

Resolution

Atlanta Board of Education

Atlanta



Georgia

February 7, 2022

**RESOLUTION EXPRESSING OPPOSITION TO PROPOSALS TO
CREATE A CITY OF BUCKHEAD CITY**

- WHEREAS,** Legislative proposals before the Georgia General Assembly that allow for the creation of a City of Buckhead City from portions of the City of Atlanta are without precedent in this state; **and**
- WHEREAS,** The City of Buckhead City proposals create significant uncertainties for the students, staff and families of Atlanta Public Schools, whether residing in the community of Buckhead or throughout Atlanta; **and,**
- WHEREAS,** The Charter of the Atlanta Independent School System requires the boundaries of the school district to be coterminous with those of the City of Atlanta; **and,**
- WHEREAS,** The students, families, employees and taxpayers of Atlanta Public Schools deserve consistency and predictability with respect to public education; **and,**
- WHEREAS,** Creating a new city without addressing the financial, student enrollment, legal, operations and governance issues created by Buckhead deannexation from Atlanta is irresponsible for Buckhead, Atlanta and Atlanta Public Schools; **and,**
- WHEREAS,** The proposed City of Buckhead City adds significant uncertainty to the instructional experience of all : those who live within the would-be Buckhead City, those who live in other parts of Atlanta but attend APS schools located in Buckhead, and students who would remain in APS; **and,**
- WHEREAS,** Students residing in the proposed Buckhead City would lose access to the APS teachers, administrators, instructional programming and extracurricular resources they currently enjoy; **and,**
- WHEREAS,** A carve out of the Buckhead community from Atlanta would result in an approximate annual loss of \$250 million to school district revenue; **and,**
- WHEREAS,** There is no mechanism in state law for APS to collect tax revenue from a city that is outside the City of Atlanta, making the continued operation of Buckhead City schools by APS financial untenable; **and,**
- WHEREAS,** The deannexation of the Buckhead community from Atlanta would cause the Atlanta Board of Education to take measures to protect the operations of the school district and offset revenue losses; **and,**

WHEREAS, If the City of Buckhead City is established, school buildings and facilities located in Buckhead would remain under the ownership and control of APS; **and,**

WHEREAS, Georgia law does not allow for the creation of any new school districts, so students residing in a City of Buckhead City would face uncertainty about their assignment to a local education agency; **and,**

WHEREAS, There would be significant impacts to the personnel needs of APS with the potential loss of student population resulting from the creation of a City of Buckhead City and the carving out of a large portion of our city, including the possible need for large-scale staff downsizing; **and,**

WHEREAS, The creation of the City of Buckhead City and the loss of schools located in the Buckhead community would force impacted teachers to potentially find employment outside of APS, putting any tenure they have achieved in jeopardy; **and,**

WHEREAS, The City of Buckhead City legislative proposals create significant civil rights and voting rights issues with respect to the rights of people living in a new city to vote for Board of Education members representing the school district serving them and to have representation on the Board of Education; **and,**

WHEREAS, The City of Buckhead City legislative proposals create significant civil rights and voting rights issues for residents of the entire City of Atlanta who have a right to self-determination over the future of our city; **and,**

WHEREAS, The time, energy and funds required to resolve these issues would be diverted from ensuring every APS student graduates ready for college, career and life; **now therefore, be it**

RESOLVED, That the Atlanta Board of Education expresses its opposition to all legislative proposals that allow for the formation of a City of Buckhead City and calls on the Georgia General Assembly to reject these proposals so the City of Atlanta and Atlanta Public Schools remain intact.

Eshé P. Collins, Chair
Atlanta Board of Education

Attest

Pierre L. Gaither
Board Executive Director