



**Facilities Master Planning Community Engagement  
Focus Groups  
Fall 2022**

Thank you for engaging with us on the **Potential Excess Properties** conversation.

**Below are the high-level themes and tensions we heard across the four focus groups held September 7th & 8th:**

**Themes we heard:**

- Consider reducing the weight of the **Risk Hazards** criteria as all risks are not created equal
- Consider putting more weight on the **Utilization** criteria
- Consider the **value of the property** as criteria in the decision to dispose
- Consider current **environmental conditions** of the property as a criteria
- Disposal is an acceptable option, but with conditions. There should be **caution applied when selling property** to developers for uses that may have a **negative outcome** down the line (e.g., gentrification, creating greater wealth disparities)
- There is a **desire to remain engaged** and have influence in the next phase of this process (i.e., what happens to held/disposed properties)
- In favor of creating **partnerships with nonprofits and community resource organizations** that can convert APS properties into much needed community resource centers
- Provide **information** to the community in an easily understandable format (*In response, we created the attached one-pager summarizing the proposed criteria before taking community engagement into consideration*)

**Tensions you surfaced:**

- Population projections are not absolute and therefore, a particular **cluster could experience an unanticipated surge or slowdown** in growth in the next 30 years
- Railroads (i.e., MARTA) may be **useful for upper grade students while potentially a liability with younger students**



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- Disposing may make sense in **building the community/neighborhood**, but **not if it is at a cost to the community** (i.e., further gentrification, allows 'unwanted' businesses, etc.)
- Weighing current benefits of disposal (i.e., removing blight; property sales increase financial resources in APS) versus benefits of holding the property for needs that may arise in the future
- **Historical significance** of buildings **may or may not be of importance** to the community
- Property value in **"booming" cluster would garner more financial resources** for the district if sold; yet doing so would **reduce the availability of space** for operational capacity.

**Our Next steps:**

The Sizemore Group will submit a final recommendation report to the Superintendent on September 15. That report will influence (in-part, or fully) the proposal that is brought to the Atlanta Board of Education in November for first read.

At that point, we will reach back out to this group to provide you with an update on how we used your feedback to identify changes that appear in the report and/or in the Superintendent's proposal. We will also identify potential actions steps in the on-going excess properties process.

We thank you for remaining engaged with us in this process.