



WASHINGTON
CLUSTER ADVOCACY GROUP

June 28, 2016

Dr. Meria Carstarphen
130 Trinity Avenue SW
Atlanta, GA 30303

Dear Dr. Meria Carstarphen:

SUBJECT: WCAG's Request for the Washington Cluster

First, we would like to thank you for honoring WCAG's request to meet with you. We appreciate you and Board members Amos, Collins and Westmoreland for taking the time to hear the communities' concerns about the Washington Cluster. While WCAG's mission is to ensure that Atlanta Public Schools students that attend Washington Cluster schools receive equitable resources, we are as equally concerned that all of our city's children receive the best education possible. Contrary to what Board member Westmoreland may have thought, I as well as most of the WCAG members and our neighbors who reside in NPU K, L, S and T answered the tax payer rallying call and supported APS in its request for additional financial support. We supported the E-SPLOST because of our cluster's firsthand experience around the impact that lackluster facilities can have on student learning, school culture and communities. Please find the requests WCAG made on behalf of the children served by Washington Cluster schools below.

WCAG's Request:

1. We are requesting that Bethune students remain in their original school footprint as the "state of the art" STEM school, M.A. Hollis Innovation Academy, is being designed and built. We ask that Dr. Carstarphen honors APS's verbal commitment to make the K-8 STEM Academy (M.A. Hollis Innovation Academy) a true flag ship STEM school in name, function AND physical asset. Coincidentally, this request will not only prevent any potential EPA violations resulting from a building being occupied during renovations but also, fiscally speaking, this approach will avoid potentially encumbering unnecessary expenses resulting from moving the K-8 school twice (to conclude necessary construction projects and technology upgrades needed to successfully support the school). Given all of the investments noted in Equity for Atlanta map (see attached), the community is confident that we can work with APS, business and philanthropic community to raise the needed funds for the HVAC system. Please advise via written correspondence regarding this request.

Proudly serving the
following Washington
Cluster Schools:

M. Agnes Jones
Elementary School

M.R. Hollis Innovation
Academy

Tuskegee Airman Global
Academy

Brown Middle School

Washington High School

2. Written correspondence from APS to WCAG verifying that APS was informed by Georgia DOE (Department of Education) that Washington High School is no longer on the OSD list and its effective date of that decision.
3. APS has set a precedent relative to making adjustments to the attendance zone for students and families. WCAG is requesting that the Washington High School cluster returns to its original 2005 footprint. In addition, we are requesting written correspondence regarding the Superintendent's current stance on the grandfathered families and English Avenue attendance zone changes. The correspondence should articulate the fact that only the English Avenue students currently attending school in the Grady High School cluster as of March 2016 shall be grandfathered into the Grady Cluster and noted that it will not be extended to another family member or any new residents who may move to that sector of English Avenue.
4. We are requesting individual detailed transition plans using the same or better format offered to MLK Middle School for each transition occurring within the WHS cluster.
5. WCAG advised Dr. Massey that in lieu of building out the well area located in Brown Middle School's basement, WCAG wanted to exercise the previously articulated Plan B option which is to build out the remaining previously approved 3500+ sq. ft. on the footprint of the old Patchwork Farm at Brown Middle School. We are requesting that authorization in writing.
6. Please provide the construction budget for the Hollis Innovation Academy and Tuskegee Airman Global Academy, along with what will be upgraded, adjusted and/or changed prior to the start of the 2016-2017 school year for both of these schools.

Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at 214-870-4601. We would like to receive a response to the aforementioned requests on or before July 14, 2016.

Sincerely,

Erika Brown

Erika Brown
Co-President, WCAG

EB/sg