

1/12/2011	School Assignments - Council District B - Andrew Wilson ES - PUBLIC COMMENTS
NAME	SUMMARY OF SPOKEN COMMENTS
Barbara Keller	Read letter from District B Councilperson Stacy Head - attached
Terri Hunter	SBWright board member, with Touro Synagogue - wants building brought up to standards. Now. Not in Phase 5 They are not selective admissions. Waiting list of 200. Deserve water fountains that work, and good bathroom facilities. Need a science lab, gym
Laurence Degate	Teaches hs math at SBWright. Has lived in that community for 20+ yrs. Good things happening since storm. Kids want to be there. More want to come there. It's helping neighborhood. Need building up to par. Want phase 2 in MP.
Louis Shepard	Member of Touro synagogue - partnering with SBWright. Need renovations. Students are friendly. Has involved parents. Improving scores. Open admissions.
Stephen Bain	From Touro synagogue. They help tutor all days during week. Scores are rising. Building is failing. Rusted doors. Crumbling walls. School is part of community. Allows use of their parking lot, buses.
Deidra Jones	From Xavier – about Mary Church Terrell school. Put it under Lafayette Charter. Lafayette has a wait list of 500. Bring Lafayette program to Terrell. campus
Steve Williams	A teacher at Wright. Droppings on desks of some sort every night. 425 kids from 6 – 12 grades. Put higher on list of renovations.
Lawrence Kullman	not here
Daniel Kiper	Parent and a supplier to Wright. Also a mentor there. Has water damage, termite damage. Parts are closed due to asbestos. Capacity is 660 – only using 2/3 of capacity is being utilized. Needs to be in phase 2 of MP.
Carlese Brumfield	An active parent at Wright. Foot can go through 3rd floor. Not a decent water fountain in school. Rusty exit doors.
Deion Burke	Wright student. Left new Lake Area HS in Gentilly to attend Wright because of learning environment. From gentilly hs- to wright bc of learning environment. Made a good choice. Wright needs a science lab, ceilings that do not cave in, water fountains and more
Jason Lewis	Parent at Wright. Sponsor of an organization there. Their kids could go to a selective enrollment school but choose to stay there. Oldest operating school in city. How can you tell kids to do best but don't get rewarded with a better building. Don't reward teachers/parents, reward students. Put in phase 2
Rev. Kenneth Thompson	VP of Hoffman Triangle. Told they are in Phase 2. What's happening to Hoffman school? No sign of anything being done
Douglas Patterson	Has three kids in Lafayette. Lafayette is turned around - doing well. Extend Lafayette to Terrell. Too many kids in Lafayette - need more space. Help the kids - let them go to Terrell
Mickey Landry	Runs Lafayette and Crossman/Esperanza – working to get Terrell open at request of Stacy Head. She did not mention in her letter earlier tonight - is appalled. Wants some grade levels to Terrell – less than ¼ mile away. Gert town needs that. Otherwise will lower property values, and bring more crime.
Hal Brown	President of New Orleans College Prep. Has 600 students. Appreciates tonight's mtg and BTW recommendation though will be in trailers for 3 years during renovation. Hoffman was also a potential school for NOCP charter at one time. NOCP is committed to work in that Hoffman Triangle area and urges it gets funded as soon as possible
Dr. Rosalind Pijeaux Hale	Chair of Div. of Education at Xavier Univ. They work with Lafayette and one reason why is that they are inclusive. Terrell can handle special needs kids. Terrell people been meeting for over year to urge re-opening.
Dr. Kyshan Webster	Works for Xavier President in community affairs. Gert Town is special community. Having to fight for playgrounds, cleanups, etc. Here to support synergy with Lafayette, Xavier and Terrell.
Monica Edwards	On board of NOCP. Here on behalf of Hoffman Triangle. Support rebuilding Hoffmann and operation of BTWashington.
Dean Gancarz-Davies	With Neighbors United around Freret/Milan. Loves Green charter. Has lived in that area 17 years. Was not a safe school before Green charter took over. Whole neighborhood has changed now. Friendlier. Community has thrived b/c of Green. Edible school yard. Do whatever can to help Green.
John Gerhardt	Pastor. Live in central city. Commends Guste and Sylvania Williams schools and RSD role in that 1)-BTWashington-concerned about slow pace of that work. 2)-Revisit demographics of Central City - more people are coming in. Encourages look at Hoffman 3)- Encourage at community as well as education and how important schools are to community and great neighborhoods.
Michael Heaney	About Hoffmann. Working with NOCP on going in school. Be sure to look at latest demographics closely.
Mary Jane Parker	Here about Jeff going into Fisk-Howard. Wants it. She's a neighbor who wants it.

Reuben DeTiege	He's a Terrell family. Been there 75 years. Wants it open.
Kaseem Short	With Gert Town center – one issue as the community has been meeting over the last year big thing is having school in area. Kids can't make after school reading program the center runs b/c bus from west bank drops kid off too late to attend.
Hattie Patterson	Parent/grand parent of Lafayette. Supports Terrell opening
Kathy Riedlinger	Here for Lusher charter. Wants to take over Allen building if it becomes available. Will take JCC kids and put them there.
Charminetta Alexander & Cynthia Dansburg	Both are Green Parents. Does not want it landbanked. Part of Edible Schoolyard. Has rooftop garden. Quiet learning going on. Fresh flowers on lunch tables. Disgraceful if taken out of Green.
Wheeler Moorman	No show.
Amy Haspel	Concerned about moving around of schools and playgrounds. Ashe's old playground vandalized. If not taking care of playground at a closed school, then use the playground elsewhere.
Barbara MacPhee	Founding principal of NO Science & Math charter. Wants to be with medical corridor but not on LSU Hospital campus. Wants to stay at Allen. They don't appear in Master Plan
Lois Dejean	Gert town organization – wants to reopen Terrell. Kids currently bussed. They wake up 6am, then home at 7pm
Wayne Gay	Product of Gert Town. Gert Town has been a mess and taking Terrell down would not help. Give Lafayette a chance.
Cindy Morse	Taught in 6 public schools. Now retired. Kids need gardening. Green is the model. To move it would be foolish.
Dana Peterson	On board of Firstline who has Green program. Keep Green open and invest in a renovation. \$2 million spent on building plus thousands of hours of volunteer work have already been invested
Andrew Tuozzolo	From Sen. Karen Carter Peterson office. 1-supports opening of Terrell 2-endorses Wright into phase 2 3- that NO Science & Math go to in medical corridor 4-keep Green open
Jane Dimitry	Member of Neighbors United – supports Green – many parents are here. \$2 million was not from school boards. It was fundraised – don't waste it. Weddings have been held there. Soccer field at night has helped community.
Richard Dimitry	RSD admitted previously that it has not always thought of Green. Maybe or maybe not landbank. Now is time to look.
Beldon Lyons	Returning resident of Hoffman Triangle. Upset that Hoffman torn down. Scared that prisons will be built with money intended for schools
Andrew Amacker	With Neighbors United. For Green. Green hosted the President, and future mayor. Why is landbanking even a question? Shouldn't have to be defended at all these meetings. Green will fight back if landbanked.
Kimberly Washington	For Hoffman - represents an organization. Wants it re-opened
Louis Harding	Represents Hoffman Triangle and BTWashington. No other school with as much history at BTW. First school for African-Americans. Do not change name of BTW.
John McKnight	For BTW being operated by NOCP.. Ben Kleban talked with him for a long time 4 years ago about uptown problems. BTW will not change name. Also supports Lafayette into Terrell.
Sandra Williams	not there
Carlos Zervigon	Chairman of Board of Audobon Charter. Now Vice chairman.. Here about Allen building. Audubon was supposed to be landbanked. They requested in 2008 to be successor at Allen. NO Science & Math was going to move at some point. Assumed Lusher asking for Allen was a misprint. They are desperate-they are open enrollment- been requesting Allen for more than 2 years. Wants documents corrected.
Carl Sutton	Supports NOCP at BTW. Need them there ASAP. Hoffman needs a school there now.
Dr. Darrin Hanson	Professor at Xavier Univ. Here as citizen. Questions demographic studies. Because Central City has tons of kids with no where to go. Hollygrove/Gert Town needs a school. Has friends in demographics business. Kids near Hoffmann need a school.
Tyrone Christoph	Youth pastor. Commends Guste school. Need BTWashington and Hoffman. Need first class schools. They were bad when he was there but needs them now.
Brice White	From Mid-City – no elementary or middle schools there - Easton HS. Supports Jeff at Fisk Howard. Has 2 month old and wants a place for his kid to go to school.



The Council

City of New Orleans

Open letter to the Recovery School District

STACY S. HEAD
COUNCILMEMBER, DISTRICT B

CITY HALL, SUITE 2W10
1300 PERDIDO STREET
NEW ORLEANS, LA 70112
(504) 658-1020
FAX: (504) 658-1025

Paul Vallas
Superintendent of the Recovery School District
1641 Poland Avenue
New Orleans, LA 70117

Re: District B Schools

January 12, 2011

Dear Mr. Vallas:

I want to thank you for all the hard work that the Recovery School District (RSD) is doing for the children of New Orleans. In particular, thank you for facilitating the opening of additional high quality schools and buildings in the City.

Unfortunately, I am unable to attend the meeting tonight, but would like to ensure that certain concerns are voiced. To begin, the Green School community has expressed fears that the RSD is considering "land banking" the Valence Street Facility. I am opposed to any such plan. The Green School is vital to the neighborhood. Moreover, the Green School community does not want to lose its home.

Second, the neighborhood and the merchants near Freret and Napoleon must be engaged in any discussion(s) of future leases of Our Lady of Lourdes. There have been several development opportunities for the area that have been stymied due to uncertainty related to RSD's future use of the Our Lady of Lourdes facility.

In addition, I fully support the following: the location of a school in Gert Town; the rehabilitation of Booker T. Washington into a quality high school that respects its history; and New Orleans Charter Science and Mathematics High School being located on or adjacent to, the Veterans Administration and LSU Hospital facilities.

Finally, the International High School desperately needs to have a firm commitment from the RSD to refurbish the Rabouin facility.

Sincerely,

Stacy Head
Councilmember District B

From: Ann Marie Coviello [amcoviello@ridgewoodprep.com]
Sent: Thursday, January 06, 2011 11:54 AM
To: Ramsey Green (RSD); Paul Vallas
Subject: FW: Fisk Howard site for Morris Jeff Community School

This note is in response to the proposal that Morris Jeff Community School move to the former Fisk-Howard site as the place of their rebuild.

From the vantage point of 20 years of educational experience in the New Orleans area and the mother of two sons raised in the Historic 7th Ward, I predict that Morris Jeff will come to be a beacon of educational excellence and inclusiveness in years to come. I have been so proud of the incredible start-up of Morris Jeff. Their dedication to open admissions and to diversity is truly inspiring, a model for primary school education that all schools would do well to emulate.

As a long-time residence of Mid-City and a former English teacher at Warren Easton High School, I have a deep interest in the neighborhood they propose to build in. They are poised to be the "Lusher" of Mid-City, but they will far surpass Lusher, because of their commitment to social justice and educational equity. They will become an anchor in Mid-City, just as Mr. Vallas built magnet schools in troubled neighborhoods in Chicago and saw the resulting stability that the good schools created in housing and services.

Their request should be honored with all due speed. Forcing Morris Jeff to move from their current site at Poydras St to the Marshall site and then to some as yet determined site will cause untold stress on their dedicated parents and staff. It will seriously undermine the momentum they have developed. Young children, such as those served by Morris Jeff, do not do well with change, and multiple changes will unduly confuse and disorient them. Let's make a good decision now to honor their request for the Fisk-Howard site, keep them at their Poydras site until their building is complete if at all possible, and give them the great building they deserve post haste.

Sincerely,

Ann Marie Coviello

1611 N. Rocheblave

New Orleans, LA

504-669-8022