

## Hope-Hill Elementary School

Date: **May 16, 2023**

Time: **4:00p**

Location: **Virtual Zoom Call**

I. Call to order: **4:07p**

II. Roll Call

Role	Name (or Vacant)	Present or Absent
Principal	Maureen Wheeler	P
Parent/Guardian	Alex Wu	P
Parent/Guardian	Amanda Siegel	P
Parent/Guardian	Robin Tolochko	P
Instructional Staff	Natalie May Walther	Absent
Instructional Staff	Jocelyn Nettles	P
Instructional Staff	Khadijah Williams	P
Community Member	Carol Cooley	Absent
Community Member	Donell Woodson	Absent
Swing Seat	Derrick Ross	P
Student (High Schools)	Vacant	

Quorum Established: Yes

III. Approval of Agenda:

A request was made by Ms. K. Williams to add a discussion item involving afterschool transportation.

Motion made to approve the agenda (with the addition of new discussion item from K. Williams) by: **Derrick Ross**; Seconded by: **Alex Wu**

Members Approving: All

Members Opposing: None

Members Abstaining: None

Motion Passes

IV. Public Comment

No Public Comments were made.

## V. Approval of Previous Minutes:

Motion made by: [Derrick Ross](#); Seconded by: [Alex Wu](#)

Members Approving: All

Members Opposing: None

Members Abstaining: None

Motion Passes

## VI. Discussion Items

### a. 2023 Spring MAP Results

Ms. Wheeler shared her screen with the Spring Map Results for 2-5<sup>th</sup> graders. We are slowly starting to get our Milestones scores back. They are embargoed so she cannot share them yet. The MAP scores are good data points but they are very inconsistent. In some places, our GMAS scores are way off what Milestones predicted we would score, both higher and lower. We did a little better than what they predicted *so far*, but don't have all the results yet.

Ms. Wheeler gave us a “refresher” on how to read the MAP data which tests math and reading. Ms. Wheeler says MAP is a good diagnostic for how we should score on GMAS, but when we get the scores back, it doesn't completely align.

She then shared an example of Fall to Winter for Math. If you look at the percentages, it looks like we went down, but the number of test takers went up. Our transiency rate also plays into the results since we don't know if the test takers were the same students and the number of testers changes.

Ms. Wheeler also plans to work with the data department to pull out students who were not with us for the full academic year and keep those who took the test both times so we are looking at the same kids.

Robin posted our Strategic Plan in the chat. In our indicator we did not specify if our growth amount was in MAP or Milestones. Student Growth Percentage data comes from Milestones but since those scores are embargoed, Ms. Wheeler will prepare Ms. Gibbons to discuss that topic.

We also made a mistake with basing some of our goals on number of students, which changed, so it looked like we might not have met our goals. But regulating the data with the correct information/percentages will likely have us meeting our targets. Ms. Wheeler is initially happy with the GMAS results.

### b. BASC-3 results: No information to share

c. **Needs Assessment:** Has not been done yet. Ms. Gibbons will handle this upon her arrival. She will begin spending Wednesdays and Fridays at the school.

d. **Addendum from Ms. Williams**

Ms. Williams has observed that the same “faces” were participating in after school activities, largely due to having access to transportation other than the bus. She told about a 2<sup>nd</sup> grader who was rehearsing for 101 Dalmatians but can’t participate since his mom doesn’t have transportation. Ms. Wheeler said to text her about it so she can try to work something out, since that is not fair to the student.

Ms. Williams wanted to work on a long term solution like a shuttle, or engaging work from home/ non-working parents to help safely get students home going forward. She would like to expose students to different things (she mentioned possibly having Boy Scouts, journalism club, etc.).

Ms. Wheeler said this was a serious need, and they have explored some options, like an APS sweep bus, but that bus cannot come to HH until 5p and activities end at 4p. She said that we could explore options like this sweep bus (there are hurdles to overcome), but ideas would need to be discussed with Ms. Gibbons.

Robin asked why Operation Peace is no longer at HH? Ms. Wheeler explained that OP was at HH while Wingate was renovating and rebuilding, since it was on Bedford Pines property. There was a place built for them on property to make it more accessible for the families there. The Club After School program is on a sliding scale so if someone cannot afford it, Ms. Wheeler will go the director Kila Posey to discuss the tuition.

Alex mentioned that to get something started quickly, other parents can help shuttle kids from after school activities and would be a good community building endeavor. Robin mentioned that we are losing a student to Kindezi since the after care is free. Amanda said the Kindezi after school program was a partnership with Georgia State with students facilitating and was enriching but was inconsistent.

Ms. Wheeler said that the gun safety parent group that met were concerned with accessibility in the afternoon during the afterschool program. The result will be a survey to parents in the afterschool program, and ALL parents, to get concrete input of what parents want and what is currently working. Hopefully we will gather that information in the next 2 weeks of school. The topic needs to stay on the table but there are lots of opportunities and options. It would be a good time to discuss our

after school needs with Club After School and see what they can provide. Ms. Wheeler said that parent feedback is what drives change at the school.

Mr. Ross asked if there was a way/suggestion box where parents can leave general feedback? Ms. Wheeler said that Ms. Gibbons is more text savvy than she so she would not be surprised if that were to come about.

Ms. Wheeler/Principal makes the final decision about the afterschool program at the school, and discusses issues as they come up with Kila. Parent feedback is ultimately what drives the decision in our selection in our afterschool program. Amanda has had multiple phone calls with the after school program, and said there is some disconnect to parents about where feedback should be given, to the principal, the director, or the people on site? Ms. Wheeler said that the principal is ultimately responsible for what happens in the building. We should have a meeting with the program director to discuss what is working and what needs to change, and could they accommodate our needs (ex. Flexibility for parents to use 1-5 days, rather than only a 5 day option; possibly shuttling children home).

Part of public record is that Club Afterschool is part of a civil rights lawsuit with Mary Lin and Springdale Park. Hope-Hill has not had any issues with them so we continued to use them, but that doesn't mean that there is not room for growth. We can gather and present feedback from parents to see if our current provider can meet our needs.

Amanda asked about Camp Best Friends for aftercare, located at the King Rec Center and JD Sims, and do they do pick up? Ms. Wheeler said that we have many students that go to MLK (our current number of kids attending is roughly 20) for afterschool, but the enrollment was limited after COVID and had not re-expanded yet. It is a good option to explore to see if they will come back to pick up our kids when after school activities are over.

**e. GO Team 2022-23 year in review:**

Robin asked for a few minutes of reflections on the year of the GO Team. What went really well or what would you like to see changed?

Mr. Ross said that 4p meetings are hard for him to make. Robin said we can do a Doodle poll to see what works best for people. Alex said we also like to match the needs of the public so they can join.

Amanda asked if we are planning to start meeting in person. She said looking at DT Howard, it's in person and live streamed, and it is announced very often. Ms. Williams asked if we could do a hybrid because the school-based members might like to be home for the meetings. Ms. Wheeler said to explore this with Ms. Gibbons since she is very good with technology.

Robin wanted to know what else we can do for community and parent engagement. The public doesn't come to our meetings, but they don't come to school board meetings, either.

Ms. Williams said that parent volunteers in the classroom and the Sneaker Ball are examples of where parents *want* to participate. Robin said that at the beginning of the year, something was sent out about where parents want to participate but she never heard back about it. Alex said he first was involved with the school as a volunteer, without having a child at the school, but it all got 'beat up after COVID'. Ms. Wheeler said next year will be primed to bring that back to fruition since COVID is no longer considered a pandemic.

Robin suggested even more diverse voices for parent and teacher engagement, including socioeconomically. Mr. Ross said that we need to come up with a process for folks to be able to express their needs and concerns to the team even if they cannot personally attend the meetings.

Though it won't be Ms. Wheeler's decision, she suggested that maybe a couple of weeks before each GO Team meeting, something went home with a communication tool (i.e. Thursday folders) that informs of the date and discussion items for the upcoming GO Team meeting, and ask for questions, input or additional discussion items. That way it becomes a continuous, regular process, asking for feedback prior to the meeting, and it can become an agenda item. The problem is that the GO Team cannot get into the day-to-day operations and personnel, so we need to make this part clear to the parents. A side result is that it brings other issues to the forefront to be handle preemptively and allows the GO team to address its items.

Alex also said that the move to 1.5 hours has been good. Even though it is longer, it has ultimately been more efficient.

Next year, Amelia Catching's mom will replace Alex for his position, Ms. Green and Mr. Tyler will be new Team Members, replacing Ms. Walther and Ms. Nettles.

## **VII. Information Items**

## Principal's Report

- a. There will be a safety needs assessment tomorrow (May 17). Ms. Wheeler has been in touch with facilities to discuss what fencing or deterrent can be used on front/side of school to keep displaced persons off school property. Trash and traffic have become excessive.
  
- b. Ms. Wheeler has had conversations with Dan Drake, who is the Executive Director of Facilities, who said we are very, very, very close to organizing a land swap with City of Atlanta to give us the gym, media center, music room and bike park. Their goal would be to move the playground to the bike park and fence it in to give a nice, big, bike park area. Ms. Wheeler has wanted to do this for the 10 years that she had been at HH, and has been endlessly fighting for this since Day 1, so if there is a ribbon cutting, she had better be the one to do it or she will scream! (Lots of laughs, cheers, and appreciation for this effort!) Recently they were in a meeting with a few parents about safety regarding gun and schools, and Dan Drake said it wouldn't hurt to have letters written in support of the "APS/City of Atlanta land swap, because here is why..." Ms. Wheeler said she thinks it will happen within a year but would take any encouragement and support to make it happen. Ms. Wheeler said that the gun safety parents were going to write Dr. Herring and the Board, and that would be good for us too. But it sounds like it is close to coming to fruition. Having that space would allow us to renovate and do more with space in the gym.

Alex also said that after Donnell and others have spoken to our neighbors, they discovered that the National Park Service has expressed interested in the site too, to make the MLK center better.

## VIII. Announcements

Robin thanked Ms. Wheeler for everything that she has done for the school over the last 10 years, for the teachers, love of children, and being a wonderful influence on our community. Mr. Ross said she has been a great partner to the community, for the parents and school.

Ms. Wheeler said that it has been the best 10 years of her life. She is very proud to go out with the work that we have done at Hope-Hill. She said that her dad and mom were so proud of her at the Sneaker Ball, and they are why she is retiring. It warmed their hearts to see what an amazing school community we have. It has been the greatest joy of her life and she will be back in some form or fashion. And when they do the ribbon cutting of the gym she will be there and wants her hand in it since that has been her biggest fight!

Ms. Wheeler is also thanked the GO Team and said she appreciates the work that the team does for all kids, not just your own kids, and that's what makes Hope-Hill special.

**IX. Adjournment**

Motion made by: [D. Ross](#); Seconded by: Amanda

[Members Approving](#): All

[Members Opposing](#): None

[Members Abstaining](#): None

**Motion Passes**

**ADJOURNED AT 5:20p**

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**Minutes Taken By:** [Jocelyn Nettles](#)

**Position:** [Secretary, 2022-2023](#)

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