



## Founding Board Meeting Agenda & Notes

September 11, 2007

6:30 – 8:30 pm

Vortex, Laughing Skull Lounge

### 1. Conversion charters – exploring further

- a. APS targets: need enrollment data / trends for schools in Old Fourth Ward (CW Hill, John Hope, Walden Middle School) -- emailed Deborah Davenport 9-27-07.
- b. Graham Balch: meeting status with Dr. Hall, Sharron Pitts, CW Hill's principal Yolonda Brown? No action yet.
- c. Will EMO's consider conversion?

### 2. EMO's – Non-profits only -- exploring further

- a. Walton Family Foundation: Kelly O'Keefe indicates that Intown Academy will not be required to return the balance of the grant money if we opt to partner with an EMO. However, if we choose an EMO partnership, we will only be eligible for operating grants going forward. We will not be eligible for planning or startup grants. Also, if we choose the fellowship opportunity at Building Excellent Schools, we will receive grants through BES, and not WFF. In fact, WFF provides funding directly to BES. So all grant requests would be submitted to BES.
- b. Questions for EMO's:
  - i. Can/will an EMO consider a conversion charter?
  - ii. Flexibility in curriculum?
  - iii. Will EMO negotiate on payment as charter is already written?
  - iv. How many EMO board seats? Controlling interest?
  - v. How to keep donated monies separate from EMO?
- c. Charter Schools USA: minimum 600 students; continue talks; FL only? Dana to followup.
- d. Imagine Schools: Met w/ Gillian Horsely. Imagine will consider a partnership. Some concerns that Imagine has are these: do not want to disrupt their progress with the single gender academies and applying for a second campus (they were denied in the 2007 application process). The Wesley International Academy (K-8) started up in their first year with 300+ students (which is very high enrollment and unusual). Also, Imagine has adopted a new philosophy on partnerships: they will pursue the school, then garner community support. Dana to followup with Gillian in October.
- e. Dr. Otho Tucker meeting: Dr. Tucker can suggest other avenues beyond EMO's that might suit our needs. Followup meeting tbd in October.

### 3. Founding Board manual – Leah? 75% complete. Will complete for review by next meeting.

### 4. Site Search -- we will prioritize the locations in order of preference. Priorities listed below:

- a. Old Fourth Ward Historic Park (Willoughby Way); Trust for Public Land has the Creative Loafing (1 acre?) and the Cox Enterprises (5 acres to close mid 2008) under contract. Follow up on the Bellsouth property. Follow up with Victoria Talley of TPL. First priority is to assess interest within the Fourth Ward Alliance Steering Committee. Then present at the NPU M meeting in November.
- b. David T. Howard school: Tom Hills to canvas Kwanza Hall & Brenda Muhammed.
- c. Halpern property development: revisit in November with Halpern. Also canvas Ben Raney (Barry Real Estate Companies) on Mason property development.



- d. Beltline properties (Ben Raney / Mason properties): meet w/ Liz Coyle Thursday 9-13; MetroFresh w/ Leah, Dana, Tom.
  - e. Church's:
    - i. GUMC: \$15/sf; too expensive to pursue now.
    - ii. St. Mark's UMC revisit;
    - iii. Redeemer Lutheran CVI building on Peachtree: revisit
  - f. Realtors: Staubach, Paul Hannah; meeting in October
  - g. Woodruff Arts: Myrna Lubin forwarded message to Joe Bankoff. New Education Center to be built in conjunction with ASO and MARTA? Followup with Joe Bankoff.
  - h. Puppetry Arts Center: followup in October.
  - i. Civic center: Ackerman (needs followup)
  - j. Emory Healthcare: John McColl (needs followup)
- 5. Fiscal Responsibilities**
- a. Completed IRS 501c3 inquiry (thanks Hunton/Williams)
  - b. Nov. 15<sup>th</sup> IRS deadline – Form 990 due
  - c. IRS contractor reporting: how/when to report 1099's
- 6. Partnership status**
- a. New Century School meeting: Leah and Dana met with Angela Edmond on partnership opportunities. New Century is a private school, with only about 100 children. They have bought the property on Ralph McGill & Courtland. They will expand to no more than 200 students. Opportunities exist to partner on specials teachers, special education services, food service, transportation, etc., especially in the first years of the charter startup.
  - b. Woodruff Arts: revisit plans with Myrna Lubin in November.
  - c. Piedmont Park: After meeting with Halpern, determine need to circle back with Piedmont Park.
  - d. Center for Atlanta Progress – AJ Robinson agreed to provide support letter for application. Send him draft.
- 7. External Communications**
- a. Website status: Leah – working. ECD: November?
  - b. National Night Out – successful.
  - c. More engagement needed: especially Fourth Ward. Working neighbors associations (all 4 of them throughout the fall). Also start the NPU tour.
- 8. Grady HS football safety: letter writing campaign -- complete**
- 9. CINS meeting Wed. noon, East Lake Elementary**

**Attendees:** Dana Persons, Tom Hills, Tina Benoit, Leah McLeod