

Members in attendance: Ms. Sharon Bray, chairwoman and parent representative; Dr. Vincent Murray, vice chairman and principal; Mr. James Campbell, secretary and teacher representative; Ms. Gayla Blair, teacher representative; Mr. Ruben Brown, parent representative; Mr. Brian Kish, parent representative; Ms. Angela Robinson, business representative; Ms. Renee' Steckl, parent representative; Mr. John Webster, parent representative

Members absent: none

Guests in attendance: Mr. Byron Barnes, instructional coach; Ms. Cecily Harsh-Kinnane, parent; Mr. Rodney Howard, assistant principal; Mr. Jasper Jewell, program manager for high school athletics for Atlanta Public Schools; Mr. Archer Kinnane, student; Mr. Rudy Parsons, regional facilities manager for Atlanta Public Schools; Dr. David Propst, assistant principal; Dr. Dawn Stoner, instructional coach; Mr. Joshua Weinstock, student

With all members present, Ms. Bray called the meeting to order at 4:01 p.m. on April 1, 2014.

Mr. Campbell moved to adopt the agenda. Ms. Steckl seconded the motion. The Council unanimously adopted the agenda. Mr. Campbell moved to adopt the minutes from the previous meeting. Mr. Kish seconded the motion. The Council unanimously adopted the minutes.

Dr. Murray told the Council that seniors Tucker Lancaster and Samuel Heller would be valedictorian and salutatorian, respectively. Student Archer Kinnane, the school's STAR student, will represent Grady at the regional competition for STAR students. Dr. Murray informed the Council that 12 Grady students were finalists for the Governors Honors Program.

Ms. Bray reported that the Council had received a letter from Mr. Larry Hoskins, Atlanta Public Schools Superintendent of Operations. Mr. Hoskins reported that no movement on a bus lane for Grady had occurred. Ms. Bray had called Mr. Jere Smith who said that he was working on conceptual design and budget, but that the bus lane would not be installed by August. Ms. Bray reported that Mr. Smith suggested the Transportation and Safety Office could provide a short term solution. She suggested perhaps inviting Chief Sands back to a Council meeting. Mr. Webster proposed creating a subcommittee to coordinate the bus lane with Chief Sands. Ms. Bray stated that Dr. Propst and the Grady safety committee were coordinating with Chief Sands.

Ms. Bray asked about the most current plans for the engineering laboratory. Dr. Murray stated that, after speaking with Dr. Maze, he would still like to pursue the wing extension. However, that would displace social studies. More immediately, Dr. Murray stated that he is pursuing moving the current lab from the dance studio to the Eddie S. Henderson, Sr. Stadium, located on Grady's grounds. The dance studio has been a serviceable but less than ideal space. The lab's presence in the main building would likely cause distractions as the equipment is loud. Furthermore, JROTC may lose sections, thereby freeing up space in the stadium. Ms. Bray asked if the Council could help in facilitating the move. Dr. Murray answered that anything involving the stadium would likely benefit from the Council's involvement. He repeated that the stadium was not the optimal space, but that it was the best available. Ms. Steckl stated that, as a curriculum and instruction issue, the lab should take precedence over potential athletics-related use of the space.

The Council welcomed Mr. Jewell, who addressed the Council. Mr. Jewell first addressed a bus-parking difficulty that had occurred at Grady prior to the meeting. He explained that the district usually uses the Lakewood stadium for weekday events as it has ample parking and eight bus lanes. Grady track coach Del Ellington had requested a weekday event. The district athletics office approved the use of Grady for the event as they were unaware that 10 to 15 teams would attend. Due to the traffic in midtown, the athletics office believed fewer teams were attending the Grady meet. Furthermore, a more central location in terms of the city would decrease transportation costs. Mr. Jewell apologized on behalf of the athletics office for not having a full understanding of the size of the meet.

Mr. Jewell relayed that the athletics office instituted a new policy. As bigger meets take more time, track meets on weeknights will be capped at four teams. Furthermore, no more meets with five or more teams will be held at Grady due to the traffic and parking difficulties.

Mr. Jewell also addressed issues regarding the very powerful sound system at the stadium. As a temporary solution, the volume for the speakers will be kept at the lowest level to prevent disturbing residents living near Grady. He added that the athletics office is working on a more long-term solution as they do not want Grady's neighbor's uncomfortable with sporting events being held in the area.

Mr. Kish asked if North Atlanta's football field would be functional in time for the fall semester. Mr. Jewell responded that the seating facilities were inadequate for that purpose. The field could be used for practice, JV sports, and sports which drew smaller crowds than football. He added that the field would have to be utilized during Music Midtown and other events near Grady. However, North Atlanta's varsity football games would have to be at Grady because of the state's minimum capacity requirements. Mr. Kish asked if additional seating capacity could be added to North Atlanta. Mr. Jewell answered that the state requires 4,000 seats. North Atlanta has only 400. The seating backs up to a creek, which prevents expansion. Ms. Bray asked if the fields at Mays or other schools could be used. Mr. Jewell responded that, ideally, all JV games would return to their home schools. He stated that the use of SPLOST money could ultimately save the district money in terms of staffing and transportation costs, while also building community spirit. He stated that the athletics office had extracted promises to fund additional seating for some schools in the past. He stated he would revisit that issue with district.

Ms. Bray asked if Grady could get better signage for the front of the tennis courts. Mr. Jewell said he would pursue that issue. He asked if busses always parked in that area. Dr. Murray responded that they had at least since 1991. Mr. Robinson contributed that the busses had done so as far back as the 1970s.

Ms. Steckl added that the busses created a variety of issues. Parents are unable to park at the school for night events and cannot park on the street due to neighborhood parking policies. The busses in the student parking lot also created safety issues by having large vehicles in a small parking lot with students. Mr. Jewell responded that his office had a police officer assigned to the parking lot for games. Ms. Steckl reported that those officers were typically in the stadium, not in the parking lot. Mr. Jewell responded that the officers should be stationed in the parking lot.

Ms. Harsh-Kinnane stated that she understood the busses were to park on 8<sup>th</sup> Street, not in the 10<sup>th</sup> Street student lot. Mr. Jewell responded that during double-header events, all busses using the 8<sup>th</sup> Street lot is not feasible. He explained that the stadium director should coordinate the parking process with busses and stated he would add that to his office's rules and regulations. He stated that Major Wayne Whitmire of the Atlanta Police Department told the athletics office that the police would need to close the whole street to have all busses park on 8<sup>th</sup> Street. Mr. Webster suggested having busses drop students off, but park off-site. Mr. Jewell responded that off-site parking was an excellent idea. The stadium has radio communication with the busses. Given that games are approximately two hours long, the stadium could radio busses before the end of play. The Council discussed several options for a parking location, including the Lakewood Stadium and the Martin Luther King building. Mr. Jewell stated that the Atlanta Civic Center was probably not a viable option as his office has been unable to coordinate events with them in the past. Ms. Steckl suggested the Martin Luther King Center parking lot, and Ms. Bray suggested the old Walden building. Mr. Jewell said he would look at those locations. Ms. Steckl asked if the drop-offs would all be on 8<sup>th</sup> Street and not 10<sup>th</sup>. Mr. Jewell responded that Officer Antwan Denson, the school resource officer, preferred opposing team members entered the stadium from opposite sides.

Ms. Bray asked about the possible use of the proposed 8<sup>th</sup> Street bus lane. Mr. Jewell responded that a bus lane for either 8<sup>th</sup> Street or Charles Allen is being worked on, but will likely not be ready for fall.

Ms. Bray asked if the athletic department could coordinate with Grady staff to avoid scheduling conflicts. For example, in the past, plays and sports events have been on the same night. Both the theater and the stadium use the same parking lot, causing difficulties. Mr. Jewell said he would just need a point of contact at Grady. Dr. Murray stated that Mr. Brian Montero, who oversees the Grady calendar, or Mr. Jake Dreiling, who oversees the theater, could serve in that capacity.

Ms. Bray asked if the engineering lab that must be relocated out of the old gym building could be moved to the far side of the stadium. Mr. Jewell stated that the far side of the stadium had a boiler room and offices, rendering it 70% full. Ms. Steckl responded that one of the offices was for athletic director, Mr. Jeff Beggs, who has two additional offices; one at Lakewood and one at the downtown office on Trinity Avenue. Mr. Jewell clarified that Mr. Beggs had an office at Grady and downtown, but that the middle school athletic director and another employee work part of the time at Lakewood and part of the time at the Henderson stadium. Ms. Bray responded that having those offices at Grady, as opposed to at another location, was not a necessity. Grady perpetually has a shortage of space, while other APS buildings are operating below capacity. Mr. Jewell said he would take the request back to the athletic office. Ms. Robinson asked if Lakewood had any space. Mr. Jewell said Lakewood had room to build, but was underdeveloped. He asked how much space the engineering lab needs. Mr. Campbell responded that, ideally, they needed 5,600 square feet for two labs meeting national certification specifications, but minimally a space about the size of two classrooms.

Ms. Bray thanked Mr. Jewell for coming.

Ms. Bray welcomed Mr. Parsons. Ms. Bray asked Mr. Parsons about the gravel parking lot on 10<sup>th</sup> Street. Ms. Steckl stated that AT&T had paid \$10,000 to use the lot for the Music Midtown festival, but the lot was never repaired. She inquired about the disposition of those funds. Mr. Parsons responded that AT&T's payment was to go into APS's general fund, but he was not sure if AT&T had yet paid that money. He said he would ask the district's property manager about the status of the payment. He added that AT&T had put down gravel as promised, but that no one in facilities knew of this until two days after they had done so. AT&T provided an invoice indicating that they had put down gravel, however, they did not put down enough gravel. Ms. Steckl asked if the lot could be repaired. Mr. Parsons responded that it could not be repaired and would require capital improvements. The lot would need drainage and, ideally, blacktop as opposed to gravel. He stated he had addressed this issue with capital improvement. Ms. Steckl asked if this constituted a formal request for blacktop. Mr. Parsons responded that such a request must be generated by the school and sent to the capital improvement office. Dr. Propst stated that the school had not yet done that. Mr. Parsons added that Mr. Jere Smith, Director of Capital Projects, was aware of the need for capital improvements to the lot. Ms. Steckl stated that many in the Grady community were disappointed with AT&T's treatment of the school. Mr. Parsons agreed, stating that his office was also disappointed with AT&T. A gas line was damaged while AT&T had use of the lot. AT&T denied responsibility for hitting the gas line, but the district had documentation that they had. He stated AT&T would not be welcome to use the lot again.

Ms. Bray asked who negotiated use of the lot with AT&T. Mr. Parsons responded Ms. Carla Pennyman, the property manager. Ms. Bray stated that AT&T's payment should have first been used for improvements at Grady, not gone straight to the district. Mr. Brown asked what was necessary to initiate the capital improvement request. Dr. Propst responded that he knew the process and would generate the request.

Mr. Parsons stated that the district was already aware of the schools needs with regard to the 8<sup>th</sup> Street bus lane and engineering lab. A project manager had already been assigned to draft plans.

On behalf of one of his students, Mr. Campbell asked how to repair the clocks in the hallways. Mr. Parsons stated that clocks were actually handled by the security office, but that he was working with security to repair clocks at both Grady and other schools. He would follow up with security and Dr. Propst.

Ms. Bray thanked Mr. Parsons for coming.

Ms. Bray asked Mr. Barnes if he was still planning to have classroom retrofitted to be science labs. Mr. Barnes responded that the plans were ready if needed, but that they were on hold pending staffing decisions. Grady may lose science teachers due to reduced enrollment, rendering the additional labs unnecessary. Ms. Bray asked when the administration would know about staffing decisions. Dr. Murray responded that he would receive some information in two weeks. The teacher allotment will be based on projected enrollment, but science is a critical need, so Grady may be able to replace the departing science teachers. Mr. Barnes noted that the district purchase card will be funded in July, making buying the necessary furniture and supplies relatively easy should such purchases become necessary. Ms. Bray asked if Mr. Barnes, Dr. Stoner, and the parent-led science support team needed the LSC in this process. Dr. Stoner stated that they were fine for the moment, but would make note of the offer of help should it become necessary.

Ms. Bray asked the status of the pathways. Dr. Murray explained that changing from academies to pathways was a nomenclature change to avoid confusion over core class structures. The current structure would remain in place.

Ms. Bray stated that the elections for the parent positions on the Local School Council had been announced. The Knight Lights had run the announcement with a mistake, but the election committee fixed that mistake.

Mr. Campbell raised the subject of a tribute to Dr. Murray, who would be leaving Grady as principal after 23 years. Dr. Murray recused himself. Mr. Campbell stated that Dr. Murray's removal had negatively impacted morale among the faculty. He suggested a way to ameliorate the effects of Dr. Murray's removal was a lasting tribute to Dr. Murray's service. Mr. Campbell moved that the LSC recommend naming Grady's auditorium "The Vincent D. Murray Auditorium." Ms. Steckl seconded the motion. The Council voted 8 to 0 to carry the motion. Ms. Bray raised the issue of a celebration of Dr. Murray's service. Ms. Steckl suggested a ceremony to commemorate the naming of the auditorium. Ms. Bray agreed that a ceremony for the naming would be a good celebration of Dr. Murray's service.

Ms. Steckl raised the issue of community members using Grady's front lawn and damaging the turf. After consulting with art teacher Mr. John Brandhorst, she suggested adding a flower garden as it would be attractive, effective in deterring misuse of the property, and within Grady's power to install. Ms. Bray agreed, adding that a sign would be ineffective as people would ignore or remove them. Ms. Steckl said she would coordinate with Mr. Brandhorst.

Mr. Campbell moved to adjourn the meeting. Ms. Steckl seconded the motion. Ms. Bray adjourned the meeting at 5:10 p.m.