

# Grady High School Go Team

## Meeting Minutes

**Date:** August 31, 2016

**Location:** College and Career Center, Grady High School

**Attendees:** Shaketha Blankenship, John Brandhorst, Sharon Bray, Regina Brewer, Jeff Cramer, Tim Guiney, Mario Herrera, Janet Kinard, Marlon Pilson, Marty Styles

**Guests:** Betsy Bockman, Leslie Grant

1. **Call to Order:** The meeting was called to order at 6:32pm.
2. **Approval of Minutes:** The meeting minutes from July 21, 2016 were properly approved (Styles – motion; Brandhorst – 2<sup>nd</sup>).
3. **Flexibility Option Presentation:** Currently, Grady High School has six floating teachers (no dedicated classroom). Principal Guiney was asked by APS administration to look at scheduling options to alleviate overcrowding issues. Grady High School operates on a 4X8 block schedule, which is standard across the district, allows for additional opportunities to recover credit hours, and is the schedule recommended by the College Board for an AP Capstone school. The Go Team briefly discussed the pros and cons of moving to a traditional 6-period schedule, reducing the number of classes overall, which would provide relief to the classroom issue. In addition to scheduling, the Go Team discussed several options available through the Flexibility Options allowable in the charter system to decrease the overall classroom demand:
  - a. Early graduation – There is currently no option for students to graduate early, even though the current scheule means that students who do not fail any classes reach the required graduation credit hours early.
  - b. Increased enrollment in Move on When Ready program
  - c. Addition of a Study Hall – This would relieve classroom space because the group could be larger or use alternative space. The Go Team was concerned about whether this would require grades and the associated logistics.
  - d. Formal Work Study program – increase the number of students in current programs and introduce others to allow students to be off campus for a portion of the day.The Go Team noted that further discussions needed to consider if any programs would require additional specialized staff for oversight and take into account general growth predictions.
4. **Updates from Board Members:** Board Member Leslie Grant attended the meeting to give some important community updates:
  - The office of the Board has been reorganized with the goal of better serving the community and their needs.
  - APS will be establishing a process for working with the community to finalize the timeline and plan for the Facilities expansions and updates in the Grady Cluster. Ms. Grant encourages the district and the Go Teams to establish a process for capturing all agreed

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- upon scopes of the project in writing. There is currently no design for Grady's expansion or a finalized process for the planning phase.
- APS will have a presence in the Pride Parade again this year. Join us on October 9.
5. **Strategic Plan:** The Go Team has already discussed many parts of the Strategic Plan. The draft plan will be presented at the next board meeting for team review, discussion, and edits.
  6. **Principal Transition:** The Go Team members were introduced to the named Interim Principal Betsy Bockman, moving up from Inman Middle School. Dr. Bockman has worked closely with Mr. Guiney and the cluster principals in the cluster planning process and has a strong understanding of the K-12 plans. The Go Team members were then introduced and given some time to provide feedback on the positives and challenges facing Grady High School. The following were noted:
    - a. Mr. Brandhorst reported that the Fine Arts department continues to face challenges based on decisions happening in the APS central admin that have cut and delayed budget allocations. Additionally, the theater needs approximately \$50,000 in renovations. The program is strong with great collaborations and community outreach.
    - b. Ms. Blankenship shared that the Student Support Team reorganized this year and were able to have a Guidance Clerk assigned to them, which has freed up their time for students. However, the Guidance office is still well above the recommended 1:250 student ratio.
    - c. Mr. Herrera addressed some concerns regarding increased levels of bureaucracy and decisions being made in APS central administration that could lead to low morale in the teaching staff. Many of the changes are happening quickly and at once, which can be overwhelming. The Go Team would like a better understanding of what their role is in the decision-making.
    - d. Mr. Pilson reported that there are currently two CTAE programs undergoing industry certification – Audio Visual and Marketing. Health Services received its certification.
    - e. Mr. Cramer reported that the Athletics Director, Myss Johnson-Jelks, is outstanding and we need to keep her at Grady.
    - f. The elected parents gave positive feedback around the changes that have happened under Mr. Guiney's leadership, particularly in scheduling.
  7. Before adjourning, the Go Team commended Mr. Timothy Guiney on his hard work and dedication to Grady High School and wished him luck in his next position.

The meeting adjourned at 8:25pm.

Submitted by:

Janet Kinard, Go Team Vice Chair