

To: ANCS Governing Board of Directors

c: Matt Underwood

From: Mitch White (on behalf of Grace Burley)

Date: April 18, 2015

In re: Charter Renewal, Attendance Zone and Enrollment Update

1. When Neighborhood Charter School and Atlanta Charter Middle School merged in 2011, the Georgia DOE of education allowed the combined school to retain separate priority enrollment zones, with the understanding ANCS would have to go to identical priority enrollment zones effective with our 2016 charter renewal. The Georgia DOE has confirmed its position multiple times that under state law, ANCS must have the same priority enrollment zones for both campuses effective with our 2016 Charter renewal. **We must make a change to one or both enrollment zones** so that they are the same. Our charter renews July 1, 2016, and we will submit our application in early fall, 2015.

2. The current priority enrollment zones for the EC are: 1. Neighborhoods of Grant Park and Ormewood Park; 2. The rest of Neighborhood Planning Unit "W"; 3. The rest of the City of Atlanta. The current priority enrollment zones for the MC are: 1. NPU-W; 2. The rest of the City of Atlanta.

3. Georgia State Law is likely to change (the bill has passed and is waiting for the Governor's signature) so that charter schools can give priority in their lottery to certain classes of students, including those who are eligible for free and reduced lunch. Once the bill becomes law, the GaDOE will issue guidance on how weighted lotteries can be implemented.

3. So far, the Board has taken the following actions:

- Asked the school leadership to review the issues and make their recommendations as to how the Board should approach this issue;
- Held a community meeting to describe the charter renewal process and attendance zone issue on March 24, 2015;
- Conducted a parent survey asking for feedback on the attendance zone issue and the possibility of holding a weighted lottery;
- Held an open Board work session on April 14, 2015, during which time the Board reviewed the available data and started to discuss the issues. The data the Board reviewed is available on the school website.

4. Our plans at this point include:

- Another community feedback session focused solely on the attendance zone and weighted lottery;

- Another Board working session (open to the public) to discuss our guiding principles when making these decisions, and narrow the data we will use to make these decisions;
- Possibly a 3rd Board working session (open to the public) to finalize options;
- A vote, probably at a June Board meeting (open to the public) called primarily for this purpose.

Note: All of the above will be listed on the school calendar when they are scheduled and are open to the public.

Anyone interested in this issue should attend any of the meetings listed above, come to a Board meeting and make a public comment, or contact any individual Board members (all contact information is available on the website).