

SUTTON MIDDLE SCHOOL

Date: **December 5, 2023**

Time: **5:30 p.m.**

Location: **Sutton Middle School Northside Campus**

Recording:

[https://drive.google.com/file/d/1cIs0VJSKeWHc8Q6oadn3Gky3xyuvbmoo/view?usp=drive link](https://drive.google.com/file/d/1cIs0VJSKeWHc8Q6oadn3Gky3xyuvbmoo/view?usp=drive_link)

- I. Call to order: 5:34 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
Community Member	Ana Flores	Absent
Community Member	Fran Egan	Present
Swing Seat	Charneka Jones	Present

Quorum Established: **Yes**

III. Action Items

- a. **Approval of Agenda:** Motion made by: **Egan**; Seconded by: **Collins**
 Members Approving: All
 Members Opposing: None
 Members Abstaining: None
Motion Passes
- b. **Approval of Previous Minutes from November 14, 2023 meeting:** *List amendments to the minutes: None*
 Motion made by: **Lamar**; Seconded by: **Edwards**
 Members Approving: All
 Members Opposing: None
 Members Abstaining: None
Motion Passes
- c. **Approval of creation of Dual Language Immersion (DLI) Subcommittee**

Motion made by: Egan; Seconded by: Collins

Members Approving: All

Members Opposing: None

Members Abstaining: None

Motion Passes

Fran Egan will serve as Chair of the DLI Subcommittee and the composition of the committee will be established after consultation with the GO Team office.

d. **Approval to update Strategic Plan as discussed (see discussion item below)**

Motion made by: Egan; Seconded by: Edwards

Members Approving: All

Members Opposing: None

Members Abstaining: None

Motion Passes

e. **Approval of Strategic Priorities as discussed (see discussion item below)**

Motion made by: Edwards; Seconded by: Riddle

Members Approving: All

Members Opposing: None

Members Abstaining: None

Motion Passes

IV. Discussion Items

a. **Discussion Item 1: Fall to Winter MAP Data Discussion**

- i. Fall MAP Results – Dr. Merriweather presented Fall MAP testing results. Collins remarked that 6th graders continue to outperform the 7th and 8th graders which is consistent with previous data.
- ii. Winter MAP Results – Dr. Merriweather highlighted that 6th graders continue to outperform the 7th and 8th graders in both math and ELA in the Winter MAP results as well. Achey pointed out that results from ELA and Math are similar which emphasized the need for continued focus on both. Results were broken out by subgroups. Dr. Merriweather pointed out that Sutton has the largest number of English language learners in the district. If the data for the English language learners is taken out of the school's statistics, Sutton's data looks completely different. Dr. Merriweather has inquired about whether there is an alternative assessment that English language learners could take which would provide more beneficial data about those students and also give Sutton a more accurate picture of where students stand. Wismer highlighted the fact that the pandemic learning loss may be impacting some of the data. Particularly, the 6th graders were younger during the pandemic and thus had more time to develop some of the foundational skills before coming

to middle school. Dr. Merriweather noted that the winter testing window coincides with a busy time of the school year. The initial fall MAP results typically show strong performance as there is less activity, allowing students to concentrate more effectively on the assessments.

- iii. **Dual Language Immersion (DLI) Data.** Egan requested that the GO Team examine Sutton’s DLI MAP data for 2021-Fall 2023. While APS does not include this data in its reports, Sutton was able to pull the information. Egan expressed concern about some of the core curriculum courses being taught in Spanish for DLI students, raising the potential need for additional support if students are not proficient in Spanish. Data was determined to be inclusive, however, since it isn’t clear exactly what the Spanish MAP reading score is measuring and DLI is a relatively new program. Dr. Merriweather pointed out that when excluding the Spanish MAP, DLI students demonstrating superior performance compared to other student groups in the building across other MAP scores. The GO Team made the decision to create a DLI subcommittee to conduct a more comprehensive investigation into this matter, inviting experts from the district to provide insights. The goal is to evaluate and recommend additional support measures, if needed, which can be put into place for the upcoming school year.

b. **Discussion Item 2: Strategic Plan Updates**

- i. Dr. Merriweather reviewed Strategic Plan Updates adopted at the last meeting, including expanding academic performance increases to all subgroups

c. **Discussion Item 3: Ranking Strategic Plan Priorities**

The GO Team identified the top priority from each Strategic Priority Category

- i. **Fostering Academic Excellence for All**
 - 1. Targeting instruction, remediation, and interventions **for all students.**
- ii. **Building a Culture of Student Support.**
 - 1. Using Social Emotional Learning to Support all students **to create a sense of belonging in the school culture.**
- iii. **Equipping & Empowering Leaders & Staff**
 - 1. Equipping teachers with the resources needed to ensure quality instruction and appropriate technology utilization
- iv. **Creating a System of School Support**
 - 1. Engage parents and community through effective outreach

d. **Discussion Item 4: Personalized Learning/Goal Setting/Reflection Artifacts**

- i. Jones and Riddle presented Personalized Learning Exemplars. The Personalized Learning Initiative was part of the (School Improvement Plan) SIP plan and empowers students to use their individualized data to determine their learning activities. Sutton has developed a framework utilized by the ELA and math teams, granting students autonomy and responsibility for their learning. Currently implemented monthly, the plan is transitioning to a bi-monthly schedules. During these sessions, students analyze their data using a form to identify the standards they find challenging. Subsequently, they decide on the specific activities they need to focus on. Sutton has observed improvements, a rewarding outcome for both students and teachers. The process involves the use of reflection forms, and Riddle highlighted the unique approach taken in math through pre- and post-testing due to its stair-step nature. Both ELA and math teams have witnessed growth in the targeted areas, attributing it to students' increased accountability for their learning. Students are required to reflect on and analyze their own data, fostering a sense of responsibility. Sutton aims to develop a comprehensive framework that can be extended to other content areas. Dr. Merriweather, acknowledging the initiative's positive impact, commended the learning coaches and is looking forward to doing a walkthrough on Friday. Achey inquired about preserving best practices, and Jones and Riddle explained that plans and activities are saved in a Google drive. Dr. Merriweather emphasized the significance of allowing students to take ownership of their learning and understanding the rationale behind it.

V. Information Items

a. Principal's Report

- i. MAP family score reports will be sent home next week. The Sutton Spelling Bee took place tonight and the reigning champion won for the second consecutive year. Next week is Student Council week, and Friday will end with a movie and popcorn as a way for the students to kick off the holiday break.

b. Cluster Advisory Team (CAT) Report

- i. Wismer reported that CAT is exploring strategies to enhance collaboration within the cluster, addressing potential enrollment loss between among elementary, middle, and high schools. A cluster-wide initiative for Relay for Life in under consideration, aiming to unite all schools in the cluster and provide students and parents with a comprehensive view of the K-12 continuum. This event is scheduled for the spring. The CAT Team is actively seeking additional information to

streamline meeting priorities in advance, promoting efficiency during CAT meetings. Wismer acknowledged and commended the personalized learning initiatives, emphasizing the importance of students taking ownership of their learning. Wismer also recommended documenting these initiatives to assist other schools in implementing similar programs.

VI. Announcements:

- i. Dr. Merriweather highlighted a January 11th event where all of the North Atlanta cluster elementary schools will come to 6th grade campus.
- ii. Egan inquired about transportation updates and Dr. Merriweather reported that Sutton remains actively engaged with the Department of Transportation to address the ongoing challenges associated with transportation.

VII. Public Comment

- a. Sign up was available in advance through a Google Form on Sutton's GO Team website but nobody signed up.

VIII. Adjournment

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

Members Approving: All

Members Opposing: None

Members Abstaining: None

Motion Passes

ADJOURNED AT 7:10 p.m.

Minutes Taken By: [Laura Collins](#)

Position: [Secretary](#)

Date Approved: [TBD, Draft for approval 1/23/2024](#)