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# Call to order

A meeting of **Frederick Wilson Benteen Elementary School Go Team** was held at **Frederick Wilson Benteen Elementary School Conference Room #98** on **November 13, 2017**.

# Attendees

Attendees included **Wilma Brightharp, Shakira Hightower, Dr. Andrew Lovett, Lance Robertson, Jim Williamson; along with guest attendees – Maria Dunbar, Gerard Latimore, and Dr. Margaret McKenzie**.

# Members not in attendance

Members not in attendance included **Brian Bowers, Jalise Brett]**.

# Approval of minutes

Minutest from the October 2, 2017, meeting were read and approved.

# Reports

## Meeting Schedule

It was moved and properly seconded for the Team to finalized the meeting schedule at the December 4th, 2017 meeting.

## Dual Language Immersion Presentation

Dr. Margaret McKenzie from the APS World Language Department presented the Team with information regarding the Dual Language Immersion program in Atlanta Public Schools. The program is commonly referred to as DLI. According to Dr. McKenzie, the program schools two language groups in their native tongue and in another language. For Benteen, the languages include both English and Spanish. Currently at Benteen, there are 84 English Learners (73 are active in ELL classes), 89 English Speakers (14 in kindergarten, and 14 in first grade).

The program’s goals: 1. Proficiency in English, and 2. Proficiency in second language. She mentioned the Seal of Bi-literacy – where students score high on Advance Placement test. 41 seals were earned by APS students in 2017, and this was the first group to earn the distinction. There has also been evidence of improved academic performance on standardized text in English Language Arts (ELA) and math, even when the tests were administered in English.

Some advantages of learning a second language:

* Learning language changes the brain
* Have cognitive skills enhanced
* Better understanding of language
* Enhances global citizenship – multi-cultural, positive attitudes

DLI was launched through APS World Language department in 2013, with nine schools. During the 2017-2018 school year, 45 schools in the state of Georgia have been identified as being DLI schools. The following schools in APS have DLI:

* Bolton Academy – K & 1st Grade
* E. Rivers ES – K, 1st Grade & 2nd Grade
* Garden Hills ES – K, 1st Grade & 2nd Grade
* Brandon ES – K & 1st Grade
* Perkerson ES – K, 1st Grade, 2nd Grade, 3rd Grade & 4th Grade
* Sarah Smith – K & 1st Grade

Results from a 25-year longitudinal study found that students from low socio-economic families out performed their counterparts that operated without DLI.

The Georgia DLI model includes:

* 50/50 English/targeted immersion language
* Classroom instruction includes two teachers – 1 who will teach in the immersion language + 1 who will teach in English
* Separation of the languages
* Students start the day in one of the languages spoken

What are the requirements to become a DLI school?

* There is an application
* There is a deadline
* Should the number of applications exceed the number of available slots, schools will be informed of a lottery
* Principal will notify parents of lottery results

To be considered, Benteen will need to submit its DLI plan along with a timeline, that must be included in the school’s cluster plan. Dr. Lovett feels this will help to attract students to Benteen. Benteen is currently in the data collecting phase. APS Board member, Ms. Cynthia Briscoe Brown supports the DLI program.

## CCRPI Presentation/Update

Dr. Lovett shared Benteen’s CCRPI Trend Overview – covering 2015, 2016, and 2017 data. Informing the Team that a 3-year average must not be below a certain number. In 2017, ACCESS assessment tool administered in 2017, was the first time that students took it online. The 2018 CCRPI will experience a change all around, with a required minimum performance of 60% in both English Language Arts and Math. Benteen’s 2017-2018 target focus areas include:

* Increase the percentage of students scoring at Developing or higher in Social Studies on the Georgia Milestones assessment tool
* Increase the percentage of students scoring at Developing or higher in Science on the Georgia Milestones assessment tool
* Increase the percentage of students scoring 4 out of 7 on the Writing domain of the Georgia Milestones assessment tool
* Increase the percentage of students scoring at Developing or higher in English Language Arts and Math on the Georgia Milestones assessment tool

A draft of the Benteen Strategic Plan will be pushed out electronically in a few days. This instrument is finalized once a year.

## Miscellaneous

There are plans for a Teaching Math Curriculum Night, or parents to sit-in their child’s class. Ms. Hightower will contact a resource for us.

# Unfinished business

## Public Comment Format

It was the consensus of the Team that they will discuss this at the December 4th meeting.

# New business

There wasn’t any new business to discuss.

# Announcements

Thursday, November 15, 2017, Parents are invited to the school’s Thanksgiving lunch for $5, and to shop at the Scholastic Book Fair.

All APS offices will be closed for Thanksgiving, Monday, November 20 – Friday, November 24, 2017.

The Benteen Holiday Concert is scheduled for Tuesday, December 19, 2017, at 5:00 p.m.

Jim Williamson is working on replacing the Benteen washer and dryer. He is working with a foundation with APS board member, Cynthia Briscoe-Brown.

Dr. Lovett is looking to have a Real Men Read event for our students sometime in December 2017.

## Adjournment

The November 13th meeting was adjournment at 4:36 p.m.

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| Wilma Brightharp |  |  |
| Secretary |  | Date of approval |