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# News Release

## **For Immediate Release**

December 4, 2018

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## **Tri-Cities High cluster schools share progress, seek meaningful community partnerships**

Principals of the six schools in the Tri-Cities High School cluster recently welcomed community stakeholders to Paul D. West Middle School, where each school leader shared information on their academic progress and success stories. The evening meeting, which is a part of the cluster's Bulldog Bound initiative, underscored the district's commitment to collaboration and paves the way for future partnerships and support for students in their communities.

The Bulldog Bound initiative is a collective commitment that aims to solicit stakeholder support to include business, nonprofit, civic and parent partnerships, and to attract highly qualified dedicated teachers. Additionally, the gathering of stakeholders offered an opportunity to demonstrate how the cluster's growth and successes are interdependent with that of the East Point, Hapeville and College Park communities. It also demonstrates how all benefit from collaborative relationships. The cluster includes Tri-Cities High School, Paul D. West Middle School, Conley Hills Elementary School, Hamilton E. Holmes Elementary School, Hapeville Elementary School and Parklane Elementary School.

Joining the meeting were Fulton County School Board Members Gail Dean and Kimberly Dove, parents, business and community partners, district leaders, teachers and school governance members. Principals proudly shared exciting milestones, such as increased test scores and improved graduation rates, as well as examples of successful parental engagement strategies that promote positive home-school connections. Principals also requested assistance in meeting students' needs beyond the classroom, including funding for programs.

"The meeting and open discussion allowed us to share our aspirations, progress and opportunities for growth, while also encouraging others to partner with us in supporting and motivating students on every level," said Hamilton E. Holmes Elementary Principal Shateena Love. "We all understand that the important work of educating our children and building communities will take the collective energy of parents, school leaders, teachers and members of our respective communities. This meeting, with all of my colleagues at the elementary, middle and high school levels, represents a major step in connecting us with partners who can support us in a meaningful way."

Tri-Cities High School Principal Termerion McCrary-Lakes added, “We own the data, we own the progress and now we need help from the community. I am honored to serve with an invested group of leaders who are committed to the Tri-Cities cluster movement. The synergy, vertical alignment and big hopes and dreams for students will pay dividends for years to come.”

The Bulldog Bound initiative was developed in early 2018 while several Fulton County principals were attending a school leadership development training program. As they gathered to learn new approaches to school improvement and recruiting top talent, they began a conversation around being more strategic in their alignment as a cluster.

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**About the Fulton County School System.** The Fulton County School System is the fourth largest school system in Georgia. More than 95,000 students attend 106 school campuses in the cities of Alpharetta, Chattahoochee Hills, College Park, East Point, Fairburn, Hapeville, Johns Creek, Milton, Mountain Park, Palmetto, Roswell, Sandy Springs, South Fulton, and Union City.