

Meeting Minutes

Morris Brandon ES

Date: 2/11/21

Time: 3:00pm

Location: Video conference via Zoom

- I. Call to order: 3:01pm
- II. Roll Call

Role	Name (or Vacant)	Present or Absent
Principal	Jay Bland	Present
Parent/Guardian	Fran Egan	Present
Parent/Guardian	Patterson Calhoun	Present
Parent/Guardian	Claudia Fotzeu	Present
Instructional Staff	Sam DeCarlo	Present
Instructional Staff	Maggie Blease	Present
Instructional Staff	Rachel Davis	Present
Community Member	Anna Fiveash	Present
Community Member	Peyton Johnston	Present
Swing Seat	Tamila Jackson Whitaker	Present

Quorum Established: Yes

III. Action Items

a. **Approval of Agenda**

Motion to adopt made by: DeCarlo Seconded by: Johnston

Members Approving: All

Members Opposing: None

Members Abstaining: None

Motion Passes

b. **Approval of Previous Minutes**

Motion to adopt made by: Blease Seconded by: Whitaker

Members Approving: All

Members Opposing: None

Members Abstaining: None

Motion Passes

IV. Discussion Items

- a. Peyton Johnston provided an update on two tactics for actively engaging our students that remain learning virtually:
 - i. Homeroom Engagement – we will set a Zoom meeting every 1-2 weeks where virtual learners will meet on Zoom with their old homerooms
 - ii. Pen Pals – virtual learners will be paired with in-person learners of the same grade and exchange written letters or drawings. PTA is also engaged with this effort.
- b. North Atlanta Cluster GO Team rep + Principals meeting was held on February 10th. Maggie Blease and Jay Bland attended and shared key items discussed at the meeting were:
 - i. Schools in the North Atlanta cluster are losing kids to private schools
 - ii. Strong desire of parents to return to 5 days face-to-face; Cluster will elevate this to APS leadership and request communication to families as soon as Fall 2021 plans are determined
 - iii. Private school enrollment decisions are typically due on April 1, so again push for APS to communicate to parents as much information about next school year as possible before that time
 - iv. APS received \$89M in CARES funding; Principals advocated using this to preserve school staffing in light of decreasing enrollment and budgets

V. Principal's Update

- a. **Return + Learn Update** – in general the return to face-to-face is going very well. Pandemic protocols make for a very different school experience but the students are really enjoying being back. We have had very minimal numbers of students and staff need to quarantine thus far – the community is doing a good job self-reporting when their family/child has had a close contact or positive test and starting their own quarantine.
- b. **Viral Solutions surveillance testing update** – two weeks of tests have been completed at PC and testing starts next week at MC. Both campuses will test on Tuesday mornings. On February 9th 160 tests were conducted at PC. Thus far no positive test results from surveillance testing. It isn't mandatory but we are encouraging families to enroll. Dr. Emily Poppens (a school parent and physician) is helping to speak to staff about the importance and benefits of this testing.
- c. **Summer School** - APS is developing a three year summer school plan to mitigate covid learning loss. APS plans to hire 1,800 teachers and operate summer schools at every campus. APS is identifying students that qualify through Milestones and STAR test data as well as local school student recommendations.

- d. **Budget Review** – we are currently working to solve a budget deficit of over \$400,000 due to decreased enrollment from the pandemic. Mr. Bland is surveying GO Team members to understand relative priority among funding areas including:
- a. Gifted instruction – 30-40% of student population
 - b. ESOL – small number of students but a critical support for those learners
 - c. International Baccalaureate – touches all students and is a signature program
 - d. Intervention – supports ~30 students per grade level
 - e. Additional Staffing – hiring/retaining homeroom teachers
 - f. Media Center – supporting students with reading loss during pandemic
 - g. Safety & Mitigation – PPE, desk shields, hiring additional nurses
 - h. DLI – 25% of our student population
 - i. Learning Loss – providing additional student supports in reading and math
 - j. Support Roles – hiring additional para-professionals

GO Team members agree these are all important areas, and Mr. Bland has asked all members to provide feedback via an email survey.

VI. Announcements

- a. Reminder for GO Team members to complete the online Budget Training and Assessment
- b. The next GO Team meeting will be February 25th at 3pm and is not public comment
- c. Mr. Bland is hosting Town Halls next week (meeting links on school homepage)
 - i. Surveillance Testing – February 19 from 10-10:45am
 - ii. Virtual Learners – February 19 from 11-12
- d. NAPPS is hosting APS Superintendent Dr. Lisa Herring at their meeting on February 17 at noon
- e. APS will open Q4 “intent to return” surveys from February 17 – March 8. Families will receive communication from APS and only need to respond to the survey if they want to do something different from their current learning model. Q4 begins on March 23rd.
- f. Morris Brandon will begin gifted testing starting on March 1st for first and second look students.

VII. Public Comment

- a. Kathryn Edgecombe, Morris Brandon Foundation President and parent of a 5th grader – she reiterated that Foundation exists to support Morris Brandon but funding levels are contingent on parent donations which requires strong Bee

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Fund support. They have funded important items this year like desk shields for all students and teachers. Please spread the word and support the Bee Fund!

- b. Katie Ingram, PC Media Specialist and parent – she shared the media specialists at both campuses also have Master’s degrees in Instructional Technology. They have overseen the school’s technology distribution as well as continued professional development. The media center is much more than checking out books!

VIII. Adjournment

Motion made by: Fotzeu

Seconded by: DiCarlo

Members Approving: all

Members Opposing: none

Members Abstaining: none

Motion Passes

ADJOURNED AT 4:28pm

Minutes Taken By: Fran Egan

Position: GO Team Secretary

Date Approved: [Insert Date When Approved]