

# Meeting Minutes

**Morris Brandon ES**

**Date: 9/23/21**

**Time: 3:30pm**

**Location: Video conference via Zoom**

- I. Call to order: 3:30pm
- II. Roll Call

Role	Name (or Vacant)	Present or Absent
Principal	Jay Bland	Present
Parent/Guardian	Fran Egan	Present
Parent/Guardian	Claudia Fotzeu	Present
Parent/Guardian	LaJoi Royston	Present
Instructional Staff	Maggie Blease	Present
Instructional Staff	Rachel Davis	Present
Instructional Staff	Jennifer McCarren	Present
Instructional Staff	Lena Minock	Present
Community Member	Peyton Johnston	Present
Swing Seat	Clay McDaniel	Present

Quorum Established: Yes

**III. Action Items**

a. **Approval of Agenda**

Motion to adopt made by: Johnston      Seconded by: Fotzeu

Members Approving: All

Members Opposing: None

Members Abstaining: None

**Motion Passes**

b. **Approval of Previous Minutes**

Motion to adopt made by: Davis      Seconded by: Royston

Members Approving: All

Members Opposing: None

Members Abstaining: None

**Motion Passes**

c. **Elect GO Team Secretary**

Rachel Davis is self-nominated

Motion to adopt made by: Egan                      Seconded by: Bland

Members Approving: All

Members Opposing: None

Members Abstaining: None

**Motion Passes**

**IV. Discussion Items**

- a. **Review of APS 5 areas of focus-** teachers going over in PLC's (academic excellence, culture of student support, equipping and empowering leaders and staff, creating a system of support for schools)

**"Looking through everything with an equity lens"**

- i. **Data-** ELA 2019 Milestone proficiency white student 80-85% and subgroups much lower (about a 30% achievement Gap at Brandon). SEL and social justice will be a huge component of closing this gap. We are now using MAP for data and looking at growth reports in PLC's to inform instructional decisions.
- ii. **Curriculum and Instruction-** Wit & Wisdom, Eureka, Foundations
- iii. **Personalized Learning-** HMH, MyLexia, Map skill reports, student conferences, student agency. APS is piloting a program called "Education Elements" for personalized learning. Brandon is not piloting as we want our teachers to be able to focus on other new programs adopted this year (MAP testing, HMH programs for intervention).
- iv. **Intervention and Whole Child Support-** At Brandon, we have the district mandated Intervention block in addition to 30 min WIN block to ensure learning loss is mitigated and achievement gaps are closed. We also are using a new behavior/emotional survey called, "BASC-3/BESS (Behavioral and Emotional Screening System) assessment. This will be administered during our fall and spring semesters. The Fall administration will begin September 16<sup>th</sup>-October 1<sup>st</sup>, and the Spring administration will begin on February 16<sup>th</sup>-March 1<sup>st</sup>. This assessment will have to be completed in partnership with our students (3<sup>rd</sup>-5<sup>th</sup>), and parents. This assessment is designed to capture our students who would not necessarily be on our radar because they may not know how or choose to advocate for themselves or those students whose academic and

behavioral success masks their social/emotional struggles.”-Jennifer Durant, Brandon’s social worker.

- i. **Signature Programming (IB Program at Morris Brandon and DLI)-**  
Currently having IB planning for staff-- whole day PLC’s focused on curriculum deep dive to align standards and curriculum with IB principles. Also, DLI has its first 5<sup>th</sup> grade class at Brandon. We are making plans to link up with Sutton’s DLI teachers who our kids will be rolling over to next year.
- ii. **Working on School improvement plan to closely align to APS 5**
- iii. **Teacher Equity Dispositions- there are 6—**currently we are focusing on #2- Communicate high expectations for all students, designing curriculum that incorporates student background, language and learning style. We want to allow students to demonstrate mastery of content through multiple modes. Admin will be focusing on community engagement

## II. Information Items

- a. **Recap from first All Cluster Advisory Team Meeting** (Maggie Blease attended Sept 14 meeting) – They picked dates for future meetings and overviewed the district strategic plan. Based on this they are working on the cluster specific plan. This plan will focus specifically on student experience and community engagement in NA. The next meeting Oct 27<sup>th</sup>.
- b. **Recap from APS E-SPLOST meeting on September 21-** The Special Purpose Local Option Sales Tax will be up for vote again this fall. APS gave info on what E-SPLOST will provide. It will be focused on building maintenance. For Brandon, our main campus had a few needs- HVAC system was biggest need identified. Discussed the importance of trying to raise community engagement and support to pass E-SPLOST, otherwise we will not have much funding for maintenance. At the meeting there was discussion on allowing GO Team the opportunity to give input on best use of E-SPLOST funds. Community members, parents, and staff are encouraged to send feedback on LETSTALK for what improvements we need in our school. Below are the links for the ESPLOST PowerPoint, Brandon’s maintenance assessment, and the form to submit input.  
[E-SPLOST Meeting Presentation 9/21](#)  
[Brandon’s Building Maintenance Assessment](#)  
[E-SPLOST Input Form](#)
- c. **Principal’s Update**
  - i. **Recap from meeting on School Improvement Plan (school leadership team met with APS leadership on 8/27)** – Principal Bland met with Associate Superintendent Dan Sims, IB Coordinator Thea Murphy, World Language Coordinator Margaret McKenzie and Federal Program Specialist

Taylor Luckaduegarcia to review the School Improvement Plan. Working to finalize School improvement plan in alignment with APS 5.

**ii. COVID mitigation strategies**

- 1. Surveillance Testing participation-** 95 staff 2x a week
- 2. Weekly case reporting-** number of cases dropping
- 3. Hot issues/areas of concern?** Possible covid increase around holidays. May start to consider mixing kids at recess and having lunch outside classroom due to drastic decline in reported cases at Brandon.

**iii. Enrollment (APS 10-day count extended to 15-day count on 8/27) –**  
Morris Brandon came in under the projected numbers.

**iv. Budget –** APS gave us everything we were possibly going to have to give back due to the 15-day count coming in under projected numbers so we are no longer required to pay back about 320k of district funds. Because of this staffing needs are being reassessed as there is now funding for needed positions. More info to come.

**III. Announcements**

- a. APS Division of Academics is hosting an **info session on Universal Screeners and Intervention Blocks** for the North Atlanta Cluster on **September 30 at 5:15pm**
- b. **Sutton Middle School is hosting tours for current 5<sup>th</sup> grade parents** at Sutton 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Powers Ferry Campus. There is one tour per month and Spanish language tours will be offered in October and March. Please visit the [Sign Up Genius link](#) for more details and to sign up.
- c. **North Atlanta High School is offering in-person tours** at NAHS for prospective parents. Prospective parent tours are typically held the 2nd Thursday of each month from 9am – 11am. To register for any of the tour dates, please use [this link](#).
- d. **Reminder for all members to complete Ethics training for all members and New Member training where applicable.** All should have received an email from “APS School Governance” to set up an account on the new training platform called ELiS.
- e. **GO Team required Strategic Planning Workshop will be October 5 from 7-9pm**
- f. **Next GO Team meeting will be on October 28 at 3:30pm**

**IV. Public Comment**

## Meeting Minutes

**Anna Logue-** meeting to start talk with district about exterior issues at MC (turf field, stucco repair, pressure washing etc.) Encourage Community to give feedback for ESPLOST allocation using this [form](#) (also hyperlinked above). Working to figure out how to pull resources outside of what district will provide to help out with the needed improvements.

### V. Adjournment

Motion made by: [McDaniel](#)

Seconded by: [Blease](#)

Members Approving: all

Members Opposing: none

Members Abstaining: none

Motion [Passes](#)

**ADJOURNED AT 4:49**

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Minutes Taken By: [Rachel Davis](#)

Position: [GO Team Secretary](#)

Date Approved: [\[Insert Date When Approved\]](#)