Grady High School GO Team

Date: August 14, 2017

Location: Black Box Theatre, Grady High School

Attendees: Blankenship, Bockman, Brandhorst, Bray, Brewer, Cramer, Herrera, Kinard, Pilson, Styles.

Guests: Byron Barnes, Instructional Coach, Tekeshia Hollis, Instructional Coach; Chaundra Gipson, APS Go Team Liaison

1. Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 4:04pm.
2. Approval of Minutes: Minutes from the May 8, 2017 meeting were approved unanimously (Motion: Brandhorst; 2nd: Styles)
3. Chair’s Report: Chairperson Regina Brewer indicated the need for the Go Team to identify a Student Representative for the 2017-18 school year. The school will work to identify a student and submit their name for approval at the next Go Team meeting.
4. Principal’s Report:
	1. Status of Facilities Upgrades:
		1. Work in the theater is ongoing and should be completed by the end of October. The work being done is almost completely electrical (not aesthetic) including a new sound system and lighting upgrades. There is concern that the renovation costs are high because this will be coming out of the total renovation and addition budget. Dr. Bockman will forward the scope of work for review.
		2. The Walden Athletic Fields renovation is expected to start in October with a June 2018 completion. Renovation plans have not changed.
		3. Several interior repairs were done during the summer, including the floor work in the Charles Allen building. Portables received cosmetic upgrades (paint, new furniture, etc.) and technology improvements. A new Mac Lab is being installed and expected to be finished today. There is still a good deal of work that has been requested and not completed including new treads on stairs, blinds in classroom windows, and some work in the gym.
		4. There is still a pending request for a Portable restroom, though the cost is high - approximately $1million. Dr. Bockman is continuing to request this addition, as instructional time is affected by students and teachers needing to go so far to the restroom.
	2. Data Review - Milestones and AP Testing: The Go Team reviewed the attached data including demographic information, attendance data, and testing results. Points of discussion included:
		1. Enrollment is currently 1358 with 34% Free/Reduced Lunch, though forms are still coming in. The school’s Hispanic population has doubled since 2009.
		2. When reviewing Milestones results, it was reiterated that many of our 9th graders do not take Algebra at Grady. This year, the school has removed Physical Science and all students will take Physics.
		3. The percentage of students getting a 3 or higher on AP tests went down, but the number of tests being taken doubled and the overall number of students taking the exams increased. The Go Team was aware that this trend would happen as the school pushed to get more students taking AP exams. It was beneficial to have APS pay for the testing, which allowed students to take all tests rather than having to make a judgement call on the ones they might perform best on. Herrera requested that the subgroup information be provided to determine if the school is moving toward the goal of increasing under-represented subgroups in the AP classes. About 16% of AP exams were taken by African American students, but the Go Team would like to see enrollment numbers as well.
	3. Curriculum and Staffing Changes: There have been some class offering changes for the schedule this year. Classes added: Scientific Research, AP Research. The Law Pathway is being phased out and health offerings were decreased. There are six floating teachers this year, of which only two have full class loads.
	4. Upcoming important dates: Principal’s Coffee on August 22; Go Team District-wide meeting on September 30 which should include a break-out session for cluster planning
5. Committee Reports: None
6. Old Business
	1. Committee Establishment - Career Academy and Grady Building Design: Blankenship will provide contact information from APS for Career Academy and provide to Brewer to follow up regarding possible committee members. Bockman will work with APS to get an updated timeline on building design and establish the committee.
	2. Social-Emotional Learning (SEL) Program: SEL continued to phase-in school-wide this year. 9th grade will receive Module 1 and 10th-12th will receive Module 2. SEL is provided during advisement on Wednesdays for weeks one through three. Fourth Wednesday of the month is open advisement. To start, 1,015 students completed an SEL needs assessment to provide teachers with information for differentiation and data is being reviewed now. The Go Team is still concerned that there is not enough ability for teachers to provide the differentiation that students need. Bockman pointed out that SEL is not a deficit curriculum designed just for students who are deemed as “needing it” but rather designed for all students and is being implemented district-wide. There is an APS SEL coach who works with teachers to address particular areas of need.
7. New Business

For meetings during the 2017-18 school year, New Business will be introductory only and not a discussion item. New Business items that are deemed in need of further discussion will be added to the agenda for future meetings.

* 1. AP Class Grading: The Go Team has briefly discussed this in the past and would like to explore changing the policy for the additional 10 points given for AP classes. Currently, students are unable to get a C because of this policy. This would require a waiver and will be added to the next meeting.
	2. Plagiarism Policy (APS and Grady): Currently, under the progressive discipline system, plagiarism is a discipline issue and cannot be addressed in the classroom (i.e. teachers cannot give a zero, but must instead refer students to the office). Herrera requested that a committee be established to review the policy and make a recommendation. Herrera and Bockman will establish a committee; Gipson (APS Go Team contact) will send committee guidelines to Brewer.
	3. Required classroom technology: The district is rolling out Google Classroom; training is ongoing. Currently, this is a school-wide application at Grady, but teachers are not required to use it. Also, Grady currently uses hard copy textbooks, which come with an online copy license. Is it important to have the hard copy? For the time being, yes due to possible connectivity issues and that the digital component license can expire. This will be added to Old Business for future discussion.
	4. Counselor to student information: Concerns were brought by parents that consistent messages and opportunities were not reaching all students with different counselors. Counseling department has established specific responsibilities outside of student assignments to ensure information is reaching students. Information is also always posted on line. Students need to be sure they have updated their contact information as well to be sure they are getting timely information.
	5. Homeless allocation: The Go Team questioned whether the school was receiving an allocation outside of Title I to support homeless students. No, it is not receiving this allotment and is below the Title I percentage this year.
	6. Teacher Assessments: A student survey of teachers was not part of the teacher assessment process TEACS this past year. It is not clear if the state will be adding this back into the process.
	7. Website information: Bray brought up a concern about finding academic information easily on the school’s website, particularly information about graduation requirements and class choices - something like a “flow of classes”. This will be added to Old Business for discussion.
1. Public Comment - none
2. Announcements: Hollis distributed an informational handout regarding the NMSI Initiative.

The next meeting is scheduled for September 11, 2017.

The meeting adjourned at 5:42pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Janet Kinard

Go Team Secretary