



## Local School Council

# MEETING MINUTES

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**Call to order:** With a quorum being present and the chair being absent, the meeting of the Council was called to order by Dr. Murray at 4:11 p.m. on February 5, 2013. In the absence of the secretary, Dr. Murray asked that Mr. Campbell take the minutes. Dr. Murray led the council in the pledge of allegiance.

Dr. Murray informed the council that Ms. McLeod had called to inform him that she would be absent and that he would act as chair during the meeting. He then invited members to update the council on old business.

### Members present:

- Dr. Murray
- Mr. Curtis
- Sharon Bray
- John Webster
- Mr. Campbell
- Angela Robinson

**Guests present:** Lynette Slovensky, parent

**Adoption of Agenda:** Since Ms. McLeod's absence was a recent development, he did not have an agenda.

### Old Business:

- Mr. Webster stated that Ms. Bray had sent the LSC members copies of Superintendent Errol Davis's response to the Inman Task Force's recommendation about a 6th grade academy (attachment A). Ms. Bray informed the council that an expansion on the Inman campus was the most popular proposal. The second most popular site, which Ms. Bray said was supported by the Inman staff and the Grady representatives to the task force, was a site adjacent to the beltline near the Park Tavern. Ms. Bray said that APS might be able to arrange a land swap as part of the Beltline TAD agreement. The third site considered was the David T. Howard building in the old Fourth Ward, which was advocated by the Hope-Hill representatives, but was unpopular with the Inman staff and other task force members due to the site's distance from the main Inman campus.

Ms. Robinson asked if Ms. Bray knew the details of a potential land swap between APS and the City of Atlanta. Ms. Bray said she didn't believe anyone on the task force knew those specifics. Ms. Robinson reminded that Superintendent Davis would have a cluster meeting on Thursday evening. Dr. Murray stated that cluster meetings often involved updates from the cluster's principals more so than from the superintendent.

- Mr. Webster asked if David White, Regional K-12 Executive Director of Schools, had responded to the invitation the LSC had extended to him. Dr. Murray said that Mr. White had and would attend the council's meeting on April 2. Mr. Webster outlined the issues the LSC would want to discuss with Mr. White. These included creating more accurate enrollment estimates, increasing the speed of the hiring process, and discussing how the expanded capacity at Inman Middle School would eventually lead to overcrowding at Grady.

Mr. Webster read a summary of Inman's enrollment into the record (attachment B). He emphasized that the chart was prepared by a parent and may contain errors. Mr. Webster then distributed information on the middle schools which Grady's current students attended (attachment C), provided by Grady High School instructional coach Mr. Byron Barnes. He noted that the percentage of Grady students coming from Inman Middle School increased with each class.

Ms. Bray noted that the increasing percentage of students from Inman were likely the result of rezoning and the district's new policy limiting or eliminating student transfers. Ms. Bray added that she believes that the percentage of Inman students who choose to attend Grady will increase. She stated that, anecdotally, she's seeing an increase in the number of students who are transferring to private school after fifth grade. This leads her to believe that students who in the past would have attended Inman and then a private high school will have already transferred out of the APS system before Inman and that those who remain may be more likely to continue on to Grady.

Based on past percentages, Mr. Webster estimated that approximately 259 new Inman students would replace 157 graduating Inman students and 14 students who'd attended King (which is no longer zoned to Grady). Mr. Campbell noted that some current 11th graders may be repeating the grade and possibly graduating this spring, thus further reducing overall enrollment. Even considering those, Mr. Webster estimated that within two or three years, steadily increasing enrollment would push Grady's enrollment over 1,500 students. Mr. Webster reiterated that these were approximate estimates, but still indicated that Grady's enrollment was steadily increasing toward a size that would be uncomfortable for the current building size. Ms. Bray added that enrollment was growing at the feeder schools to Inman (Morningside, Mary Lin, and the new Springdale Park). These students would begin matriculating at Inman in three years and at Grady in six. Given the time necessary to

both plan and implement a campus expansion, APS should begin discussing Grady's enrollment and capacity now.

Ms. Robinson said we should talk to Mr. White and explain these issues, and then provide him an opportunity to share his thoughts which may or may not include plans already in development. She suggested that district personnel may not be as acutely aware of Grady's enrollment and capacity issues. Ms. Bray noted that we may need to convince district representatives that enrollment should not exceed 1,500 as some district personnel have assumed Grady had a capacity of as much as 1,800. Mr. Webster summarized the conversation, stating that we would need to explain the capacity issues so that we could proactively plan rather than reacting to a crisis.

Dr. Murray said that plans that involved reducing enrollment would also decrease the number of staff allocated to the school and could therefore limit course offerings. As an example, he explained that the College Board was considering Grady as 1 of 31 new schools to offer 3 new A.P. courses. However, he would need to hire a new teacher in order to have an instructor with the background necessary to teach the new classes. If Grady lost enrollment and staff, the school would be unable to offer this new class.

Mr. Webster asked if, given current projections, Grady would be allocated an additional teacher next year. Dr. Murray responded that Grady should increase its teaching staff by at least one. Ms. Bray asked if additional A.P. classes would also require additional space. Dr. Murray said that he'd need to dedicate a computer lab to the class, but that the issues were still being considered and discussed. He projected that he and the College Board would reach a decision by March.

- Ms. Bray asked if the district was still considering early registration for high school. Dr. Murray said that the initial start date for early registration was January 28, but that principals still had not receive additional information as of that date. He said that more information should be forthcoming at the district's next principal's meeting. He added that Ms. Holland and the scheduling committee were working on creating schedules for current students so that they would be completed when the enrollment process begins.

Ms. Bray asked if the district was still considering a cluster-wide registration, so that parents with students at multiple grades and schools in the cluster can go to one location for registration instead of visiting each individual school. Dr. Murray said that he had no information on that, but thought it would be an easy solution to several registration problems.

- Ms. Bray stated that, when the LSC met on March 5 at 5:30, the LSC should begin preparing for the council's spring election.

- Mr. Webster if we had met the deadline for responding to the open records request the LSC had recently received. Dr. Murray said we submitted as much information as we had as of the deadline, but we were missing many of this year's minutes. He added that it was district-wide records request.

Dr. Murray asked Mr. Campbell if he'd submitted the minutes from the last two meetings. Mr. Campbell answered that for the previous meeting, he'd taken the minutes, but for the December meeting, Ms. Sonya Robinson, the secretary, had taken minutes. However, Mr. Campbell added that since Ms. Sonya Robinson was unable to submit the December minutes when the open records request came to the LSC, he had typed up his notes from December and sent them to Ms. McLeod so that she could possibly submit them in lieu of minutes. Dr. Murray asked if Mr. Campbell had distributed the January minutes to the LSC. Mr. Campbell answered that he'd only sent his January minutes to the chair, Ms. McLeod, and the secretary, Ms. Sonya Robinson, for their approval. Ms. Angela Robinson stated that submitting the minutes to the chair and secretary was the appropriate procedure. She asked Mr. Campbell to ask Ms. McLeod for permission to distribute those minutes to the entire council so that it could approve the minutes at the next meeting.

**Adjourn:** There being no further business Chair made a motion to adjourn. It was seconded by Mr. Webster to adjourn. Motion carried and the meeting was adjourned at 4:54 pm.