

Meeting Minutes for March 3, 2017:

Call to order

A meeting of Morris Brandon's Go Team was held at the Morris Brandon Primary Campus on March 3, 2017 at 7:25am.

SF made a motion to approve the agenda.

NB seconded the motion.

In favor: Nza Branton, Sue Friedrichs, Tracey Hudson, Sarah Kirsch, Caron Solomon

Opposed: None

Arrived after the Vote: Gordon Benedict, Kate Laing, Grace White

The March 3rd agenda was approved.

Attendees

Attendees included: Gordon Benedict, Nza Branton, Sue Friedrichs, Tracey Hudson, Sarah Kirsch, Kate Laing, Caron Solomon, Kara Stimpson, Grace White, Tommy Usher, Associate Super Intendant, Noletha High, APS Go Team Coordinator, Nancy Meister, APS Board Member, Lisa Bracken, APS Finance Department (via phone)

Members not in attendance

Members not in attendance included: Kelly Trotter

Approval of minutes

NB made a motion to approve the February 2, 2017 meeting minutes.

SF seconded the motion.

In favor: Gordon Benedict, Nza Branton, Sue Friedrichs, Tracey Hudson, Sarah Kirsch, Kate Laing, Caron Solomon, Grace White

Opposed: None

The February 2nd meeting minutes were approved.

Discussion Items:

Noletha High handed out a document entitled: What will be the Work of the Go Team? If there are further questions, please email NH.

- The Go Team should model the Atlanta Board of Education.
- The Go Team office is constantly trying to improve.
- SK- The role of the Go Team as written is different from the role as experienced. She felt as if there was more opportunity for input through the Local School Council. Per a recent letter sent by SK, it is felt that as a GO Team Member, you are not allowed to communicate to the Board. You are also not allowed to discuss an issue on email.
- NH-If there are concerns from the GO Team, the Constituent Manager, Pierre Gaither, is the preferred contact. He will get them expeditiously to a board member.
- KL commented that there seems to be constraints when it comes to communication.
- NB stated that she felt uncomfortable with the letter because it sounded like it came from the whole GO team.
- KL is frustrated because it seems discussion can only happen during a meeting and because the meetings are not very often, there is not time to discuss everything.
- SK said that the process by which the budget was presented, and the time constraints in its approval, did not allow for any flexibility.
- KS-The budget timeline was quick. There is nothing stopping us from having an entire conversation over email, however, it is important that it is inclusive.
- SK-Is there a difference in speaking to a Board Member as a citizen than as an elected official.
- SK stated that she did not mean the letter to be taken as representative of the whole GO Team.
- TH and GW agreed that they did not feel the letter came from anyone who did not sign off on it.
- GW said it seems as if the budget is just information for receiving rather than a conversation.
- NM said that there is not a problem with parents calling a board member, however the GO Team protocol must be followed for a GO Team member to contact a board member.
- SK- We raised all of our questions at the last meeting when Mr. Usher and Mr. Harrington were in attendance and received no answers.
- NM said to copy Pierre, but email her directly. Having an email discussion is a violation of the open meetings act. You can have a discussion outside of a meeting as long as there is not a quorum present.
- CS-It still seems unfair that all IB schools get the same funding regardless of size. At the budget meeting for APS, there was useful information about funding for IB.

- KS-The questions, comments, and concerns from our last meeting were communicated to the correct people (Mr. Usher and Mr. Harrington), however we received no feedback from the district.
- TH-Could we have feedback in the future?
- LB joined the meeting via phone.
- NM-Remember this is the first year of the GO Team.
- SK-Is it too much to ask for “We have heard you and here’s where we are from the district?”
- CS-Why is funding equal across schools and not scaled?
- LB-As we are receiving feedback we are taking into account what questions have been raised.
 - There is a possibility of opportunities for adjustment to the budget in May.
 - The Signature Funds are a flat rate because most of the IB costs are fixed.
 - The rate was determined from the base cost of the most expensive schools.
 - Equity was funding up rather than down to run the signature program because it is important for the new schools to IB to have the resources to fund.
 - There are issues between the Signature Program requirements and the Extended Core formula for the World Language Program.
 - Brandon was given enough money to fund the IB requirements.
 - APS’s World Language requirements are from academic services.
 - Changes might need to be made.
- CS-Is this issue unique to Brandon? Do all other fully advanced IB schools have funding? It seems there is disconnect between allotment and standard of service when it comes to the World Language Program.
- NM-There is a gap between Signature Funds and Extended Core. What is the gap at Brandon?
- KS- 6.4 FTE for Extended Core. We need 9. There is a 2.6 gap so it looks like we are using all of the signature funds for Foreign Language. It seems that we have to spend all of our flexible fund for requirements which leaves us no flexibility.
- LB-Flexibility is not necessary, but instead do differently with what you have.
- SK-When approving the budget, because it is on a compressed time frame, you vote yes so the money will not be lost.
- NM to LB-If you can’t cover the standard of service, then you must go into signature funds to fund them? The number of students are not taken into account.
- LB-The Signature Funds don’t fund to the choice (World Language requirements from APS) but fund to the base.
- KS-Why aren’t the 3 World Language teachers that we know we need funded in the extended core?

- LB-We understand there is a gap and are working through that. As for the budget timeline being crunched, we can't begin the school process until the forecasted enrollment by the state is released in December. Then, proposed school allotments are covered at the January board meeting. On the backside, we are battling human resources contracts. This leaves a 1½ month window. We are looking at how to improve the staging in this very quick time frame. (LB signs off)
- NH-The GO Team office is trying to hear the concerns. She encouraged the Brandon GO Team to take the surveys that are sent out and make sure to give feedback. The GO Team office would like to move in the same direction as the GO Team at the school level which is to do what is best for children.

Old business

Gifted model update:

- KS-There is \$48,631 that was found this year. It can be spent on anything but personnel. The Cluster will pool their money to provide the necessary training for teachers to earn their gifted endorsement.

World Language Survey Update:

- KS- There have been about 160 respondents. Right now the survey is slightly favoring Spanish over French. The survey will close tonight. (March 3rd)
- KS will follow up with teachers where there are not a lot of votes.
- CS-Will there be an open meeting to discuss the results of the survey?
- SK stated that an open meeting would allow for people to feel like they have been heard.
- GB asked if there was a way to have a choice for language at each grade level.
- KS and TH both agreed that the logistics for scheduling would be a nightmare.
- KS said that ultimately the decision is up to the principal not the survey. The survey is to gather information.
- SF asked if the GO Team could vote on the World Language decision?
- NH-No, this is an input item.
- KS will work on a meeting towards the end of next week. She will share the results of the survey with the French team first and then let the GO Team know the results.

Public Comment:

None

GB-made a motion to adjourn.

SF seconded the motion.

- In favor: Gordon Benedict, Nza Branton, Sue Friedrichs, Tracey Hudson, Sarah Kirsch, Kate Laing, Caron Solomon, Grace White.
- Opposed: None
- The meeting was adjourned at 8:36 am

Announcements

Our next meeting will be Thursday, March 30th in the Morris Brandon Main Campus Media Center at 5:30pm.

Check the website for the dates, times, and locations for all other meetings.

Tracey S. Hudson

Secretary

March 30, 2017

Date of approval