

HERMAN J. RUSSELL WEST END ACADEMY

GO TEAM MEETING

March 13, 2025

Budget Finalization Meeting





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- **ROLL CALL**
- **ESTABLISHMENT OF QUORUM**



CHELSEA IRVING

Chair

VICTORIA ROBINSON

Vice Chair

BRACHELL KEMP

Secretary

DERRICK HEARN

Cluster Rep

TONETTA GREEN

Principal

ROBBIE HARRIS

Parent Seat

EBONIQUE BOWDRE

Parent Seat

NIKKI BIVINS

Staff Seat

BLANCHE PAYNE

Community Seat

KIA FORTSON

Swing Seat



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Budget Finalization Meeting Agenda

Herman J. Russell West End Academy

Date: **March 13th, 2025**

Time: **5:00pm**

Location: <https://www.facebook.com/apshjrussell>

ACTION ITEMS

○ APPROVAL OF AGENDA

- I.** Call to Order
- II.** Roll Call; Establish Quorum
- III.** Action Items
 - A.** Approval of Agenda
 - B.** Approval of Previous Minutes
 - C.** Final Budget Recommendation (after final presentation/review and discussion)
- IV.** Discussion Items
 - A.** Discussion Item 1: Final budget recommendation
 - B.** Discussion Item 2: School Uniforms
- V.** Information Items
 - A.** Principal's Report
 - B.** February 24, 2025 CAT Meeting Report Out
- VI.** Announcements
- VII.** Public Comment
- VIII.** Adjournment



- **ACTION ITEMS**
 - **APPROVAL OF LAST MEETING'S MINUTES**

NORMS



This is a meeting of the GO Team. Only members of the team may participate in the discussion. Any members of the public present are here to quietly observe.



We will follow the agenda as noticed to the public and stay on task.



We invite and welcome contributions of every member and listen to each other.



We will respect all ideas and assume good intentions.



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BUDGET

Updates

Overview of FY 26 GO Team Budget Process



Step 1
Update
Strategic
Plan & Rank
Priorities

Step 2
Principals
Workshop
FY 26 Budget
January 15

Step 3
GO Team
Initial
Budget
Session
January 15-31

Step 4
Principals
Cluster Supt.
Discussions

Step 5*
GO Team
Feedback
Mtg.
February 10-14

Step 6
Cluster Supt.
Review
February 17-21

Step 7
Principals HR
Staffing
Conferences
Begin
Feb. 24-27

**YOU
ARE
HERE**

Step 8*
GO Team
Budget
Finalization
Meeting
Budgets
Approved by
March 14

GO Teams are encouraged to have ongoing conversations
* GO Teams will need to take **ACTION** on the budget at these meetings.

Budget Finalization Meeting

What

- ▶ During this meeting GO Teams will review all components of the budget, which should be updated based on feedback from the Cluster Superintendent and key leaders. After review, GO Teams will **take action** (i.e., vote) on the FY26 Budget.

Why

- ▶ Principals will present the final budget recommendations for GO Team approval.

When

- ▶ All approval meetings **must** be held **after** staffing conferences. Budgets must be approved by **March 14th**.

Changes since Feedback Meeting

There **were not** any changes made to the draft budget we discussed at our last meeting.

These changes reflect an allocation change of \$0



SIGNATURE PROGRAM FUNDS REQUESTED VS. APPROVED

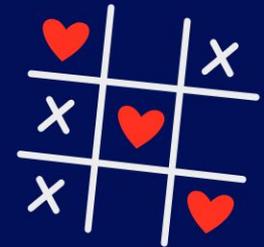


Requested Signature Program Funds: **\$296,988**

- Signature Program Coach
- Signature Program Master Teacher Leader
- Signature Program Club Sponsor Stipends
- Signature Programming Supplies/Resources

APPROVED Signature Program Funds: **\$193,432**

- Signature Program Coach
- Signature Programming Supplies/Resources



TURNAROUND FUNDS REQUESTED VS. APPROVED

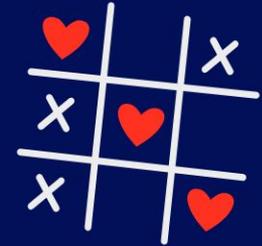


Requested Turnaround Funds: **\$296,937**

- Turnaround Behavior Specialist
- Turnaround Special Education Lead Teacher
- Stipends for Professional Development

APPROVED Turnaround Funds: **\$294,861**

- Turnaround Behavior Specialist
- Turnaround Reading Specialist
- Stipends for Professional Development



SUMMARY OF POSITION CHANGES TO SUPPORT THE FY26 BUDGET

CREATED	REMOVED
Turnaround Reading Specialist	REP Class
Instructional Coach for DEE	Turnaround Special Education Lead Teacher
	Registrar
	Parent Liaison
	SST Specialist
	School Business Manager

Summary of Changes

Replacing the regular education teacher position with a turnaround reading specialist is aimed at enhancing literacy outcomes, leveraging specialized skills in literacy instruction to rapidly improve reading skills for students most in need. The DEE Instructional Coach role will provide targeted support and professional development for special education teachers, enhancing instructional strategies and improving educational outcomes for students with diverse learning needs. The other positions were eliminated due to their exclusion from the budget and lack of direct impact on instruction, ensuring that classroom teachers' roles were preserved.

EXTENDED - DECLARE BY March 7!



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tinyAPS.com/?2025GOTeamDeclaration



DISCUSSION

Agenda



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SCHOOL

Uniform Discussion
(Optional)



OPTIONAL SCHOOL UNIFORM

In the 2023-2024 school year, the APS Board of Education updated the **district's dress code policy**. As part of the update, starting with the 2025-2026 school year if a school wishes to **maintain or explore implementing** an optional school uniform, it **must** go through an engagement process and have a vote as outlined below:



ELEMENTARY

A school uniform is adopted upon the agreement of the principal and a majority vote of the School Governance Team (GO Team).



MIDDLE

School uniforms are adopted upon the agreement of the principal, GO Team and the elected student government. If the school does not have an elected student government, then a majority vote must be secured from the student body to adopt a school uniform.



HIGH

School uniforms are adopted upon the agreement of the principal, GO Team and the elected student government. If the school does not have an elected student government, then a majority vote must be secured from the student body to adopt a school uniform.

If your school currently has a school uniform and wishes to continue it, you must go through this process!

ABOE POLICY JCDB STUDENT DRESS CODE

(Last Revised, 06/03/2024)

<http://tinyaps.com/?APSDressCodePolicy>



REQUIREMENTS

1. A top of non-see through fabric
2. A bottom of non-see through fabric
3. Shoes
4. Undergarments that are not visible

RESTRICTIONS

1. No words or symbols that are gang-related, sexually suggestive, obscene or promote illegal behavior
2. Nothing associated with alcohol, illegal drugs or tobacco
3. No flip-flops, athletic slides or footwear that doesn't support the front and back of the foot





SCHOOL-SPECIFIC DRESS CODES

We have one districtwide student dress code adopted by the Atlanta Board of Education.

School-specific dress codes may not contradict Board policy.

Examples of problematic school specific dress-code provisions

“dress in good taste”

“no baggy pants”

“no sweatpants”

“no activewear”

“no short shorts or skirts”

“no spaghetti straps”

“no tube tops”

“no dresses”

“no tight/revealing clothing”

“no leggings”

“no joggers”

“no ‘extreme’ hairstyles or colors”

“no Crocs”

“all shirts must be tucked in”

“no hoodies/hooded jackets”

“hair should be clean and neatly groomed”

“no shirts which expose cleavage”

“students dressed in uniform are better perceived by teachers and peers”

SCHOOL UNIFORMS

Schools may choose to adopt an optional school uniform.

Effective immediately, at no time will students have their instructional time interrupted or be barred from school or class for declining to wear the optional school uniform.



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SCHOOL UNIFORM EXAMPLES

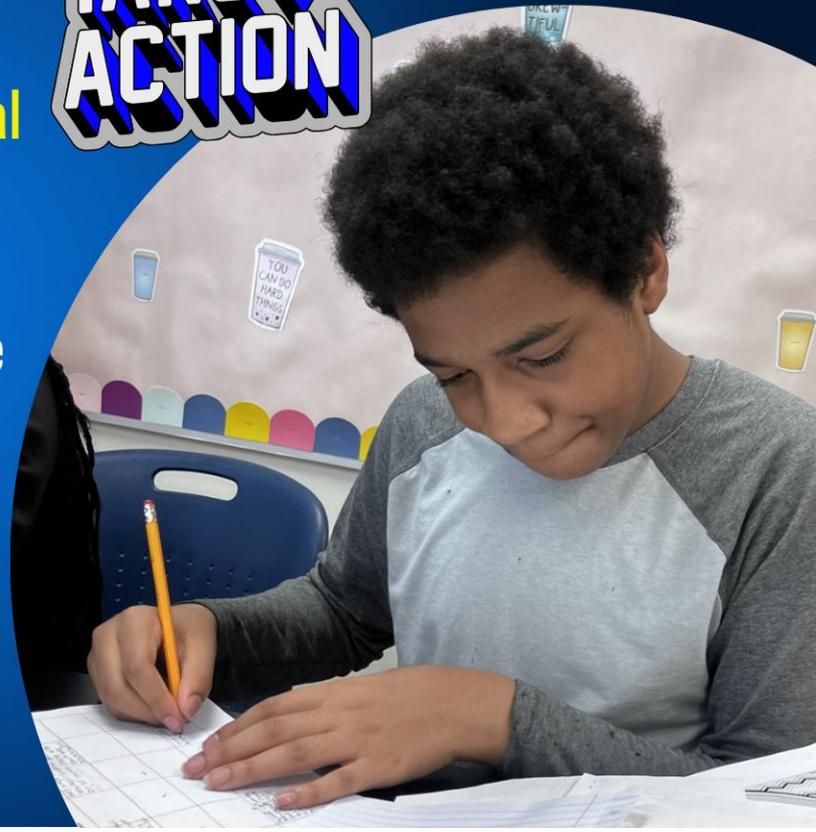


ESTABLISH AN OPTIONAL SCHOOL UNIFORM

The GO Team needs to TAKE ACTION (vote) on **maintaining or exploring implementing an optional school uniform.**

After the motion and a second, the GO Team may have additional discussion. Once discussion is concluded, the GO Team will vote. If the GO Team votes to move forward, then the team should proceed to discuss the School Uniform Advisory Committee.

TAKE ACTION



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DISCUSSION

Only needed if the GO Team voted YES to exploring establishing an optional school uniform.



**TAKE
ACTION**

The GO Team will now discuss If they wish to move forward with establishing a School Uniform Advisory Committee.

The School Uniform Advisory Committee will be responsible for:

1. Develop a stakeholder engagement plan to receive feedback on implementing a uniform and its components, if adopted. Must include a minimum 20-day public comment period on any proposed uniform
2. Recommending the optional school uniform components.
3. Establishing the student voting timeline and process (if necessary).
4. Determine the length of time the uniform will be in use before reconsideration
5. Developing a communication plan to inform the school community about the optional school uniform, if the uniform is adopted
6. Other objectives as defined by the GO Team.



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DISCUSSION

Only needed if the GO Team voted YES to exploring establishing an optional school uniform.



The GO Team will also need to determine who will be on the committee:

1. The GO Team Chair will name the Committee Chair.
2. No more than 2 additional GO Team members may be on the committee (a maximum of 3 GO Team Members).
3. Committee must have at least 3 students as outlined below:
4. Other committee members may be added, as determined by the GO Team.

TAKE ACTION



MIDDLE

Middle School with Student Ambassadors

At least 3 student ambassadors

Middle School without Student Ambassadors

At least 3 students selected by the principal with GO Team input



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ESTABLISH THE COMMITTEE

*Only needed if the GO Team voted YES to exploring
establishing an optional school uniform.*



**TAKE
ACTION**

The GO Team will now discuss if they wish to move forward with establishing a School Uniform Advisory Committee.

The School Uniform Advisory Committee will be responsible for:

The GO Team needs to **TAKE ACTION (vote)** on establishing its **School Uniform Advisory Committee** based on the previous discussion.

After the motion and a second, the GO Team may have additional discussion.

Once discussion is concluded, the GO Team will vote.

If the GO Team votes in the affirmative (yes) for moving forward, then the Chair will need to fill out a committee resolution form (see *example on next slide*) and send to the GO Team Office.



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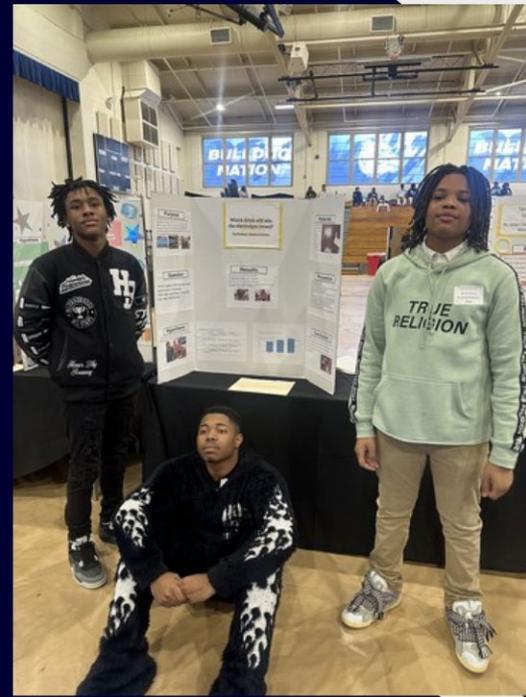
PRINCIPAL'S

Report



APS DISTRICT SCIENCE FAIR

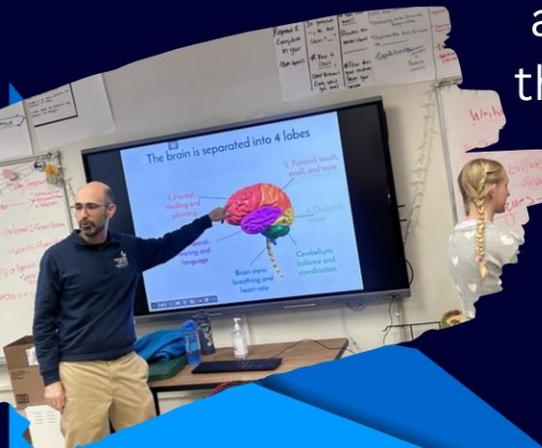
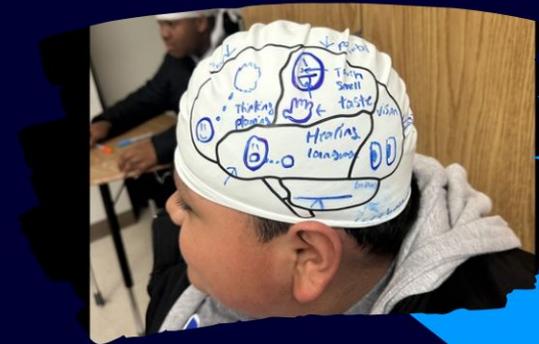
HJ Russell students traveled to Washington High School to compete in the APS District Science Fair. These students presented their projects to several judges and answered questions about the experiments they conducted. Congratulations to three of our teams who placed in the APS District Science Fair!



GSU BRAIN LAB VISITS MS. RAMSEY'S ELA CLASSES



Ms. Ramsey and Ms. Ransom's 7th grade ELA students learned about the human brain with researchers from Georgia State University. This activity helped our students make connections between their ELA anchor text about Phineas Gage and the functions of different parts of the human brain. At the end of the presentation, our students had an opportunity to touch real brain samples!





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FEBRUARY 24TH

CLUSTER

Advisory Meeting

<https://www.atlantapublicschools.us/Page/62838>

Washington Cluster 2024-2025 Priorities

High-Level Status Update

Status Date
February 24, 2025

Cluster Officers: Jonathan Montes de Oca-Chair, Raquel Hudson-Vice-Chair, Dr. Shenee-Swaby-Bell-Secretary

Priority 1: Utilizing STEM/STEAM education with a community-centered approach.

Action Steps:

1. Implement monthly hands-on STEM activities or PBLs for all grade levels, integrating at least two STEAM subjects in each activity.
2. Increase exposure for student to connect learning and solving community challenges.
3. Increase exposure, opportunities, and experiences for various forms of the arts.
4. Track students' participation and engagement through project submissions.

Priority 2: Ensuring all students reach their full potential in literacy and math.

Action Steps:

1. Strengthen literacy and math through targeted instruction.
2. Differentiate instruction and personal learning.
3. Focus on attendance
4. Focus on student-centered learning.
5. Dedicate at least 30 minutes to 1 hour to go over the material and allow students to understand.
6. Implement student-led conferences to allow students to reflect on their learning goals and progress.

Status + Highlights

PRIORITY 1 STATUS		
NOT STARTED	IN PROGRESS	COMPLETED
	X	

PRIORITY 2 STATUS		
NOT STARTED	IN PROGRESS	COMPLETED
	X	

PRIORITY 1 HIGHLIGHTS
<p>Washington High School-</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Implement instructional activities with a community-centered STEM/STEAM focus that engages students in real-world problem-solving through partnerships with local businesses, organizations, and community leaders. 2. Strategize create ways to use existing school resources, secure more grants, and collaborate with local stakeholders to provide students with mentorship, internships, and service-learning opportunities.

PRIORITY 2 HIGHLIGHTS
<p>Washington High School-</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Use data-driven strategies to identify learning gaps and tailor targeted instruction to provide small-group interventions for struggling students. 2. Weekly data talks, along with ongoing PLCs and PL that build teacher clarity and capacity in Tier 1 Instruction with a literacy integration. 3. Utilize formative assessments to adjust teaching methods based on student needs and provide scaffolding and enrichment activities to meet diverse learning levels.



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PUBLIC COMMENT



DISMISS

THANK

YOU

for your attention and attendance.

