



The Buckhead Council of Neighborhoods

Board Meeting

September 8, 2016

Peachtree Presbyterian Church

6:45 – 8:15 PM

Meeting Minutes

Attendees

	<u>Full Name</u>	<u>Neighborhood/Organization</u>	<u>Email Address</u>
1	Cynthia Brown	Atlanta BOE Seat 8 At Large	cbriscoe_brown@atlanta.k12.ga.us
2	Gordon Certain	North Buckhead	gcertain@comcast.net
3	Michelle Constantinides	Morningside	
4	Jim Elgar	Loring Heights- Ceasar Mitchell's office	jimelgar@gmail.com
5	Jason Esteves	Atlanta BOE Seat 9 At Large	jesteves@atlanta.k12.ga.us
6	Erin Hames	President of ReformEd	
7	Cecily Harsch-Kinnane	Atlanta Board of Education Dist. 3	cecilyharsch@aol.com
8	Ken Hoogs	Paces	khoogs@CommercialCapitalAI.com
9	Lauren Jackson	Historic Brookhaven	laurenjackson1@mac.com
10	Alan Kauffmann	Ardmore Park	ajk123@icloud.com
11	Collin Kelley	Reporter Newspaper	collin@atlantaintownpaper.com
12	Walda Lavroff	North Buckhead	waldalavroff@gmail.com
13	Kathryn Laughlin	Ridgewood Heights/NPU-C	
14	Anny Martin	IntownAlliance/NPU-F Chair	
15	Nancy Meister	Atlanta Board of Education Dist. 4	nmeister@atlanta.k12.ga.us
16	Christopher Quinn	Vinings / AJC	cquinn@ajc.com
17	Jane Rawlings	Lindridge Martin Manor	Chair@npufatlanta.org
18	Santa Rick	N/A	sabnta@santarick.com
19	Jennifer Rose	Mt. Paran-Northside	jenprose@gmail.com
20	John Schaffner	Buckhead View	jfschaffner@gmail.com
21	Bob Schneider	Garden Hills	bobschneider@me.com
22	Tom Tidwell	West Paces Northside	tom@tidwell-law.com
23	Jody Collins Weatherly	Peachtree Heights West	jody@jodyweatherly.com
24	Fred Wooten	Buckhead Village	fredwooten130@yahoo.com

At least 2 attendees did not sign the attendance sign-in sheet and are not shown above.

Attendance by Neighborhood

	<u>Neighborhood</u>	<u>Attendees</u>
1	Ardmore Park	Alan Kauffmann
2	Buckhead Village	Fred Wooten
3	Garden Hills	Bob Schneider
4	Historic Brookhaven	Lauren Jackson
5	Lindridge Martin Manor	Jane Rawlings
6	Loring Heights	Jim Elgar
7	Mt. Paran-Northside	Jennifer Rose
8	North Buckhead	Gordon Certain, Walda Lavroff
9	Paces	Ken Hoogs
10	Peachtree Heights West	Jody Collins Weatherly
11	Ridgewood Heights	Kathryn Laughlin
12	West Paces Northside	Tom Tidwell

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BCN 2015/16 Officers (Executive Committee)

<u>Office</u>	<u>Officer</u>	<u>Neighborhood</u>	<u>Email</u>
Chairman	Tom Tidwell	West Paces Northside	tom@tidwell-law.com
Vice-Chairman	Ron Grunwald	Loring Heights	rgrunwald@bellsouth.net
Secretary	Gordon Certain	North Buckhead	gcertain@comcast.net
Treasurer	Debra Wathen	Paces	6wathens@bellsouth.net
Communications	Jeff Clark	Garden Hills	jeffbclark@gmail.com

BCN Standing Committees

<u>Committee</u>	<u>Chair</u>	<u>Email</u>
Executive Committee	Tom Tidwell	tom@tidwell-law.com
Education	Tom Tidwell	tom@tidwell-law.com
Development and Infrastructure	Ron Grunwald	rgrunwald@bellsouth.net
Transportation	Debra Wathen Elizabeth Scattergood	6wathens@bellsouth.net betsy.scattergood@gmail.com

Other (Legislative, NPU, Parks, Voter Education/Registration, etc.)

I. Welcome & Introductions

Chair Tom Tidwell called the meeting to order at about 6:45 PM. A quorum was present.

II. Approval of Minutes

Minutes for the August meeting were approved.

III. Admit New Member Neighborhoods

No neighborhoods asked to be considered for BCN membership.

IV. Procedure To Establish a Formal BCN Resolution

Chair Tom Tidwell outlined the need for BCN to become more effective in taking public positions to influence public policy to the benefit of Buckhead neighborhoods and residents. He handed out copies of the proposed protocol, asking representatives to discuss the process with their neighborhood associations to see if they have any feedback, especially if a neighborhood says they can't take positions. Care will be taken to protect the interests of individual neighborhoods that might be particularly impacted by a particular proposed policy.

This procedure might be relevant soon since the October BCN meeting will involve discussions about the two TSPLOST initiatives. A motion may be introduced for BCN to take a position on these initiatives before the November elections.

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V. Opportunity School District – Proposed Constitutional Amendment

“Shall the Constitution of Georgia be amended to allow the state to intervene in chronically failing public schools in order to improve student performance?”

Erin Hames, current President of ReformEd and the former Deputy Chief of Staff for Policy and Legislative Affairs for Governor Nathan Deal

Michelle Constantinides, Involved parent who has served on numerous APS committees, task forces and school council

This was an impassioned discussion in preparation for a decision by voters in the November 11 election on this proposed constitutional amendment. The issue is what to do about the state’s chronically low-performing public schools and whether a change in the management of those schools is a solution to the problems their students have been experiencing. There seemed to be general agreement that the performance of some schools is indeed poor. There seemed to be a common sentiment that Atlanta Public School System was acting aggressively and effectively to address their problem schools by its actions which include conversion of their schools to a charter system and that it might not be immediately impacted. Other than that, there seemed to be little agreement on what the facts were or what to do.

A step by step chronology of the speakers’ presentations and comments by attendees would take pages to accurately summarize. So these minutes will summarize the public positions of the two sides:

For the amendment: This was led by Erin Hames. Quoting from [Gov. Deal’s web site](#):

In order to turn around struggling schools, Gov. Nathan Deal proposed creation of an Opportunity School District (OSD). Based on similar, successful initiatives in Louisiana and Tennessee, it would authorize the state to temporarily step in to assist chronically failing public schools and rescue children languishing in them.

- In the governor’s proposal, persistently failing schools are defined as those scoring below 60 on the Georgia Department of Education’s accountability measure, the College and Career Performance Index, for three consecutive years.
- The OSD would take in no more than 20 schools per year, meaning it would govern no more than 100 at any given time.
- Schools would stay in the district for no less than 5 years but no more than 10 years, and would then return to local control.

Learn more about Louisiana's [Recovery School District](#) and Tennessee's [Achievement School District](#). Read more about Deal's proposal below:

- [State of the State: Great challenges require great cooperation](#)
- [Deal unveils Opportunity School District legislation](#)
- [Deal: Senate gives hope to students, parents](#)

Against the amendment: This was led by Michelle Constantinides. Quoting from the Georgia PTA Position Statement on the Opportunity School District, handed out at the BCN meeting:

While the Georgia PTA recognizes a need for state assistance for chronically low-performing schools, Senate Bill 133, the “Opportunity School District,” does not align with legislative priorities or the “Operation Ready to Learn” resolution passed by the delegates of the Georgia PTA.

The 2015-2016 Georgia PTA legislative priorities are to support efforts to increase state spending to education and use of public funds for public schools only, and to support constitutional authority of local school boards of education to control or manage schools in their system. The Georgia PTA strongly supports local control of public education and adequate state funding for

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public schools, and the Georgia PTA's mission is to engage parents in the education of their children. "Operation Ready to Learn," a resolution passed by Georgia PTA delegates at the 2015 convention, resolved to assist schools in utilizing community resources, to assist parents in advocating for the needs of their children, and to encourage local schools to improve access to school resources for families. The "Operation Ready to Learn" resolution advocates for parents to collaborate with state and local leaders to increase student achievement and equity for all children.

Senate Bill 133, the "Opportunity School District," calls for an amendment to the Constitution of the State of Georgia that would allow for the creation of a statewide school district under the control of a Governor-appointed, state-level Superintendent. This amendment to our Constitution would remove control of local public schools; strip funding for local public schools; restrict community access to public facilities, instructional materials, and school equipment.

Because the "Opportunity School District," as passed by the 2015 Georgia General Assembly, does not align with the Georgia PTA legislative priorities or the Georgia PTA "Operation Ready to Learn" resolution, the Georgia PTA does not support the Constitutional Amendment as currently created by Senate Bill 133.

BCN has taken no position on this issue. We appreciate the spirited, informative, and polite debate that the invited participants and audience members on both sides provided to BCN meeting attendees, including Atlanta BOE members Cecily Harsch-Kinnane, Cynthia Brown, Jason Esteves, and Nancy Meister.

For another perspective on this meeting's difficult to summarize discussion, see Atlanta INtown/Reporter Newspaper reporter Collin Kelley's article at <http://www.atlantaintownpaper.com/2016/09/proponents-and-opponents-debate-merit-of-opportunity-school-district/>.

VI. Community Concerns/New Business/Announcements

Jim Elgar, Director of Intergovernmental Affairs and Policy Research for the Office of City Council President Ceasar Mitchell, provided an update on a proposed city ordinance to abolish so-called "broken windows" laws. This proposed ordinance would eliminate prohibitions of many current offences.

The list of ordinances to be removed is two pages long and includes, for example, prohibitions against:

- Sec. 106-4. - Impersonating or wearing uniform of police officer.
- Sec. 106-130. - Defecating or urinating on public property or in areas.
- Sec. 106-82. - Unauthorized persons entering school buildings.
- Sec. 106-83. - Unauthorized persons not to remain in school buildings when requested to leave.
- Sec. 106-84. - Creating a disturbance at schools.

The ordinance is now held in committee. Jim said that City Council President Mitchell opposes this ordinance. He encourages us to become familiar with the ordinance.

VII. Next Meeting October 13, 2016

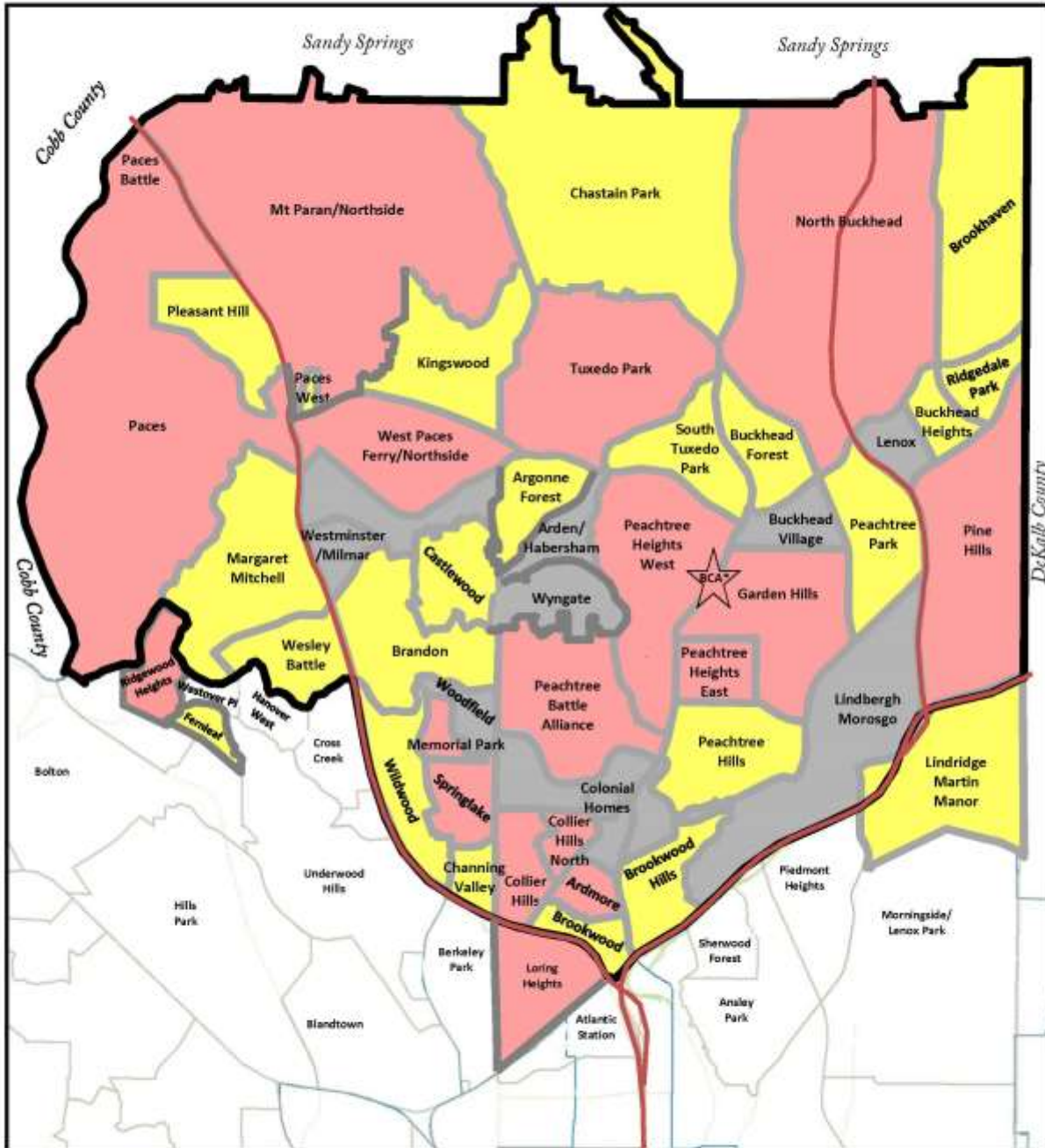
IX. Adjourn - The meeting adjourned at about 8:00 PM.

Note: *The opinions expressed by the speakers and individual neighborhood representatives in these minutes do not necessarily represent those of BCN or its member neighborhoods.*

Prepared by Gordon Certain, BCN Secretary
September 30, 2016

BCN's web page is at www.BuckheadCouncil.org.
The Buckhead Council of Neighborhoods is a 501(c)(4) nonprofit organization.

Buckhead Council of Neighborhoods



* BCA = Buckhead Condo Alliance

LEGEND

Paid Membership as of 05/07/16

YES NO N/A

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BCN Status as of September 30, 2016																	
Neighborhood	Dues		Data	Neighborhood Representation at Board Meetings													
	2015	2016	2016 Census	2014	2015	2016											
				10 meetings	10 meetings	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
1	Arden/Habersham																
2	Ardmore Park	✓	✓	✓	60%	70%	✓		✓							✓	
3	Argonne Forest	✓			60%	30%											
4	Brandon	✓			50%	0%											
5	Brookwood																
6	Brookwood Hills				30%	10%											
7	Buckhead Condo Alliance	✓	✓	✓	50%	90%	✓	✓		✓	✓			✓			
8	Buckhead Forest				0%	0%											
9	Buckhead Heights																
10	Buckhead Village				10%	20%			✓					✓	✓		
11	Castlewood																
12	Channing Valley				10%	0%											
13	Chastain Park	✓			30%	10%	✓		✓								
14	Collier Hills	✓	✓	✓	20%	30%	✓	✓	✓								
15	Collier Hills North		✓	✓	10%	20%	✓	✓	✓					✓			
16	Fernleaf	✓			10%	0%											
17	Garden Hills	✓	✓	✓	60%	80%		✓		✓				✓			
18	Grant Estates				0%	20%											
19	Historic Brookhaven			✓	30%	10%		✓							✓		
20	Kingswood	✓				20%											
21	Lindbergh																
22	Lindridge Martin Manor					10%									✓		
23	Loring Heights	✓	✓	✓	30%	70%	✓	✓	✓					✓	✓		
24	Margaret Mitchell	✓			0%	20%											
25	Memorial Park	✓	✓	✓	40%	50%			✓	✓				✓			
26	Mt. Paran-Northside	✓	✓	✓	40%	20%	✓	✓	✓		✓			✓	✓		
27	North Buckhead	✓	✓	✓	100%	100%	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			✓	✓		
28	Paces	✓	✓	✓	60%	60%	✓	✓	✓	✓				✓	✓		
29	Peachtree Battle Alliance	✓	✓	✓	30%	40%		✓	✓					✓			
30	Peachtree Heights East	✓	✓		20%	60%											
31	Peachtree Heights West	✓	✓	✓	70%	80%	✓	✓						✓	✓		
32	Peachtree Hills	✓			0%	10%											
33	Peachtree Park				10%	10%											
34	Pine Hills	✓	✓	✓	70%	60%	✓		✓					✓			
35	Pleasant Hill																
36	Ridgedale Park							✓									
37	Ridgewood Heights	✓				20%									✓		
38	Springlake		✓		10%	20%		✓									
39	Tuxedo Park	✓	✓		50%	50%	✓	✓			✓			✓			
40	Wesley Bohler					10%											
41	West Paces Northside	✓	✓	✓	70%	100%	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			✓			
42	Wildwood																
43	Wyngate																
Totals		21	17	15	Avg:10	Avg:10	16	16	13	6	5			13	12		