

Budget Allocation Meeting Minutes

MAYNARD H. JACKSON HIGH SCHOOL

Date: **January 31, 2023**

Time: **5:15pm**

Location: **MJHS Media Center**

- I. Call to order: **5:19pm**
- II. Roll Call

Role	Name <i>(or Vacant)</i>	Present or Absent
Principal	Adam Danser	Present
Parent/Guardian	Alayna Blash	Absent
Parent/Guardian	Monica Howard	Present
Instructional Staff	Quinyonta Downer	Present
Instructional Staff	Jandi Harris	Present
Instructional Staff	Yusef King	Present
Community Member	Kamau Bobb	Present
Community Member	Suzanne Mitchell	Present
Swing Seat	Lewis Cartee	Present
Student <i>(High Schools)</i>	Samuel Quartarone	Present
Student <i>(High Schools)</i>	Mauriyah Glenn	Absent

Guests Present:

- **Larry Wallace** – APS Executive Director of Federal Programs – Office of Federal Grants and Programs
- **Natasha Clayton** – APS Federal Programs Support Specialist – Office of Federal Grants and Programs

Quorum Established: **Yes**

III. Action Items

- a. **Approval of Agenda:** Motion made by: **Lewis Cartee**; Seconded by: **Suzanne Mitchell**
 Members Approving: All Present
 Members Opposing: None
 Members Abstaining: None
Motion Passes
- b. **Approval of Previous Minutes:**
 Motion made by: **Lewis Cartee**; Seconded by: **Quinyonta Downer**

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Members Approving: All Present

Members Opposing: None

Members Abstaining: None

Motion Passes

IV. Discussion Items

a. Review Budget Development Process

i. Review and Update (*if necessary*) meeting calendar

Co-Chair, Sam Quartertone (serving in the absence of Mrs. Blash) facilitated the meeting and opened with the protocols for this Budget Meeting. The principal mentions staffing conferences taking place on Monday, February 27, 2023. The next GO Team Meeting is Wednesday, February 15, 2023. The Budget Approval Meeting is March 15, 2023, at 5:15pm -- which has a March 17th deadline.

b. Budget Allocation Presentation:

i. The principal reviews the meeting norms with the GO Team. He then

reviews the GO Team Budget Development Process. The point of tonight's meeting is to discuss the 2023-2024 budget. We are on step 3 of the budget process. The goal is to have conversation and discussion throughout. This will be a different budgeting season than in the past. The principal discusses his role and the GO Team's role in the budget process. He states, "We may talk about the abolishment of certain positions, but not people." He distributes and alludes to the copy of the plans. He alludes to the budget parameters and rationale.

ii. The principal explains that budget is based on our enrollment projection, which is 1532 students (a decline of 5 students from the previous year). After this year, Maynard Jackson will no longer be considered a Title 1 school. All the money that schools received is placed in one "bucket", and it is incumbent on the principal to use the money wisely. Enrollment is higher than ever and steadily increasing, but the number of students in poverty has steadily been declining. Therefore, we anticipate a budget decrease of approximately \$135,000. There is still money for Gifted, Special Education, repeater students, etc. through FTE funds. These funds can fluctuate over time. We have large numbers of Gifted and Special Education students. Mr. Wallace says that schools can get addition money based on these criteria.

iii. Due to the loss of Title 1 funding, the FY23 budget of \$514,000 could be reduced significantly, and could potentially go down to \$0. Mr. Wallace introduces himself as the APS executive director of federal programs for

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APS. He manages Titles 1, 2, 4, and CARES Act funds. He explains that going into the pandemic, every school was CEP (i.e., everybody was on free lunch). Now we collect applications. Students from Jackson HS, BPA, Toomer, and Parkside didn't return 50% of the fee-reduced/low-income form. As a result, the following year, these schools will not be able to receive full Title 1 funds. The Federal Government gave APS grace during the pandemic by not withdrawing funds suddenly. However, they paused the process of collecting CEP forms for parents to verify that they are low-income. But now, the federal waiver is over. This past fall, the federal government started collecting CEP applications again. NAHS, Bolton Academy, and BPA (to name a few) had to submit forms from a minimum of 40% low-income students. MJHS, Westside Charter and a few other schools had to reach 50% -- but unfortunately, we could not reach that 50% threshold. In fact, there has been a drop in the number of low-income students at Maynard Jackson over the last three years. The aforementioned schools should not have received any Title 1 money. But the federal government let us stay on for another year. However, if we do not reach 50% of students turning in the form to qualify as low-income, MJHS will potentially lose another \$300k next year. We start collecting applications again in July.

- iv. Several GO Team members acknowledge the fact that the Jackson cluster is changing demographically/socioeconomically and there is not much that can be done to prevent it. All we can do is prepare for it. Dr. Bobb asks about what happens to the smaller percentage of students (nearly half) that are still low income. Mr. Wallace explains that low-income students still receive funding, but not the extra that comes with Title 1. When asked what the budgetary loss could entail, Mr. Wallace and the principal explained that the loss is equivalent to 5 teachers. The district is discussing other ways that they can assist. Next year, MJHS would still need to get 50% of low-income CEP applications to avoid losing additional funds. There are other ramifications like the loss of SAT/ACT fee waivers, etc.
- v. Mrs. Mitchell asks a series of questions for Mr. Wallace: She asks about the Per Pupil Allocation. Mr. Wallace says that it depends on a variety of factors, but it is about \$510 per pupil for the year. He adds that schools that are 75% or higher low-income student population get additional funding. When asked what the community can do, Mr. Wallace replies that no one other than the school itself can ask parents to complete CEP forms. He also adds that even though siblings across different schools still

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count as low-income in the eyes of the district, state, and federal government, we cannot ask parents to complete the forms at a different school – especially if the school doesn't require CEP forms at this time. A few GO Team member add that if we had gotten from 43.5% of forms to 50%, then we would have received funding. The principal adds that this is a wake-up call for us, because even though Jackson will no longer be Title 1, we still have a sizeable low-income/at-risk population. He also adds that we are the only APS high school with this type of dynamic. Mrs. Mitchell states that the APS Office of Equity and Inclusion should be taking immediate action – even to go so far as to knock on doors. She continues, “This is the exact issue that they should be addressing – not the school faculty who are busy teaching the children”. Mr. Wallace explains that they evaluate CEP schools in four-year cycles and a day may come when King Middle loses it's Title 1 status as well, as the cluster continues to gentrify.

- vi. Dr. Danser says that he is appreciative that the school at least has the transitional funds. We are at a place where we will be impacted by this. He mentions the need for a “Maynard Jackson Foundation” rather than a “Jackson Cluster Foundation”. He also mentions that this is the last year that we will receive CARES Act funding of \$406,871. Combined, this leads to nearly a \$1 million loss. He alludes to the slide in the presentation that explains what CARES covers. The entire district is losing CARES Act funding, so we are not alone in that regard.
- vii. Dr. King asks what if we specifically went to each individual student to ensure the forms are completed by more students. Dr. Bobb adds that the “inequitable foundations” have already been laid. He also adds that the district should make these presentations to businesses because what is happening is inevitable. Several GO Team members allude to corporate sponsorships. Several members allude to the desire of some to rezone Dunbar out of the Jackson Cluster. Dr. Danser alludes to a time when General Electric (GE) was a major sponsor. Several GO Team members emphasize a focus on partnerships – in short, they would like to see every APS school with a corporate sponsor that provides real opportunities for the students.
- viii. What's next? Dr. Danser highlights the Strategic Plan Priorities. He also adds, “We will have to reduce positions. They are people. And that is difficult.... We knew CARES wasn't going to last forever.... I was trying to be frugal, but Larry said just to 'spend it'. We need to find \$170,000 for

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CARES and there may more cuts later. From last year to this year, we are about \$300k in the hole.”

- ix. Sam Quartertone asks whose policy is this? Mr. Wallace replies that it is a federal policy, and we must abide by the rules that were set – since we agreed to them pre-pandemic. He adds that they also set income guidelines. The principal says that he will know which faculty is leaving by 2/27/23.

V. Information Items

a. Principal's Report

- i. Dr. Danser says that most of the information that would have been covered in the principal's report was covered during the budget discussion.

b. Information Item 2

- i. Several GO Team Members discussed giving the students this information (related to Title 1 status and CEP forms).

VI. Announcements

- a. The SAT will take place on March 22. The ACT will take place on March 28.
- b. Dr. King mentions that around 80 sophomores are going into the CP and about 60 current sophomores are going into the DP – records for both programs. He also adds that this staunch increase is partially due to a few student-led initiatives to increase minority enrollment in our Signature Program.

VII. Adjournment

Motion made by: [Lewis Cartee](#) Seconded by: [Suzanne Guy-Mitchell](#)

Members Approving: All Present

Members Opposing: None

Members Abstaining: None

Motion Passes

ADJOURNED AT 7:12pm

Minutes Taken By: [Yusef King](#)

Position: [GO Team Secretary](#)

Date Approved: [TBD](#)