based learning for all students pursuing career pathways. Changes to existing programs will occur in order to fully integrate District offerings into the new, comprehensive program, including the closing of Crim High School as of the end of school year 2019-20 and the restructuring of other non-traditional options. Stakeholder meetings and public hearings were held from January to April of this year to share the changes with the community.

"The changes to ACCA will provide more coherence in programing, providing students with more efficient supports to determine what is the best option to ensure they graduate — including those students who are unable to meet the dual enrollment criteria, those with special needs, and English learners," said ABOE District 3 Representative **Michelle Olympiadis**. "The expansion will also provide students from across the district access to several pathways with courses that are not currently available at most APS high schools."

## Board Looks to Students for Advice

Last Year, ABOE established the Student Advisory Council (SAC) to advise the Board on policies and issues most important to them. "Student interaction and interest in school policies and programs are integral to the work of the Board," said ABOE District 6 Representative **Eshé Collins**. SAC members will explore a variety of topics related to rigorous and diverse academic experiences, extracurricular opportunities, comprehensive student support services, fair and consistent school culture and discipline, authentic platforms for student voice and representation, technology, college and career readiness, student leadership, and community outreach. Comprised of students who were appointed or elected to their Student Government Associations, SAC members will receive training on how to best represent their peers and school district through public speaking, understanding education legislation, Robert's Rules of Order, and student advocacy.

With a number of inactive schools and vacant properties in the district, the Board convened over the course of two retreats in 2018, and several small group meetings through the beginning of 2019, to discuss the status and condition of every APS facility. During these retreats, ABOE considered the District's space allocation and capacity, as well as the City's projected growth and demographics. "We looked at housing trends and other key factors, all of which will inform a future Facilities Master Plan," said ABOE District 4 Representative **Nancy Meister**. With the help of the Sizemore Group, and after receipt of 2020 census data, the Facilities Master Plan should be complete in time for the start date of 2022 SPLOST funding. The ABOE and administration expect to engage stakeholders throughout the facilities planning process.



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## Let's Talk!

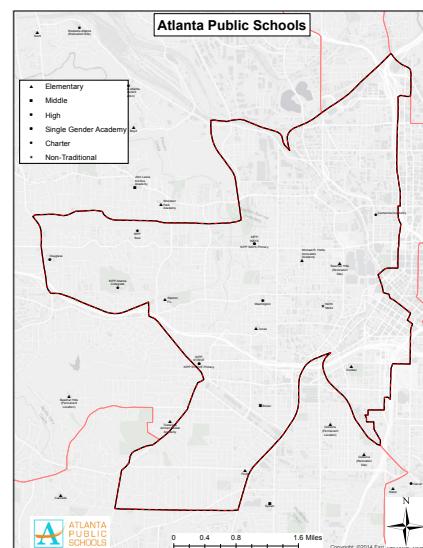
### Introducing a New Communication Tool

The upcoming school year will bring a new and improved way of communicating among the APS community. "Let's Talk! is a two-way, cloud-based customer service solution that instantly connects the community to APS decision makers, available 24 hours a day, seven days a week from any computer, tablet, or smartphone," said ABOE District 1 Representative **Leslie Grant**. Simply click the Let's Talk! button or pop out tab at [www.AtlantaPublicSchools.us](http://www.AtlantaPublicSchools.us). There's also a user app for both iOS and Android devices. Download the app and use our Let's Talk! ID to access the APS Let's Talk! page.



## District 2 to Hold Special Election

Nine candidates are running for the ABOE District 2 seat, which has been vacant since early this year. An election to fill the unexpired term through 2021 will be held Sept. 17, 2019. If needed, a runoff election will take place Oct. 15. More information on the election can be found on the City of Atlanta Municipal Clerk's website at [tinyurl.com/APSspezialelection2019](http://tinyurl.com/APSspezialelection2019).



## NOTEWORTHY

- Board Member **Leslie Grant** was appointed to the Executive Board of the Council of Great City Schools.
- Board Member **Erika Mitchell** was appointed to the City of Atlanta Census 2020 Committee, National School Boards Association Council of Urban Boards of Education Steering Committee and Georgia Statewide Human Trafficking Taskforce Workgroup.