

Budget Feedback Meeting Minutes

Midtown High School
Date: February 12, 2024
Time: 4:15pm
Location: Media Center

Recording: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=a9USJw_E1HQ

- I. Call to order: 4:22pm
- II. Roll Call

Role	Name (or Vacant)	Present or Absent
Principal	Betsy Bockman	Present
Parent/Guardian	Jenifer Keenan	Absent
Parent/Guardian	Audrea Rease	Present
Parent/Guardian	Tracy Nailor	Present
Instructional Staff	Stacey Tanner	Present
Instructional Staff	Roderick Hill	Present
Instructional Staff	Sgt. Major Fisher	Present
Community Member	Leah Matthews	Present
Community Member	Willgina Montgomery	Present
Swing Seat	Nydia Rivera	Present
Student (High Schools)	Sydney Newton	Absent
Student (High Schools)	Eden Sharp	Present

Guests Present: Atlanta Public Schools staff: Dr. Kevin Maxwell, Assistant Superintendent for Innovation, Improvement & Redesign; Travis Norvell, Chief Strategy & Engagement Officer; Kavi Maddula, Director of Planning and GIS

Quorum Established: Yes

III. Action Items

- a. **Approval of Agenda:** Motion made by: Hill; Seconded by: Fisher
 Members Approving: Unanimous
 Members Opposing:
 Members Abstaining:
Motion Passes
- b. **Approval of Previous Minutes:**

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Motion made by: [Fisher](#); Seconded by: [Hill](#)

Members Approving: Unanimous

Members Opposing:

Members Abstaining:

Motion Passes

IV. Discussion Items

- a. **School Capacity Report:** Atlanta Public Schools District staff: Dr. Kevin Maxwell, Assistant Superintendent for Innovation, Improvement & Redesign and Travis Norvell, Chief Strategy & Engagement Officer and Kavi Maddula, Director of Planning and GIS were on hand to discuss school capacity at Midtown High School.
 - i. Norvell discussed some data from the district's annual report on enrollment and capacity. At the February APS Board meeting, facilities shared a report on every school. Out of 72 schools, 42 (or 65%) are under-enrolled. Three schools are over 100% capacity. These schools are Midtown High School, Maynard Jackson High School and Woodson Park Academy.
 - ii. Two virtual meetings are pending to review the reports. Rezoning will be explored, if needed based on the data. There will be no rezoning without a full year's notice to families. Rezoning has been recommended for Woodson Park Academy. Jackson is being reviewed. Enrollment is expected to peak at Midtown during the 2025-2026 year.
 - iii. Without rezoning, Maxwell addresses the impact via other measures, such as conducting residency reviews, reviewing non-core classes and other resources.
 1. Maxwell handles continuous improvement and noted there are 56 accredited schools in APS.
 2. The office of innovation and redesign supports schools and the district with design thinking cohorts and alleviating impact of overcrowding. Does not make decisions for schools.
 - iv. Maddula mentioned the following statistics:
 1. APS has enrollment of 38,801 traditional school students
 2. Enrollment is projected to be 38,000 in five years
 3. Charter schools are capped; see new facilities master plan
 4. Midtown captures 98% of kids in its zone
 5. There have been less births in the City of Atlanta
 6. Enrollment declined during COVID
 7. There are lots of studios and 1 bedroom apartments being built, but those don't drive enrollment. Luxury, high rent units don't

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drive enrollment. Affordable apartments with 2 and 3 bedrooms increase enrollment.

8. Midtown High School has 94 instructional spaces, 61 core classes and 34 non-core classes. Twenty-five students per core class is APS' ideal capacity.
- v. Bockman noted the following tactics to manage on-campus capacity:
 1. Increasing dual enrollment, which has been about 75 kids per semester
 2. Highlighting the minimum learning day, which is 6 periods, not 8
 3. Work-based learning, which earns credit for having a job; very few do this
 4. Trying to move out juniors and seniors to free up teachers for freshman and sophomores.
- vi. Bockman noted the following challenges due to over-capacity:
 1. Some sports/activities are unmanageable due to size.
 2. Hard to find certified coaching and staffing is a struggle
 3. Parking is a problem, which impacts minimum day students who leave early and causing neighborhood complaints.
 4. School can't have full student body events, like pep rallies
- b. **Budget Development Presentation:** Tanner shared the Budget Development Presentation, which is attached, noting we are at Step 5 in the process. She reviewed the budget parameters, the ranked priorities, corresponding rationale and APS' five focus areas. The Strategic Plan Breakout and demographics were reviewed as well. Midtown's current student demographics are: 45% white, 35% black and 30% other.

Bockman discussed the school allocation. There are 118.63 full-time instructional staff, with a total 160.73 employees. The total budget is \$17,561,167. The reserves and holdback funds were discussed, noting that \$246,617 is held back for leveling reserves.

District staffing conferences will take place in late February. Next GO Team meeting on 3/11 is for budget approval, with a budget approval deadline of 3/15.

V. Announcements

- a. All GO Team Members must complete budget review training.
- b. GO Team applications are open for 2 parent/guardian positions.
- c. Next year, the school schedule will be from 8:30am-3:30pm. There will be no C day.

VI. Public Comment

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- a. Two people spoke during public comment.
- b. In regards to the budget, it was requested to add science teachers. (Bockman noted there is no room for a science lab.) Commenter noted the budget reallocation seems to have reduced our budget.
- c. There multiple complaints about school capacity being over 100% and how its being handled.

VII. Adjournment

Motion made by: [Hill](#); Seconded by: [Fisher](#)

Members Approving: Unanimous

Members Opposing:

Members Abstaining:

Motion Passes

ADJOURNED AT 5:35pm

Minutes Taken By: [Audrea Rease](#)

Position: [Secretary](#)

Date Approved: