

Hope-Hill Elementary School
Date: Thursday, March 9, 2023
Time: 5:30p
Location: Virtual Zoom Call

- I. Call to order: 5:42p
- 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	P
Instructional Staff	Jocelyn Nettles	P
Instructional Staff	Khadijah Williams	P
Community Member	Carol Cooley	Joined 5:48p
Community Member	Donell Woodson	absent
Swing Seat	Derrick Ross	P
Student (High Schools)	Vacant	

Quorum Established: Yes

III. Approval of Agenda

- a. Approval of Agenda
 Motion made by Derrick Ross, seconded by Amanda Siegel
 Members Approving: All
 Members Opposing: None
 Members Abstaining: None
 Motion Passes

IV. Public Comment

No one contacted Ms. Wheeler or Mr. Woodson to be put on public comment list.

V. Action Items

- a. Approval of previous minutes

Incorrect minutes from 1/31 posted on the website, so motion was made by Alex Wu to approve the correct minutes for 1/31/23 as shown on the screen by Nettles.

Motion made by Alex Wu, seconded by Amanda Siegal

Members Approving: All

Members Opposing: None

Members Abstaining: None

Motion Passes

b. Review Summary of Budget from Budget Feedback Meeting

Ms. Wheeler shared the slide deck for the FY24 Budget Approval Meeting. We went over the *proposed* budget during our last meeting. The question left on table was whether or not we wanted to budget for a full time school psychologist. In talking with our Associate Superintendent and the staffing conference, the recommendation was that a full time psychologist (plus full time social worker, behavior coach, counselor) would make us too top heavy in administration and more of our funds should go to our students.

She showed the norms and we are at step #7: Budget Approval (we are actually ahead of schedule). No changes were made at the staffing conference: everything was approved by the Associate Superintendent, the staffing director and federal programs. Our priorities were wrap around services; high academic levels of growth amongst all students; maximizing instructional time with engaging opportunities aligned to the student standards.

Alex asked if that during the staffing conference, did they have any comments on our budget? Ms. W said no, that the only thing they discussed was whether or not to take the psychologist full time. The MTSS specialist role (formerly RTI, Dr. Echols at HH) is designed to do more than we are doing with the role. Dr. Echols can therefore do more and free up more time for the psychologist.

Amanda confirmed that it would be Mr. Robbins would be brought to full time to be our full time counselor. She also asked what MTSS stands for, and Ms. W said that it was formerly known as RTI (Response to Intervention) and that person oversees all of interventions for our Tier 2 and Tier 3 students. This person tracks the data to see if the students are improving. It is specific and weekly interventions and probes. The MTSS specialist oversees the schoolwide process of interventions, progress monitoring, meetings with parents and testing.

The proposed strategic plan asked to increase to a full time counselor; add a 4th and 5th grade teacher to reduce class sizes; add an additional EIP teacher so there is a push in teacher on each grade level (except for 3-5th where they are departmentalized); adding a full time 2nd grade parapro; taking K parapro from part time to full time to improve continuity and retention, and have them be part of our training (they are not part of our training when they are hourly).

These are the asks for the new budget, using our additional funding, while keeping everything that we already have in place. The vote on the budget tonight will be that we want to keep everything have in place and we are in agreement that these proposals align with our priorities and are good for our kids, or that we disagree.

Robin asked Ms. Wheeler if she reviewed our existing budget and if she found anything that we are spending money on that doesn't currently align with our priorities? Her example was the technology teacher, since technology is more integrated into the classroom now. Is there value to students to keep the class? Ms. Wheeler said that since the technology teacher is hourly, the cost is minimal (approx. \$20-25K v \$90K for a teacher) and this allows us to create an additional special so we can give teachers double planning once a week (90 minutes) to allow teachers to do intensive curriculum planning with the instructional coaches. It would be difficult to change this at this juncture and still have the extra planning. This was pre-pandemic change to teach our kids keyboarding and Google Classroom because our kids didn't have it while our sister schools were offering it. It has been renamed the Active Learning Lab, and is now incorporating interactive technology rather than just sitting in front of a screen. The active floor has been installed and the robot is about to arrive.

We also still have our Leveling Reserve. As long as we meet our target number of students, the new principal will have \$73K to allocate when they come on board. We also have Title 1 Holdback of \$23K, we can save for the new principal to bring forth their own ideas of how to spend the reserve.

c. Review Changes (if any) from Staffing Conference

We are spending 75% of our budget on instruction, going directly to students; 2% on Media Services; 7% on school administration; 3% on maintenance and operations; 6% on improvement of instruction; 7% on pupil services. We want to make sure that the biggest piece of the budget is going to our students.

Questions to consider before voting: is everything in our budget aligned to our priorities, our cluster priorities, and our signature program? Are they reasonable expenditures?

Alex We had a question as to how we are spending money regarding our language program (currently American Sign Language). Alex asked if Howard and Midtown are continuing their programs? Ms. W said that MHS is, and DTH is exploring it. DTH is revisiting their world languages program because at the last cluster meeting, Ms. Wheeler and Dr. Bockman were encouraging ASL because it benefits our students who struggle with foreign languages. It is being explored and there is interested there.

- d. Final Budget Vote (following discussion items below)
Motion made by: Derrick Ross; Seconded by: Natalie Walther
Members Approving: All
Members Opposing: None
Members Abstaining: None
Motion Passes

VI. Discussion Items

- a. Review Budget Development Process
- b. Budget allocation presentation question and answer

VII. Information Items

- a. Principal's Report
Breaking news! Our 3 students who made it to the state science fair all placed!
- b. New Principal Hiring Process Update
Ms. Wheeler plans to streamline the list of what people have said they want in a new leader and things that she has heard people say, and put it in a more manageable format so that it is easier for Robin and Donell during their round of application review. What are our Must Haves? Ms. Wheeler said a good thing to consider if this is someone who fit the culture and the community of the school. She said that APS experience is not mandatory, but maybe someone with either principal or APS experience is preferable. Fresh eyes and fresh ideas are great, but we don't really need a "turn around" principal.

Alex said that teacher input will be very important in selecting a candidate that other teachers will like, but Ms. W said that everyone on the GO Team is in tune to the needs and desires of the school. Amanda mentioned the problems with

the fit of the initial DTH principal coming from a different community. Ms. W said to look for similar school experiences, but the decision out of the two finalist will be that of Dr. Herring's. Also, a lot of information will come out of the interview so we will feel comfortable making the decision.

Ms. Wheeler then gave us an outline about how the Tier 3 process/ interview day will run (question generating, confidentiality, pros and cons of candidates, etc). Amanda also asked if the new principal will overlap with Ms. Wheeler at all: the hope is there will 2 months of overlap with the two leaders.

- c. 3/02/2023 Midtown CAT Meeting update (Alex had previously sent an email to the team)
The last CAT meeting was on 3/2/23, and there were 2 major topics: accelerated courses being considered for APS middle schools (the team presented at the meeting) and annual facilities capacity review, specifically dealing with Midtown High School. APS published options recently and they are going to the board in May and June about which option to choose for each cluster. The principal of Washington HS was there and presented a strong case of what they are doing in that cluster that are improving and doing well there. Reminded Alex of HH in that "good performing schools can be measured in many, many different ways." Currently the capacity talks focus on Centennial and not our feeder schools. But we need to keep an eye on it because there is speculation that the capacity reviews are incorrect and could impact us. Capacity reviews are done yearly now so it forces everyone to look at what is coming and start preparing for it. Also, Alex will be rolling off of CAT next year so someone else is going to need to take his position.

VIII. Announcements

Robin thanked Ms. Wheeler for doing the Parent/Principal Chats. It has been fun to start engaging.

IX. Adjournment

Motion made by: Alex Wu; Seconded by: A. Siegel

Members Approving: All

Members Opposing: None

Members Abstaining: None

Motion Passes

ADJOURNED AT 6:50p

Minutes Taken By: Jocelyn Nettles
Position: Secretary of the Hope-Hill GO Team
Date Approved: [Insert Date When Approved]