



Midtown Education Committee / Intown Academy
Meeting Minutes
December 6, 2006

Attendees: Dana Persons, Leah McLeod, Elizabeth Lieberman, Jennifer Balsler, Angela Birkes, Emma Ogley, Karyn Longhurst, Tom Sayre, Aaron Watson, Dean Leeper, Rod Chatham, George Bevington.

1. **CINS Donation:** Scott Edlein presented CINS (Council for Intown Neighbors and Schools) with \$500 MNA/MEC donation for teacher and education grants (eligible to all APS schools which feed Grady HS). Briefed CINS on The Intown Academy status.
2. **SPLOST III:** Dekalb Referendum to come before the Atlanta Board of Education in December. General public voting to take place in March 2007. Background: SPLOST II fell short by \$100 million, so have some ground to make up. Spending proposal will be reviewed by ABE in December. SPLOST I and II renovated 60 schools. SPLOST III will address 27 school renovations and capacity issues in the system.
3. **APS – just some of their initiatives:**
 - a. Small schools: revamp 'comprehensive schools' into smaller learning communities. 3 phase program, with Grady HS in the 3rd phase. Grady HS has initiated a task force to address alternative curriculums.
 - b. Increase teacher retention: training and mentorship
 - c. APS will no longer volunteer to participate in NAEP testing
 - d. Replace reform models in some schools to align with new GPS standards (ie. Core Knowledge does not follow new standards).
 - e. Math & science focus – raise these scores
4. **Morningside Elementary:**
 - a. Principal selection: Interviewing starts in Feb. 07.
 - b. Howard School acquisition: Will support 1 grade (K or 5th) for 3 years. APS realizes long term needs are a new K-5 school in this area. Working with Howard to build on.
5. **Inman Middle:** Principal Betsy Bockman returning from medical leave after Thanksgiving.
6. **The Intown Academy:**
 - a. Submitted **Letter of Intent** to startup public charter school Nov. 15th.
 - b. **Key Meetings completed in November:**
 - CINS, Q&A with Dr. Hall
 - ABE Rep. Cecily Harsch Kinnane & CINS
 - APS's Catalina Sibilsky
 - ADA: Greg Giornelli
 - GTRI: Interactive Classroom of Distinction, Technology seminar
 - ABE former rep./consultant Anne Harper

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- Andrew Broy, GDOE Director Charter Schools
- Home Park Civic Association meeting
- Grady HS Magnet Coordinator: Carrie MacBrien
- ABG: Tracy McClendon, Education Director
- Cousins Properties: John McColl, Sr. VP

c. Coming Up in December:

- 12/4, 4 pm: Atlanta Board of Education, Meeting of the Whole
- 12/5, 1 pm: Jim Borders, Novare Group
- 12/6, 6-8 pm; MEC meeting re: Intown Academy
- 12/7, 6 pm: Community Info Meeting by APS @ Morningside Elem.
- 12/8, 10 am: Cousins and Cousins Foundation: Larry Gellerstedt and Lisa Borders
- 12/13, noon: CINS meeting @ Morningside Elem.; "State of the Arts"
- 12/19, 10 am: GSU consultant/partner, Amy Flint
- 12/20, 6-8 pm: MEC meeting re: Intown Academy
- TBD:
 - MEC Q&A meeting with Dr. Hall / Mikkal Hart
 - Cecily H. Kinnane, CINS followup meeting
 - Mark Riley, ABE, Sartain Lanier Family Foundation
 - Caroline Wood, Consultant
 - Jack Halpern, Amsterdam Walk property
 - Woodruff Foundation
 - Debbie McCown, PPC
 - Scott Selig
 - John Perlman
 - APS, Jean Cohen, Charter school liaison
 - ABE Board Members
 - 2nd WFF Grant request due (\$10M); need academic and detailed business plan
 - More....

d. Long Term Timeline:

- March 15, 2007: APS Charter Application due
- July 31, 2007: Charter Application approval/disapproval due
- August, 2008: Startup of The Intown Academy

Other: State Rep., District 59, Margaret Kaiser will be invited to Traffic, Safety, Education, and Historical Preservation subcommittee meetings.