GO TEAMS
STRONG SCHOOLS START WITH ME!

Meeting Minutes

Continental Colony (CCES)
Date: October 23, 2025
Time: 4:30 pm
Recording: Yes

I. Call to order: 4:37 pm

II. Roll Call

Role	Name *(or Vacant)*	Present or Absent
Principal	Kristen Horton	P
Parent/Guardian	Mariyam Drammeh	P
Parent/Guardian	BigGurl Carr	A
Parent/Guardian	Vacant	
Instructional Staff	Marquisha Sanders	A
Instructional Staff	Cecilia Battle	P
Instructional Staff	Tauheedah Uthman	P
Community Member	Carolyn Strozier	P
Community Member	Vacant	
Swing Seat	Vacant	
Guest	Tracie Astin	P
Guest	Joycelyn Gore	P

Quorum Established: Yes

III. Action Items

A. **Approval of Agenda:**
Motion made by: T. Astin
Seconded by: Berkshire Place
Members Approving: 7
Members Opposing: 0
Members Abstaining: 0

B. **Open Community Member Seat**
i. Nominee: Bajah Whitehead, PTSA President

Motion made by: C. Strozier
Seconded by: C. Battle
Members Approving: 7
Members Opposing: 0
Members Abstaining: 0

C. **Approval of Previous Minutes (9/4/25)**

Motion made by: M. Drammeh

Seconded by: C. Strozier

Members Approving: 5

Members Opposing: 0

Members Abstaining: 0

IV. Discussion Items

A. **2025-2030 School Strategic Plan Development**

i. Inform, Input, Invite

1. Dr. Horton presented Continental Colony's Key Performance Indicator (KPI) Summary that aligns with APS's strategic plan. The KPIs are organized into six components: Strengthening our instructional core, Caring for every child, Sparking student passion, Our strength is in our team, Our responsibility is share, and Our system is efficient and effective.
2. The meeting was focused on reviewing these indicators to help shape the school's 2025-2030 Strategic Plan. Dr. Horton specifically mentioned they were concentrating on the mission, vision, and strategic goals during this meeting.
3. The team is reviewing current performance and goals for 2030 across various metrics including reading and math proficiency, student attendance, and school climate.
4. The school is using current data to inform their planning process, though the specific performance metrics weren't detailed in the transcript beyond mentioning they were reviewing "individual school data" that participants could access via QR code.
5. The overall goal is aligning the school's strategic plan with the district's plan while grounding it in the school improvement plan, with a timeline to have goals and objectives approved by January 2026.
6. The team reviewed the current goals: Increasing reading proficiency from 19% to 24% as measured by Georgia Milestone Assessment, Ensuring 80% of K-5 students meet MAP reading growth targets, Increasing math proficiency from 22% to 27%, Improving special education subgroup performance from 9% to 15% in both math and reading, Reducing student incidents and out-of-school suspensions for Tier 2 and Tier 3 behavior challenges by 50%.
7. The team is now considering extending these goals to 2030, but members requested more time to review the data before making final decisions.
8. Dr. Horton will send everyone the KPI indicators for further review before the next meeting.

ii. **Public Comment Discussion**

1. There was a brief discussion about public comment protocol.
2. Comment posed if public comments should be placed at the beginning or end of meetings.
3. Feedback preferred to keep public comments at the end to ensure completion of required business items, especially to finalize the strategic plan by January before budget planning.
4. Recommendation to shift public comments to the beginning to respect community members' time.
5. Feedback expressed concern that if comments were at the beginning, community members would not have heard the full meeting content to provide informed feedback.
6. The team ultimately decided to keep public comments at the end.

iii. School Communications System
1. Highlighted different ways the school communicates information, including the website, Dojo, email, and Blackboard.
2. Recommended considering social media platforms, such as TikTok.
3. Referenced social medica communications and distribution of information to ensure advance information.
4. School has an Instagram page, a Facebook page, and a YouTube page.
5. School Communication Ambassador (Lee) is contact to post on platforms or forward to Principal.

iv. School Supplies
1. Discussion regarding any additional funds to supplement any expenses for teacher's school supplies.
2. Requests should be provided to Ms. Lee for supplies.
3. Discussed including the PTA and leadership team in this conversation and considering these needs in next year's budget planning.
4. Referenced a previous budget meeting where line items were shared and reiterated the process of teachers emailing Ms. Lee for needed items.
5. Information outlined in last year's budget vote regarding non-staffing allocations and can be sent.
6. Enrollment gap by 30 students and had $310,000 that was "held hold harmless" but didn't receive extra funds.

v. Community/Food Resources
1. Discussed community support and food drives, particularly in light of potential SNAP benefit disruptions due to a government shutdown.
2. Concerns about how to support Continental Colony families.
3. Indicated the district has set up weekly food distribution at the APS Hub, where families can pick up free groceries on the last Monday of each month between 10:00 AM and 12:30 PM (or until supplies run out) at 601 Thomas Junior Way.

4. Shared Mr. Phillips typically provides family food pickups around this time of year, as he did last year, and suggested connecting with him to see what might be available.
5. Discussion was focused on having resources that may be readily available.
6. Suggestions additional local solutions like: Creating a list of community food resources, setting up snack carts in hallways for breakfast, pantry drive, and providing lunch carts at the end of the day for students to take home snacks.
7. Recommendation: Community Food Bank by MLK – every 2 weeks

vi. PTSA
1. Recommended that the school and PTA be more intentional about co-planning fundraising and community events.
2. Suggested a stronger partnership would help unify outreach, increase fundraising success, and avoid overloading families with too many separate commitments.
3. Several PTSA fundraising activities that are currently in motion or under consideration: Fish fry for teachers to get them all signed up for PTA, Globe Party for the kids, Spirit Knights at Zaxby's/Chick-fil-A, Fall Festival (increase PTSA involvement).

V. Information Items.

A. **Principal's Update**

i. "Bring Your Parents to School Day" has been very successful over the past 2 weeks. K-2 families met to review student data and set goals for increasing ARM (reading mastery) scores, while grades 3-5 set math goals.

ii. APS Forward Plan, which proposes to repurpose Continental Colony's building and merge students with Fickett, Deerwood, and Kimberly. This is not finalized yet. Shared there are QR codes for a survey, questions, and a video created by Mr. Phillips showing Continental Colony's impact. Upcoming public meeting about the Comprehensive Long Range Facilities Plan on November 10th - virtual at noon and in-person at 6pm at CLL.

VI. Announcements

A. A school tour scheduled for tomorrow from district representative Toton Pace, though confirmation is still pending.
B. On November 3rd, Uthman will be holding a mock election in the kindergarten hall ahead of Election Day. The mock election will help students understand the concept of voting in a fun way. Everyone is welcome to participate.
C. District now has a 90% graduation rate.
D. FY 2026 adopted budget for all schools link provided.
E. PTSA 'Fish & Chip' membership drive on November 9th.

VII. Public Comment(s)

A. Encourage more participation of parents in process and discussion in speaking of vision and mission of school.
B. Discussion to have Parent Liaison to assist in food needs and support community resources.
C. PTSA can not be sole fundraiser. Fundraiser funds for PTSA is separate from school.

VIII. Adjournment

Motion made by: C. Strozier
Seconded by: C. Battle
Members Approving: 7
Members Opposing: 0
Members Abstaining: 0
Motion

ADJOURNED AT: 6:04 PM

Minutes Taken By: T. Astin
Position: GO Team Secretary
Date Approved