

**Sutton Middle School**  
**Date: October 4<sup>th</sup>, 2022**

**Time: 5:30 pm**

**Location: Sutton Middle School Northside Campus Media Center**

- I. Call to order: 5:32pm
- II. Roll Call

Role	Name (or Vacant)	Present or Absent
Principal	Dominique Merriweather	Present
Parent/Guardian	Melissa Hanlon	Present
Parent/Guardian	Tania Wismer	Absent
Parent/Guardian	Shauna Achey	Present
Instructional Staff	De'Markius Lamar	Present
Instructional Staff	Antoine Edwards	Present
Instructional Staff	Shelly Riddle	Present
Community Member	John Olsen	Present
Community Member	Ana Bernardino-Flores	Present
Swing Seat	Colette Minnifield	Present
Student (High Schools)		

Quorum Established: Yes

III. Action Items *(add items as needed)*

- a. **Approval of Agenda:** Motion made by: Olsen; Seconded by: Lamar  
**Members Approving:** Hanlon, Achey, Lamar, Olsen, Edwards, Riddle, Flores, Minnifield  
**Members Opposing:**  
**Members Abstaining:**  
**Motion Passes**
- b. **Approval of Previous Minutes: March 16, 2022** *List amendments to the minutes:*  
 Motion made by: Olsen; Seconded by: Edwards  
**Members Approving:** Hanlon, Achey, Lamar, Olsen, Edwards, Riddle, Flores, Minnifield  
**Members Opposing:**  
**Members Abstaining:**  
**Motion Passes**

- c. **Approval of Previous Minutes: September 6, 2022** *List amendments to the minutes:*

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

**Members Approving:** Hanlon, Achey, Lamar, Olsen, Edwards, Riddle, Flores, Minnifield

**Members Opposing:**

**Members Abstaining:**

**Motion** [\[Passes/Fails\]](#)

**IV. Action Item 1: Motion: No motions**

Motion made by: [\[Insert Name\]](#); Seconded by: [\[Insert Name\]](#)

**Members Approving:**

**Members Opposing:**

**Members Abstaining:**

**Motion** [\[Passes/Fails\]](#)

**V. Discussion Items**

a. **Discussion Item 1: [Report from Dress Code Advisory Committee](#)**

- i. Tania Wismer absent, Shauna Achey presented committee findings
- ii. Reason to form a committee – dress code enforcement an issue brought up by female students to Dr. Merriweather; determined to bring to Go Team; create advisory committee; create survey; discuss changing dress code
- iii. Committee members – John Olsen, Shelly Riddle, Tania Wismer (chair)
- iv. Survey results – 2 surveys, 1 to parent/guardian/staff another to students
  1. 583 responses in total from parent/guardian/teacher/staff
    - a. 46% current dress code is unreasonable as-is
      - i. Concern about females being singled out
      - ii. Shorts another big concern
      - iii. Shoes also came up frequently
      - iv. Consistent enforcement
      - v. Staff training
    - b. 43% believed current dress code is reasonable as-is
      - i. Not leaning towards any one subgroup (parent, teacher)
      - ii. Consistent enforcement brought up
    - c. 10% no firm opinion
  2. 821 responses in total from students (over half of all students participated)
    - a. 22% 6<sup>th</sup> grade, 34% 7th grade, 44% 8th grade
    - b. 50% male, 47% female, 3% other

- c. Respondent racial breakdown representative of the school
  3. Need to review – current APS/current Sutton, other examples of dress codes
  4. John Olsen – theme includes unfair bias with females around shorts; backpacks and safety
  5. Dr. Merriweather – shorts is the big theme he’s hearing with students, female in particular; leggings with shirt coverage; Crocs are allowed
  6. Dress code items that are a safety issue – hoodies down; open toed shoes (tripping); backpacks – kids bring items they should not have, classroom gets crowded; same with bulky coats; teachers need to be able to navigate the classroom (lockers available for backpacks and jackets)
  7. Obscene language can remain as-is based on survey results
  8. Shorts – this is the biggest issue to address
  9. Headwear – this is a cultural or ethnicity issue, self-esteem issue
  10. Conversations with students – formalized training regardless of where we end up
  11. Include pictures as examples for training and dress code documentation with dress code rules
  12. Teacher feedback – grey area is difficult
  13. Dress code – need to fall into the district dress code, maybe with more clarification (review the differences between district and Sutton)
  14. Next steps – propose a new plan and discuss in next Go Team meeting; meet the week of the 17<sup>th</sup> as a team (meeting to be announced) (October 19<sup>th</sup> 5:30, Sutton Northside Campus media center)
- b. **Discussion Item 2: Family Engagement & Communications Advisory Committee**
- i. Committee not required
  - ii. FELT – Family Engagement Leadership Team exists already for Sutton
    1. One of the assistant principals is leading the team
    2. Next steps – someone from the Go Team should be added; informational report-out (Melissa Hanlon will participate)
    3. If in Strategic plan we have family engagement activities or report outs, can get access to their data

## VI. Information Items

- a. **Principal’s Report – Dr. Merriweather**
  - i. Currently using data to review strategic priorities and plan

- ii. Foster Academic Excellence – concerns (parents, teachers, students) around Amplify ELA and Math use in classrooms, too much screen time, Amplify is a district-wide push; feedback sent to the district
- iii. Continuous Improvement Plan – strengths/opportunities and challenges being examined; aligned with district, numeracy, whole child
  - 1. Attainable goals – 3% growth in ELA, math (proficient and above); 2023 – behavioral and emotional risk index reduced by 3%
  - 2. More conferences with students to reflect on performance (during instructional time based on needs + specific days set aside for conferences 1x-2x per month)
  - 3. Targeted instruction – identifying students, tracking them through assessments
  - 4. Will assess initiatives using MAP data
  - 5. SEL – bi-weekly care team meetings to review data for students, other action steps
- iv. MAP data
  - 1. Math and Reading results
    - a. Trend is that we are closing gaps, more students moving up in proficiency
    - b. We are ahead of other schools
    - c. Testing fatigue is an issue
    - d. Would like to celebrate those students who grow
  - 2. More kids in enrichment than intervention now
  - 3. 3 teacher leaders, one per grade level to do support for intervention (up from just one)
  - 4. Buses can be late and impact the intervention/enrichment participation – transportation issues have been escalated
  - 5. Next meeting - we will rank strategic priorities
- b. **Information Item 2 Assistant Principal Search**
  - i. First round interviews for 6<sup>th</sup> grade, 10/3 to fill Miss Cappelli’s role – 2 interviews; 2 additional candidates interviewing 10/5
  - ii. Interim is in place until new AP brought on
  - iii. Reviewing from pool available
  - iv. New pool will be updated at end of year if we don’t find a good fit
- c. **Information Item 3 Addition of New Staff**
  - i. Hired 3 non-instructional paraprofessionals to be present during transitions (bathrooms and hallways); 1 per grade level
  - ii. 1 starting 10/5; the other two when we get back from fall break

## VII. Announcements

- a. Go Team training compliance; all up to date with two who need to do in-person training
- b. Dr. Merriweather
  - i. Sutton has best behavior data in the district
  - ii. Student conflict stemming from social media
  - iii. Family Engagement nights – hearing from parents on their concerns; mostly about transportation; bullying behavior
  - iv. No phone policy in the building
- c. Colette Minnifield
  - i. Anyone interested in IB parent liaison
  - ii. Building a team
- d. Next meeting – November 1<sup>st</sup>

**VIII. Public Comment NO INDIVIDUALS SIGNED UP BY DEADLINE (24 hrs prior)**

**IX. Adjournment**

Motion made by: [Olsen](#); Seconded by: [Minnifield](#)

**Members Approving:** Hanlon, Achey, Lamar, Olsen, Edwards, Riddle, Flores, Minnifield

**Members Opposing:**

**Members Abstaining:**

**Motion Passes**

**ADJOURNED AT 7:16PM**

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**Minutes Taken By:** [Melissa Hanlon](#)

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

**Date Approved:** [11.1.2022](#)