

Dr. Herring, ABOE representatives, Mr. Hoskins, and Mr. Norvell,

Inman Park Neighborhood Association Education Committee has reviewed documents presented during the March 30, 2021 “Listening Session” regarding the future use options of the Inman Middle School building. After much discussion and a poll of Inman Park parents, and in the absence of any further APS-led community engagement opportunities related to this matter, we are writing to express our position on the options given on March 30th.

We conducted our survey on a sliding scale from “strongly agree” to “strongly disagree.”

- The option with the **strongest disagreement** was New K-5 Elementary School Option 2: APS (Split Inman Park Neighborhood). We consider this option to be unacceptable. Inman Park is a small, but very cohesive neighborhood, one mile long and half a mile wide.
- The option with the **strongest agreement** was New 4th & 5th Grade Academy. This option brings together cluster children prior to middle school. The cluster has been strategizing for quite a while on ways to do this before the angsty adolescent years cause problems forming new relationships. We also feel that adding more preschool classrooms or bringing in a community partner to address an identified need could be explored for utilization of any “excess” space in Hope-Hill under this option.
- There was **strong agreement** for New K-5 Elementary School Options 1 and 3.

Regarding the Sizemore Group Proposal for a new K-5 our most pressing concern is the prospect that the modified Hope-Hill attendance zone would result in overcrowding of the school from Day 1. APS has a long history of planning facilities in this cluster that are at or over capacity in very short order. It is our understanding that APS is not considering the large percentage of Old Fourth Ward parents who currently send their children to charter or private or administrative transfer schools when calculating enrollment projections. As recently as four years ago, the percentage of APS-enrolled children living in the Hope-Hill zone who attended a different school (charter or transfer) was nearly 40%. It is unreasonable to assume this will remain the case and, given the school’s unusual property ownership situation, it is unclear whether expanding the facility is feasible.

IPNA Education Committee continues to remain concerned that this decision process still appears not to involve the Facilities Master Plan consultants, and there has been no community engagement since the March 30th session. We are hopeful that meeting was not intended to be the only engagement with community prior to any administration recommendation. We do not consider “Receiv(ing) community input on recommendation” scheduled for December-January to be involving the community in the decision.

Sincerely,

Inman Park Neighborhood Association Education Committee

Eric Goldberg, Chair
Regina Brewer
Kris Jester
Tamara Jones
Emily Kotzan
Galit Levitin
Julie Noble
Kila Posey
Vicki Rafferty