

SUTTON MIDDLE SCHOOL

Date: November 14, 2023

Time: 5:30 p.m.

Location: Sutton Middle School Northside Campus

Recording: https://atlantapublicschools-us.zoom.us/rec/share/eUZI3qoOY35zKdzXRJzjNTIM6DNcu6cbK1fk-yTO_CtmcS9c_GAK5YeuAzN_Te4.78IkbRv9SJApVHGe

- I. Call to order: 5:38 pm
- II. Roll Call

Role	Name (or Vacant)	Present or Absent
Principal	Dr. Dominique Merriweather	Present
Parent/Guardian	Shauna Achey	Present
Parent/Guardian	Laura Collins	Present
Parent/Guardian	Tania Wismer	Present via Zoom
Instructional Staff	DeMarkius Lamar	Present
Instructional Staff	Shelly Riddle	Present
Instructional Staff	Antoine Edwards	Present via Zoom
Community Member	Ana Flores	Absent
Community Member	Fran Egan	Present
Swing Seat	Charneka Jones	Present via Zoom

Quorum Established: Yes

III. Action Items

- a. **Approval of Agenda:** Motion made by: Lamar; Seconded by: Egan
 Members Approving: All
 Members Opposing: None
 Members Abstaining: None
Motion Passes
- b. **Approval of Previous Minutes from October 3, 2023 meeting:** List amendments to the minutes: None
 Motion made by: Riddle; Seconded by: Egan
 Members Approving: All
 Members Opposing: None
 Members Abstaining: None
Motion Passes

IV. Discussion Items

- a. **Discussion Item 1: Strategic Plan Updates**
 - i. SMART Goals have been updated based on Strategic Plan update discussion at last GO Team meeting to include goal to increase testing scores by 5% for ALL subgroups.
 - ii. Updated WIN (What I Need) Block to TBOIS (Tiered blocks of instructions support) Block for Math and ELA
 - iii. Updated Created a System of School Support to have a bilingual Spanish translator at 100% of bilingual events rather than just 50% of events.
 - iv. Other SMART Goals remained essentially the same.
 - v. Achey asked how we move the needle for higher performing students as well as students needing extra support.
 1. Dr. Merriweather discussed the intentional teaching happening in the classroom for acceleration as well as the importance of collaborative Professional Learning Community (PLC) planning for acceleration.
 2. Riddle discussed Personalized Learning Activities occurring every other Friday in ELA and Math which enable students to examine their own data. Additionally, teachers are providing enrichment activities for students who have mastered the material.
 3. Dr. Merriweather mentioned the upcoming addition of Parent University Sessions. Achey inquired about when the Parent University session are expected to begin. Dr. Merriweather responded that it will probably roll out in second semester.
- b. **Discussion Item 2: Continuous Improvement Plan**
 - i. Questions to Consider:
 1. What actions have been taken?
 - a. Added white students to other subgroups so that all students are covered in Smart Goals just like in Strategic Plan.
 - b. Implementation of reflection and goal setting
 - c. Teachers implementing targeted instruction by identifying gaps during weekly PLCs and implementing differentiation in daily lessons.
 - d. Achey asked how student engagement is managed for reflection and goal setting. Lamar talked about leveraging relationships with each individual student. Looking at where the student is now and where the student is going. Dr. Merriweather stressed that these activities take place in the classroom so teachers are facilitating that

conversation. Students are identifying their own needs – academic ownership piece includes holding students accountable. Wismer reiterated that when students see that you care about their learning, they will take ownership of it.

- e. Collins inquired about sharing best practices among PLCs for different grade levels and across subject areas. Riddle pointed out the sharing going on thanks to instructional coaches and additional support. Merriweather also highlighted giving teachers autonomy during Professional Learning days so teachers can choose sessions that will benefit them most. Dr. Merriweather offered to set up a time for GO Team members to observe a personalized learning day.

c. Discussion Item 3: Amplify Math

- i. APS middle schools now have autonomy to look at math instruction models for their individual schools. Dr. Merriweather engaged with the teachers to gather feedback.
- ii. Data on Amplify Math
 - 1. Beginner learners have increased over time
 - 2. Losing students in proficiency or above levels
 - 3. Trend of gaining and losing -- and not in right areas.
- iii. Three Options are available from the District for Math Curriculum as a Middle School
 - 1. Amplify
 - a. Pros: Teachers have been implementing for two years, resources are in schools, assessments included, professional development has been offered, district support for Georgia Department of Education (DOE) resources to close gap of new standards.
 - b. Cons: teaching to the program vs the standards, Amplify not aligned to new standards, too much time in digital platform without students working out problems on paper, limited differentiation
 - 2. Georgia DOE Math Standards
 - a. Pros: All-inclusive units include daily lesson plans, online resources, teacher guidance and student work pages, guided notes, professional development modules online,

- directly aligned to new standards, diagnostic assessments included, differentiation lessons built into the units.
- b. Cons: teachers will need time to internalize lessons, unit assessments not included, will need to print student documents. Dr. Merriweather stressed that teachers now have 90 minutes of planning time 3-4 days a week built into their schedule. Achey emphasized insuring that material has been covered before district tests are administered.
3. Amplify/GaDOE Units based on fit for Standard
 - a. Pros: Teachers make informed decisions on lessons based on standards from either resource, current district guidance documents have some integration of both resources, different assessments available in each resource, familiarity of both resources.
 - b. Cons: time to internalize both resources to make informed instructional decisions, professional learning on two resources
 4. Next steps: Have looked at the data – the numbers don't lie and data is pretty telling. Engaged with teachers for feedback and school would like to move forward with Option 2 (GA DOE). GO Team members were unanimously supportive of this decision.
 5. Implementation will require intensive professional learning as it will require a different level of internalization. Aiming to roll out option two fully at the beginning of the second semester. Dr. Merriweather is planning to send out an update to entire school community about the new direction of math instruction at Sutton.

V. Information Items

a. Principal's Report

- i. When we look at school overall, there has been a decrease in negative behaviors due to clear, direct messaging. Hispanic Heritage month was very successful. Musical was phenomenal. Prospective parent meeting had over 100 elementary school families in attendance. Dr. Merriweather is pleased with the direction the school is moving in -- behavior specialists, tiered support, effective hiring this year are all positives. Continuing to improve culture and student engagement with events such as the Character Day dance, Student Council, positive behavior incentives such as Kona, MAP test growth party, etc.

- b. Egan highlighted that DLI-specific testing data has not been available in standard reports. Since DLI students receive some core content instruction in Spanish, it is critical to have data on Spanish Language performance among DLI students. Dr. Merriweather was able to pull data and will look at making sure Sutton is providing the support DLI students need based on the data.

VI. Announcements: no additional announcements were made.

VII. Adjournment

Motion made by: [Riddle](#); Seconded by: [Lamar](#)

Members Approving: All

Members Opposing: None

Members Abstaining: None

Motion Passes

ADJOURNED AT 6:46 p.m.

Minutes Taken By: [Laura Collins](#)

Position: [Secretary](#)

Date Approved: [TBD, Draft for approval 12/05/2023](#)