



# Save Spalding Community Update

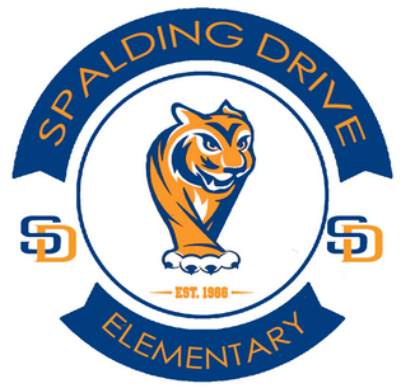
January 22, 2025



Website:

[www.saveSDE.com](http://www.saveSDE.com)





# Agenda

- High Level Timeline
- January 14th Work Session Recap
- Our Rebuttal
- Next Steps

**Thank you all for your help  
and support!**





# Timeline - High Level

October

November

December

January

February

**Mobilization  
and Fact  
Finding**

**Evaluate and  
Develop**

**Finalize the  
strategy**

**Present the  
argument**

**The Vote!!!**

**Board Work  
Session:  
North Learning  
Center**

10/8 ✓

11/12 ✓

12/10 ✓

1/14 ✓

Redistricting  
Recommendation

2/11

**Board Meeting  
South Learning  
Center**

10/17 ✓

11/21 ✓

12/19 ✓

We are  
here

1/23

2/20

School  
Board  
Vote



# January 14th Work Session Recap

## Great participation and representation from our community

- Rusty Paul (Sandy Springs Mayor), Bob Ellis (County Commissioner), and Gabe Sterling (COO GA Secretary of State), spoke to the Board on Spalding's behalf
- Representation from City Council Members: John Paulson, Melody Kelley, Melissa Mular, Jody Reichel, and Andy Bauman
- Deborah Silcox (State Rep), Irene Schweiger (SSEF)
- We had over 40 people in the overflow room

The Staff presented their recommendation to close Spalding for the 25-26 school year

- Final Redistricting Map matches Round 3 from December
- The presentation was marked as "first read", with additional discussion to occur at the next Board Meeting January 23



# Community Forum Results



## COMMUNITY FORUMS

- **Round One – Community Forum**
  - Objective: Collect community input within the board-approved criteria
    - **October 7, 2024**
    - **164 participants - 681 comments**
- **Round Two – Community Forum**
  - Objective: Collect community input on attendance zone alternatives based on board-approved criteria
    - **November 4, 2024**
    - **194 participants - 1,218 comments**
- **Round Three – Community Forum**
  - Objective: Collect community input on attendance zone alternatives based on board-approved criteria
    - **December 9, 2024**
    - **154 participants - 508 comments**
- **Total email count - 227**



# Final Map Recommendation

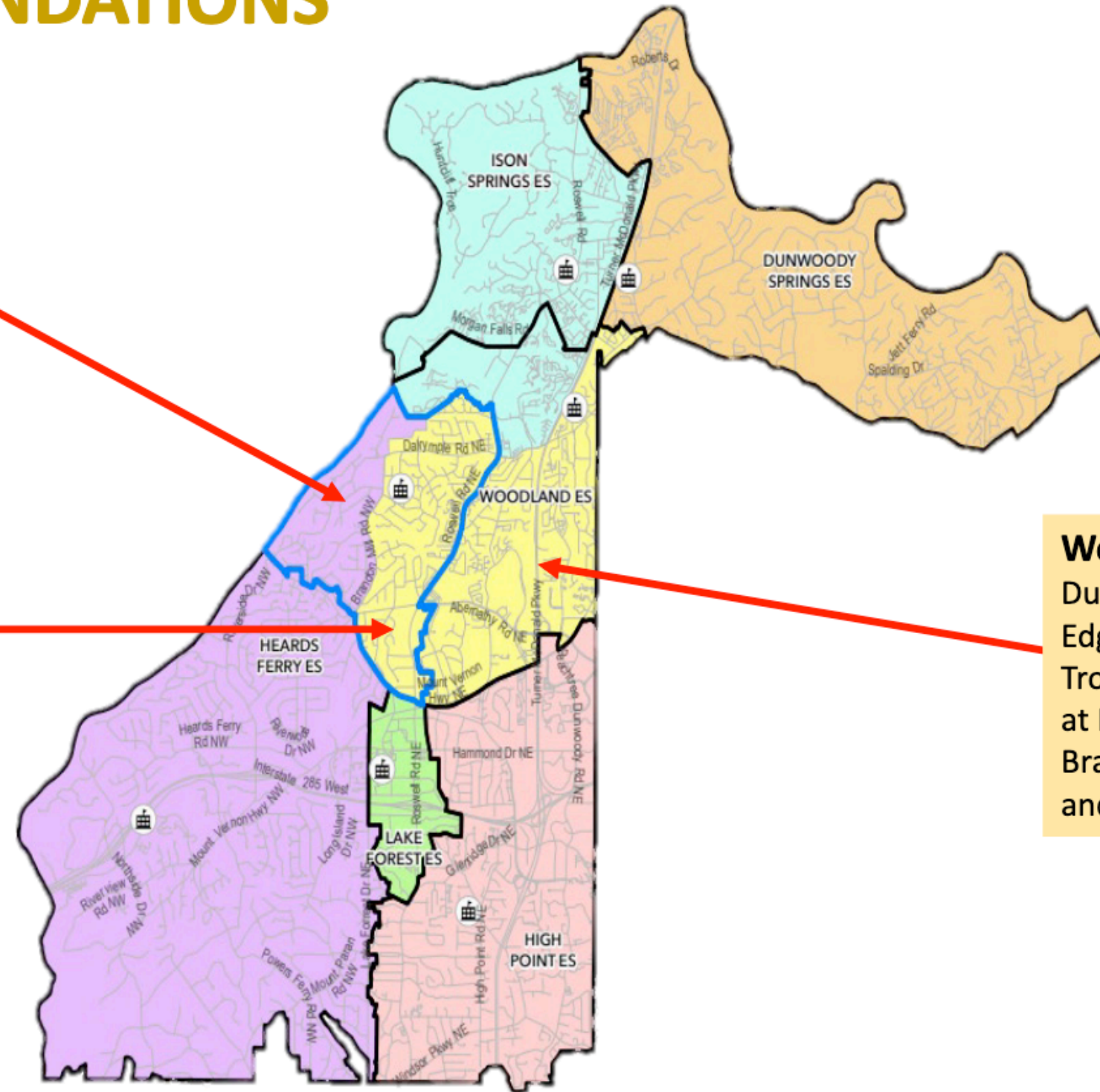


## CLOSURE/CONSOLIDATION AND REDISTRICTING FINAL RECOMMENDATIONS

**Spalding Drive to Heards Ferry:**  
Brandon Mill Villas, Bluffs at Marsh Creek, Wildercliff, Breakwater, North Mill Court, and Breakwater Ridge

**Spalding Drive to Woodland:**  
Wright Circle, Juniper Springs, Provenance at Sandy Springs, Brandon Ridge, Raleigh Square, Lost Forest, Spalding Cove, The Arbors, Celebration at Sandy Springs, Seville Chase, Devonwood, Dunhill Terrace, The Reserve at Ridgewood, Dunraven Place, Princeton Way, Princeton Falls, North Springs, and Accolades

**Woodland to Ison Springs:**  
Dunwoody Square, Victoria Heights, Edgewater at Sandy Springs, Park at Trowbridge, Lafayette Square, Marquis at Perimeter Center, Spalding Bridge, Brandon Mill Farms, Morgans Landing, and The Addison at Sandy Springs





# County Next Steps

## NEXT STEPS

- Board considers recommendation for Zone 4 Elementary School Closure/Consolidation and Redistricting plan - January & February 2025
- Board holds public hearings for school closure - February 2025
- If approved, parents notified - March 2025
- Attendance zone changes implemented - 2025-26 school year





# Our Rebuttal

**Statement:** *"We're spending about \$7,000 [more] on average per student than in the other elementary schools..." – Dr. Looney.*

**Counterpoint:** Spalding's **per-student cost** is \$3,542 above average, primarily due to Spalding's higher concentration of special needs and TAG students. Much of these costs will follow the students, and will not be eliminated, if these students are moved to other schools.

**Statement:** *The Staff's Final Recommendation for Closure continually lists Spalding's FCA Score as Fair.*

**Counterpoint:** The 2020 Facilities Assessment Report shows that Spalding's last FCA published score was an 89, which is Good. Importantly, the campus has recently undergone \$2.2MM in renovations, keeping on track to maintain a Good FCA score as projected in the 2020 assessment. The Save Spalding Committee has continuously identified staff's misstatement to Operations without correction in their presentations.





# Our Rebuttal

**Statement:** *"Spalding Drive Elementary...currently enrolls 347 students, and enrollment is projected to remain at a slow rate of decline over the coming years."* -Tarika Peeks

**Counterpoint:** Spalding's enrollment is projected to grow by over 12% over the next 3 years using the staff provided data on Jan 14. This data shows that Spalding's enrollment is projected to go from 367 in 2025, 386 in 2026, and to 391 in 2027. Importantly, this does not account for Open Enrollment.

**Statement:** *Declining Enrollment and High repair costs are the reason for consolidation.*

**Counterpoint:** Policy FDB, section 4, states that a school may be considered for consolidation if it is in need of "extensive renovation to meet current ... standards" AND that per student cost not exceed 135% of district average. If you calculate Spalding's per student cost using publicly available data, Spalding is 126%, which falls below the 135% threshold required. Neither of these conditions are met. Further, the staff has not identified any "extensive renovation" needed for Spalding Drive.



# Our Rebuttal

**Statement:** *"This board has done, and your predecessors have done, a marvelous job in that we've been living off a "savings account". Each year we're spending more money than we're taking in revenue..."*

**Counterpoint:** The board voted for a reduced millage rate of 17.08 from the proposed 17.13 on 8/6/24. Board members commented there was a tax surplus and reserves were in "great shape". It was noted on 12/10/24 revenues were increasing by \$4MM and expenses decreasing by \$12MM.

**Statement:** *"Three community meetings were held...to ensure stakeholders had ample opportunity to provide feedback...designed with a specific focus and centered on school closure..." - Tarika Peeks*

**Counterpoint:** Policy FDB requires that staff "gather information necessary to prepare any recommendation including data necessary for student placement and revision to attendance boundaries in accordance with policy FDB, and to answer questions from the public relevant to any closure proposal." Instead, Staff admitted to accepting feedback only on redistricting maps, refusing questions related to Spalding's closure. Operations wrongly cited "board approved criteria" to justify this, again ignoring explicit Board Policy, as with Policy FDB Section 4.



# Next Steps

## **Board Meeting: TOMORROW JANUARY 23 at South Learning Center**

What we believe will happen:

- The Board will continue to the process to culminate in a vote on February 20
- There will be two public hearings in February at the two Board Meetings (February 11 at North Learning Center and February 20 at South Learning Center)
- At the public hearings, any one who wishes to speak on the subject will have two minutes to address the board (there is no limit to the number of speakers)

**Important to have a large presence at the two February meetings**



# Q&A

