

Dear Dr. Herring and Atlanta Board of Education Members,

The Morningside Lenox Park Association (MLPA) would like to thank you for all of the time, effort and energy being spent on the district's Facilities Master Plan (FMP). We know change is needed to address projected overcrowding across the Midtown cluster and greatly appreciate the opportunities for community feedback. This letter is in that continued spirit!

In the current proposed maps for both Inman facility scenarios, two small portions of our Morningside Lenox Park neighborhood are being excluded from the Morningside Elementary School (MES) zone. These two areas are (1) the "Manchester" division northwest of Cheshire Bridge Road and east of Piedmont Road (between Cheshire Bridge Road and the Buford Spring Connector) and (2) west of Monroe Drive and north of Amsterdam Avenue (between Monroe Drive and Piedmont Park). Along with the residents who live there, many of whom have reached out to us in unanimous opposition to being rezoned, **the MLPA Board does not support their exclusion from our neighborhood and asks that you rezone them back to MES.**

- The area northwest of Cheshire Bridge Road and west of Monroe Drive are recognized by the City of Atlanta as part of Morningside Lenox Park. For reference, you can confirm with this map from the City of Atlanta Police Department and choose Morningside/Lenox Park from the Select Neighborhood drop down menu under Tools:
 - <https://atlantapd.maps.arcgis.com/apps/dashboards/f341c778e4d04eef9aed32e300feeca1>
- We are grateful that one of the FMP priorities is to keep neighborhoods together, however these two areas are being alienated from Morningside Lenox Park and perhaps inadvertently lumped together with Piedmont Heights, Sherwood Forest and Ansley Park despite their more natural connectivity to Morningside Lenox Park.
- The distance to MES is much shorter than the distance to the Inman building or the Springdale Park campus, especially for families residing northwest of Cheshire Bridge Road. (MES is 1.3 miles from the corner of Piedmont Road and Cheshire Bridge, compared to Inman at 2.1 miles away and SPARK at 2.9 miles away.) This rezoning will not only remove the possibility of walkability for that zone, but will increase bus traffic on main roads. Those community members furthermore would have safer commutes from not needing to cross or travel on main thoroughfares such as Piedmont Road or Monroe Drive if allowed to continue at MES.
- Neighbors purchased property in these areas - and have lived here for years - because they wanted to be part of the Morningside Lenox Park community, including sending their kids to Morningside Elementary.
- Although we have not seen APS enrollment numbers in these two small areas, we believe that the numbers are extremely low and will have an insignificant impact on enrollment and/or capacity if allowed to continue at MES.

While we agree overcrowding must be resolved, the MLPA Board asks you to consider any home that qualifies for MLPA membership to be considered a household for the revised MES district.

Thank you for your attention and consideration. Please do not hesitate to reach out to us with any questions or for more information.

On behalf of the MLPA Board,

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