



March 11, 2001 Minutes

This meeting will not allow for Public Comment

Join Zoom Meeting: <https://atlantapublicschools-us.zoom.us/j/87634999729?pwd=dnhzU3lCOGNFV0tQUUtyWkl3TUdDdz09>

- I. **Call to Order:** *Mr. Williams at 5:35pm*
- II. **Roll Call**

Role	Name (or Vacant)	Present or Absent
Principal	Dr. Timothy Jones	Present
Parent/Guardian	Mr. Eric Glover	Absent
Parent/Guardian	Dr. Kenya Gilliard	Present
Parent/Guardian	Ms. Latonia Kurtz	Present
Instructional Staff	Ms. Ruquanda Epps-Primas	Present
Instructional Staff	Dr. Vernon Smart	Present
Instructional Staff	Dr. Bruce Williams	Present
Community Member	Mr. Keith Strickland	Present
Community Member	Mr. Randy Fling	Present
Swing Seat	Mr. Robert Williams	Present
Student (High Schools)	Mr. Robbie Colbert Jr.	Absent

Guest – Teacher (Benjamin Battles)

III. Action Items

- A. **Approval of Agenda** - Moved by Mr. Williams / 2nd by Dr. Williams
- B. **Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes** - Moved by Dr. Gilliard / 2nd by: Dr. Jones.
- C. **SEL Activity:** Mr. Williams facilitated our SEL Activity, each member was asked to think of their favorite song and elaborate why.
 - Mr. Williams- “Somewhere Over the Rainbow”
 - Dr. Smart – “A Change is Gonna Come” (Sam Cook)
 - Mr. Randy Fling – “What’s Going On” (Marvin Gay)
 - Ms. Kurtz – “Man in the Mirror” (Michael Jackson)
 - Dr. Jones – Ordinary People – (John Legend)
 - Mrs. Epps-Primas – “Outstanding” (Gap Band)

IV. Discussion Items

- A. *Discussion Item 1: 2021 – 2022 School Budget*
Mr. Williams did a recap on our 21-22SY budget: \$45.05 FTE and Per Pupil \$19,796 with a total budget of \$4,948,946

- Dr. Jones announced that we will be receiving an additional \$8,000 which may be used for stipends / or supplements, as well as instructional supplies
- Dr. Gilliard asked is funds could be made possible to secure an additional counselor
- Mr. Williams made a motion to approve the 21-22SY budget, as presented and amend as needed. Motion was 2nd by Mrs. Epps-Primas

B. *Discussion Item 2: Committee Updates*

○ *Recruitment*

- Meeting with Office of Student Placement and Open House (Power Point) – March 9th
- General Administrative Transfer Period
 - BEST was given an extension on recruitment, new date April 16th.
 - The Office of Student Placement dashboard will allow BEST to see all families who have selected BEST as a possible option for the upcoming school year. This will allow us to contact parents and share the benefits of attending before the family makes the final school selection. After April 16th Student Placement will reached out to parents.
 - Having an OPEN House for STEM schools and westside charter schools
 - Extending our recruiting efforts to recruit 8th grade students
- Dr. Jones was encouraged after meeting with the Office of Student Placement, they will infuse stories of BEST when parents/individuals call central office and are placed on hold. This is a great way to reach parents we would not have been able to reach.
- Suggestion for reaching families that we contact schools and counselors
- Mr. Strickland ask if our relationship with V-103 was still in tack, if so to have our “Student Voice” go on the radio to share their BEST experiences; BEST could be placed on the Atlanta Hawks Videotron.
 - Building relationships with elementary schools by having our young men read stories at elementary schools. They can talk about our pathways, brag about their experience
- In our BEST story, talk about some of the uniqueness of BEST (PODS and other pathways available), narrated by a student
- Mrs. Kurtz suggested having our young men tutor at some of the elementary schools, which is a great way to build rapport with our neighborhood schools, and at the same time extend ourselves in the community

○ *Student Voice*

- Prepare a video to play through advisement or virtual assembly to get BEST out in the community
- Mr. Williams suggested a 5-question survey that will happen weekly with our students responding (yes/No) and other (technology, having all necessities)
- Mr. Strickland: ways to plug relationships opportunities to bring in resources. Examples include: AI - Artificial intelligence, Record label: students to shadow over to incubator space, talk about careers and building connections

- Talk about careers to building connections
- **Parent Engagement**
 - a. Facebook Parent Group: 20 members
 - b. Heart to Heart – February 23rd, Parent Teacher Conference – March 10th, Munch and eat with Learn with Teachers and Students – March 17th during advisory
 - c. Parent Engagement Tuesday at 5pm March 16th via zoom

V. Information Items

A. Principal's Report –

- **Intent to Return Term 4**
 - 44 students expected to return for (face-to-face) instruction 4th quarter
 - 69 were expected for 3rd quarter, currently 29
- **Surveillance Testing, and Staff Vaccination**
 - Surveillance is at all APS schools/Central Office
 - BEST surveillance testing scheduled for Mondays
 - Surveillance testing detects the presence of COVID 19 or if an individual is Asymptomatic
 - RAPID results out of 8,400 students and staff, only 24 yielded positive
 - Douglass High School designated as a walk-up COVID testing cite. No cost to APS /family members. Site open from 9am-6pm to end of school year.
 - APS in collaboration with Fulton County Health Department will have Vaccination available for 1st dosage: March 24th, 26th and 27th and 2nd dosage: April 14th, 16th and 17th from 9am-4pm
 - Testing location: State Farm Arena.
 - Seniors' other options: Full-time with Atlanta Virtual Academy, In-person, or Site-based virtual
- **Building Assets Reducing Risks (BARR)**
 - BARR is a strengths-based educational model that provides schools with a comprehensive approach to meeting the academic, social, and emotional needs of all students through the power of data and relationships. BEST was given a 53k donation to better understand what is happening (look at, talk to, and assess) with our students. Currently our score is 89.4%, we need to better our BEST.

VI. Announcements

- A. Ms. Kurtz expressed concerns over the amount of time our students are in front of computer screen on a daily/weekly basis and the effect on their eyes. According to research it can be detrimental to our students' eyesight. She stated that some outside time will be great, and possibly having protective screen for each student. Dr. Jones will pair up with Ms. Kurtz to follow up on the data behind the impact of screen time.
- B. Dr. Jones stated because of instructional time restraints, students will not be able to go outside, but promised that all students will have access to screen protectors

- C. BEST A-Team met with Office of High School, presented a powerful PowerPoint focusing on “our connection with the Eagle” as we propel into the Eagle Mentality (how we see, attack, and our strength)
- D. Mrs. Epps Primas stated that she will create “The BEST Flip Grid Gallery” for recruitment
- E. *Basketball Team 2nd Round of State Playoffs*
 - Our Varsity Team made it to 2nd round the state playoffs for the first time in history
- F. *Graduation*
 - Graduation tentative date
- G. There will not be a meeting in April due to Spring Break. The next meeting is scheduled for May 14th at 5:30pm.

VII. Adjournment – 6:39pm

Last revised on 3/4/2021