

Meeting Minutes for February 2, 2017:

Call to order

A meeting of Morris Brandon's Go Team was held at the Morris Brandon Main Campus on February 2, 2017 at 5:35pm.

SK made a motion to approve the agenda.

KL seconded the motion.

In favor: Gordon Benedict, Nza Branton, Tracey Hudson, Sarah Kirsch, Kate Laing, Caron Solomon, Kelly Trotter,

Opposed: None

The January 20th agenda was approved.

Attendees

Attendees included: Gordon Benedict, Nza Branton, Tracey Hudson, Sarah Kirsch, Kate Laing, Caron Solomon, Kara Stimpson, Kelly Trotter, Tommy Usher, Associate Super Intendant, Eugene Harrington, Assistant Budget Director, Tameka Alexander-Small, Eddie McPherson

Members not in attendance

Members not in attendance included: Sue Friedrichs, Grace White

Approval of minutes

KT made a motion to approve the January 20, 2017 meeting minutes.

NB seconded the motion.

In favor: Gordon Benedict, Nza Branton, Tracey Hudson, Sarah Kirsch, Kate Laing, Caron Solomon, Kelly Trotter

Opposed: None

The January 20, 2017 meeting minutes were approved.

Reports

None

None

New business

KS reviewed the 2017-2018 budget which has not been changed since the January 20, 2017 meeting.

- Media Center Funds were discussed.
 - There were no Media Center Funds in the 2016-2017 budget.
 - Next year's budget will restore some funding to the Media Center.
 - KT expressed concern over the large cut in funding for the Media Center.
- KL asked what the technology funds would cover.
 - KS said that interactive white boards would need to be replaced and updated as they stop working.
 - Language Lab software will be bought for other grade levels.
- KL asked if the supply budget could be broken into line items.
- KS shared the estimated breakdown of items in the supply budget. These amounts are just estimated and may move around depending on needs.
 - Supplies-\$35,000
 - Language Lab Software-\$20,000
 - Science Consumables-\$5,000
 - Technology and Furniture-\$25,000
 - Media-\$7,500
 - Publications-\$2,000
 - Teacher/Student Incentives-\$10,000
 - Total-\$104,500
- KS stated that the big change from this year to next year in the budget is funding for teacher and student incentives.
- SK wanted to know if Morris Brandon's enrollment drops below 1000 would there be any impact on the budget? EH assured the Go Team that APS would allow for a wiggle room before the budget would be adjusted.
- KT, CS, KL stated that the School Flexibility Allocation is unfair because every school receives the same amount no matter the enrollment size.
- KT also asked when and if we would see the 1% that APS is withholding from the budget. EH stated that APS is trying to keep savings at a certain amount so that bills for the district can be paid which is the 1% being held out of the budget.
- SK asked if there was any flexibility in how teacher profession development funds are allocated.

- EH said that the district pays for all district wide professional development.
- NB and SK asked if the district could give district professional development funding to the school to use.
- There are 6 PD days this year.
- Could 1 to 3 days be taken back at the school level for PD that would be site-based specific?
- TU said that most teachers don't have the knowledge to teach students at a higher level and need the district training to unpack the district units.
- TU went on to say that as a cluster we could come up with a PD plan that would combine the district PD agenda with the needs of the cluster. (For example: gifted training)
- Looking at the foreign language expenses within the Signature Funds, KS said that IB states that a foreign language must be offered for students age 7 and older. APS says that students must have a certain number of minutes in a foreign language which is why we need to staff 3 full time teachers.
 - KT pointed out that the district is requiring a certain standard of foreign language service, however they require Morris Brandon to use the Signature Funds to pay for it. This seems unfair.
 - SK feels that any changes to French might upset the community because of the recent changes to next year's gifted program.

Budget Approval

- NB made a motion to approve the 2017-2018 Budget.
- SK seconded the motion.
- In favor: Gordon Benedict, Nza Branton, Tracey Hudson, Sarah Kirsch, Kate Laing, Caron Solomon,
- Opposed: Kelly Trotter

Discussion:

- The 2017-2018 Morris Brandon Budget was approved 6 to 1.
- KT stated that she felt she needed to oppose the budget because the community wants to see change, however not approving the budget would mean we would revert to the 2016-2017 budget. Doing so would mean a loss of money for Morris Brandon. It appears that there is not really a choice.
- KT went on to say that her hope is that this discussion will eventually trickle back to the district and things will change. (For example, the Signature Funds should account for the number of students.)

- EH announced that February 16th at the CLL building is the public meeting about the APS budget.
- EH stated that there was a 38 million dollar deficit that is now 6.9 million.
- KS said that it is important to pass the budget so that she may begin staffing for the next school year.

The 2017-2018 Morris Brandon Budget was approved 6 to 1 with much discussion.

Action Items:

- SK would like to have a ROLE OF GO TEAM discussion.
 - Discuss the role as it is written.
 - Discuss the role as it is experienced.
- KS would like a survey developed to gather the community's opinion on the world language offerings at Morris Brandon. This survey would ask rising Kindergarten, rising First grade, and rising Second grade families whether they would like their children to receive language instruction in French or Spanish.
 - Students currently taking French would continue to take French regardless of the survey results.
 - TH pointed out that we have some awesome French teachers. We may not find Spanish teachers who are as qualified.
 - KS said there would be a community meeting to discuss the results of the survey.

Public Comment:

None

SK-made a motion to adjourn.

GB seconded the motion.

- In favor: Gordon Benedict, Nza Branton, Tracey Hudson, Sarah Kirsch, Kate Laing, Caron Solomon, Kelly Trotter
- Opposed: None
- The meeting was adjourned at 6:58pm.

Announcements

Our next meeting will be Friday, March 3rd in the Morris Brandon Primary Center Gym.
Check the website for the dates, times, and locations for all other meetings.

Tracey S. Hudson
Secretary

March 3, 2017
Date of approval