

**Martin Luther King Jr. Middle School**

**Date: October 24, 2024**

**Time: 5:00PM**

**Location: <https://bit.ly/MLKYoutubeChannel>**

- I. Call to order: 5:03PM
- II. Roll Call

Role	Name (or Vacant)	Present or Absent
Principal	Kimberly Gibbs	Present
Parent/Guardian	Jennifer Bhagia-Lewis	Present
Parent/Guardian	Adia Pam	Present
Parent/Guardian	Constance Franklin	Present
Instructional Staff	LaTonya Bankston	Present
Instructional Staff	Brian McKinney	Present
Instructional Staff	Elizabeth Prather	Present
Community Member	Craig King	Present
Community Member	Maxine Cain	Present
Swing Seat	Kalisha George	Present
Student (High Schools)		

Quorum Established: YES

**III. Action Items**

- a. **Approval of Agenda:** Motion made by: **J. Bhagia-Lewis** Seconded by: **E. Prather**  
 Members Approving: 9  
 Members Opposing: 0  
 Members Abstaining: 0  
**Motion Pass**
- b. **Approval of Previous Minutes:** List amendments to the minutes: None  
 Motion made by: **J. Bhagia-Lewis** Seconded by: **L. Bankston**  
 Members Approving: 9  
 Members Opposing: 0  
 Members Abstaining: 0  
**Motion Pass**

## IV. Discussion Items

### a. Discussion Item 1: [GA Milestones Data](#)

- i. **School Goals and Progress Discussion**-Ms. Gibbs presented the school's goals for the year, focusing on increasing the ELA score from 26 to 29 and decreasing behavior referrals. She also discussed the alignment of school strategic priorities with APS priorities and the ranking of these priorities. Ms. Gibbs then shared data on the school's progress, highlighting a decrease in beginner-level students and an increase in proficient and above students in both ELA and math. She also noted a significant decrease in beginner-level students in math from 6th to 7th grade. The conversation ended with a discussion on the factors contributing to the decrease in beginner-level students.
- ii. **Improving Math Instruction and Support**- Ms. Gibbs and Ms. Bankston discussed the shift in their school's platform in the middle of the school year, which led to more explicit teaching. They also highlighted the teachers' dedication to planning lessons focused on standards and their commitment to reteaching and reinforcing skills. The addition of a remedial math teacher was also mentioned as a contributing factor to the improvement. Ms. Bankston emphasized the importance of planning for students to do the heavy lifting and using immediate feedback to drive instruction. Dr. Cain expressed appreciation for the progress made and asked about the factors contributing to the decrease in beginners. Ms. Gibbs explained the efforts made to support 6th graders, including weekly math tutorials and the use of Ixl and I-Ready for additional practice and research-based programs.
- iii. **Analyzing School Trend Data and Tests**-Ms. Gibbs led a discussion about the school's trend data from the map and interviewer test assessment. The team discussed the most significant gaps or unexpected trends in student subgroups and grade levels. Mrs. Lewis asked for clarification on the algebra classes and their scores, which Ms. Gibbs explained were not calculated into the math number. Dr. King inquired about the readiness of 8th graders for high school math and algebra, to which Ms. Gibbs responded that most students were ready for the class, but not necessarily to show it on an exam. The team agreed that standardized tests do not necessarily indicate a student's ability to perform in the classroom.
- iv. **Improving Student Performance and Instruction**-Ms. Gibbs discussed the progress of their students, highlighting improvements in their preparation and performance. She identified the need for more focus on

students with disabilities and gifted students. Ms. Gibbs also discussed the school's continuous improvement plan, noting strengths such as consistent and effective intervention meetings and growth in proficiency in math and ELA. However, she acknowledged challenges like the need for teacher support in planning and differentiating instruction, and declining scores in social studies and science. To address these issues, the school is implementing a more equitable approach to instruction, using a unified template and instructional framework, and hiring a restorative practice coach. The overarching needs identified were increasing literacy proficiency, implementing updated math standards, and providing explicit teaching and feedback.

- v. **Addressing Middle School Transition Challenges-**Ms. Gibbs discussed the ongoing challenges of transitioning students to middle school and the need for continued support. She highlighted the importance of staff attendance and the attendance incentive program, which encourages staff to come to work and maintain a positive learning environment. Ms. Gibbs also addressed the decline in social studies and science scores, attributing it to a lack of consistency in lesson plans and instructional frameworks. She mentioned the addition of master teacher leaders to provide more direct support and ensure instruction isn't missed during teacher absences. Dr. Cain emphasized the need for adequate planning and support for teachers, and Ms. Gibbs agreed, noting the need for more time for planning and the addition of substitute teachers to facilitate this.
  - vi. **School's Goals and Strategies Discussed-**Ms. Gibbs discussed the school's goals and strategies for the year. The minimum requirement is to achieve a 3% growth rate, but the team is aiming to exceed this. They plan to use various tools such as MAP, summatives, and formatives to measure progress. The core instructional team will conduct five walkthroughs a week to provide non-evaluative feedback to teachers. They will also collect data to identify areas of growth and implement strategies to address these. For ELA, they will use Amplify, provide specific professional learning, and utilize collaborative planning. They will also focus on the co-teaching model of stations. In math, they will use the Georgia DOE curriculum, provide specific research-based professional learning, and implement collaborative planning and co-teaching strategies.
- b. **Discussion Item 2: [Continuous Improvement Plan and Strategic Plan Alignment](#)**
    - i. **Parent Engagement and school updates-** Ms. Gibbs discussed the alignment of parent engagement goals with the school's numeracy,

literacy, and whole child goals. She mentioned the successful parent engagement activities such as the curriculum night, one school, one book activity, and the grandparents tea. Ms. Gibbs also shared updates on the school's security grant, which has been used to update cameras and is in the process of installing badge readers. She mentioned that the school is an IB school and is using the WICOR method for lesson planning. Ms Gibbs also discussed the school's use of IXL and the focus on aligning activities to standards. The next meeting will discuss how data is aligned to the strategic plan and potential updates to the plan

## V. Information Items

- a. **Principal's Report** [Principals Report](#)
  - i. **Vils Lab, Room Revamp, and Events**

The meeting discussed several key topics. Kimberly announced that Ms. Cannon's room will be transformed into a Vils lab equipped with 3D printers, VR machines, and other high-tech equipment, funded by a Verizon grant. The room is expected to be completed by December. Ms. Gibbs also revealed that Mr. McKie's room will undergo a revamp, courtesy of a \$50,000 grant from the College Football Playoff Foundation. The big reveal is scheduled for January 17th. Ms. Pam suggested more collaboration with the King Center, as the school is named after Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. The team also discussed the upcoming Red Ribbon Week and the achievements of 8th-grade student Z. Swanson, who received a \$10,000 scholarship to college. The team also touched on the Benteen Fall Festival, the annual Thanksgiving meal, and several upcoming events. Towards the end of the meeting, Ms. Pam suggested the creation of a centralized location on the website for athletics-related information

## VI. Announcements

- a. Benteen Park Fall Festival – October 26th 10:00 a.m. – 6: 00 p.m.
- b. Red Ribbon Week October 23rd- October 31st
- c. Eighth Grade PSAT October 30th
- d. After-School All-Stars cancelled October 31st
- e. King Thanksgiving Meal – November 20th
- f. Be A Part of the Plan- Listening Sessions – Oct 30th, Nov 7th, 11th, and 21st
- g. Veteran Foreign Wars Greeting/ Holiday Cards
- h. Athletics

## VII. Adjournment

Motion made by: **E. Prather** Seconded by: **M. Cain**

Members Approving: 9

Members Opposing: 0

Members Abstaining: 0

**Motion Pass**

**ADJOURNED AT 6:21**

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**Minutes Taken By:** [Adia Pam](#)

**Position:** [Secretary](#)

**Date Approved:**