

Meeting Summary/Minutes

Maynard H. Jackson High School

Date: **October 28, 2020**

Time: **1630 (4:30 pm)**

Location: **ZOOM**

<https://atlantapublicschools-us.zoom.us/j/84754609033?pwd=cUtvbUlqRkRtVDQzcXdMRC9ob1gyZz09>

Meeting ID: **847 5460 9033**

Passcode: **goteam**

- I. Call to Order 1638
- II. Roll Call

Role	Name (or Vacant)	Present or Absent
Principal	Adam Danser	Present
Parent/Guardian	Kimberly Solomon	Present
Parent/Guardian	Rene Esler	Present
Parent/Guardian	Kamau Bobb	Present
Instructional Staff	Anthony DeCosta	Present
Instructional Staff	Jandi Harris	Present
Instructional Staff	David C. Eberhart II	Present
Community Member	Garry Long	Present
Community Member	Virgil Murray	Present
Swing Seat	Allison Whittaker – Brown	Present
Student	Chase Dawkins	Present

III. Meeting Norms Reviewed

1. Fully present
2. Follow agenda
3. Stay on task
4. Be respectful
5. Open minded
6. Assume good intentions
7. Approach differences in opinion with curiosity
8. Invite and welcome contributions of every member and list to each other

IV. Public Comment – None, Public was invited but did not attend.

V. Action Items

- a. Approval of Agenda:
Motioned by: Rene Esler Secoded By: Garry Long Passed Unanimous
- b. Approval of Previous Minutes
Motioned by: Virgil Murray Secoded By: Garry Long Passed Unanimous
- c. Election of Officers: Chair, Vice-Chair, Secretary, Cluster Representative
 - i. **Chair: Nominations: Kamau Bobb, Virgil Murray, Antony Decosta nominated and declined. Kim Solomon nominated and Confirmed Unanimous.**
 - ii. **Vice Chair: Nominations: Kamau Bobb nominated Confirmed unanimous.**

- iii. **Secretary: Nominations Eberhart nominated and declined. Rene Esler nominated and confirmed unanimous.**
- iv. **Cluster Representative: Nominations Garry Long nominated Confirmed unanimous.**

VI. Discussion Items

- a. Discussion Item 1: Review Strategic Plan
 - i. Reviewed the Strategic Goals and the measures related to high school.
 - 1. Students proficient in ELA.
 - 2. Student improving ACT/SAT
 - 3. Graduation rates
 - ii. Closing the gaps and how the district wants to accomplish this.
 - iii. Strategic plan for MJHS; School priorities.
 - 1. School leadership focuses on Team Management
 - 2. Go Team Focus is in the priority area.
 - 3. Go Team has some say in the key performance measures.
 - 4. School level early release dates are being looked at but have been tabled due to the pandemic. The goal is to build the capacity of the teachers as a new MYP school and a new IB over all school.
 - 5. The intent is to plan with intentionality to apply for this for the 21 -22 year.
 - 6. Flexibility based options have been suggested: Open campus model for seniors has been suggested. Tabled till 21-22 school year. But how does this impact funding?
 - 7. December meeting Dr. Danser would like all members to come to the table with suggesting concerning the district planning between the new district plan and the MJHS plan. At the end of the December meeting we need to have a road map that we can then vote on and know what our priorities are.
 - 8. Dr. Bobb; how do we look at remediation and the impact of the pandemic and virtual learning?
 - 9. Dr. Danser replied the pandemic might be felt for years to come. We may have to bring remediation to a priority.
 - 10. Dr. Bobb; there may be a virtual exodus of teachers due to stress. What PD can we use and how will it be meaningful for the teachers. How do we restructure professional development to be fair to teachers? How do we implement teaching with fidelity to the students if the teacher turnover is huge?
 - 11. Dr. Danser: Teacher turnover has not been thought of in most plans. We need to look at SEL needs and supports for teachers and student. We may have to implement that into our capacity for support.
 - 12. Dr. Danser stated the closed on WED is not an option for APS at this time for the 2020 – 2021 school year.

Meeting Summary/Minutes

13. We may build some instruction days into this year but they will be as needed. Students may struggle with content, with time management, and need some flex time to have work days. We are waiting on the word at the district level to put this forward.
 14. Harris: lots of challenges in online teaching. Data is suspect as who is doing the work online. Do we really know what the students know and what they don't know? Student engagement is also a concern as students are hesitant and it is a struggle to get students to answer questions. It is an unknown variable. Students with disabilities are struggling with a huge disadvantage that is very hard to overcome. Using the technology is a challenge for some students just to get to the content. As we talk about closing gaps are we going to close gaps and then see new gaps opening?
 15. Murray: Good insight into the teaching world.
 16. Dr. Brown: as a teacher I worry about if I can't see the students. If they are hesitant to turn on the cameras why? Are they even there? Student logs on you ask questions there are no answers so is the parent home what is going on? Is the child safe? There are safety concerns? How can I interact if they are not showing their face. But the time factor has been very difficult going from 4x8 to 4x4 and going from 90 to 70 minutes. Your professional and personal responsibilities are being stretched. The professional consumes you as you worry about your students academically and on the home front. There has been a hard time finding a balance. SEL is definitely needed for adults.
 17. Murray: Challenges on the student side and challenges on the teacher side. Thank you for speaking your truth. The outcome I hope for is that teachers are recognized and compensated accordingly as we move forward. How do we put policies in place to support teachers.
 18. Eberhart: Teaching has become long. As parents and students have access 24/7 there is an expectation that teachers have 24/7 access. It is difficult but the work / life balance is stretched.
 19. Dr. Danser the take away in virtual is it is a lonely world. When you need to see people and get no interaction it is tough to be a leader.
 20. Dr. Danser thoughts on district plan: We use our technology to record thoughts in a collaborative model. Dr. Danser will send a google document so the go team can make comments and concerns. That way we can look at and align the strategic plan better. As the impact of COVID will be felt 5 years out for some kids.
- b. Discussion Item 2: Review School Based Solutions Process
- i. Determine if we wish to pursue any school-based solutions this year
 - ii. Google sheet will be sent out so we can see how we can impact the school based solution process.

1. Can it be done at the Principal level
2. Or does it need Go Team and school based solution authorization.

VII. Information Items

- a. **Principal's Report** usually there is a lot of data to show the go team but due to COVID-19 we do not have strong data. Graduation rates are also soft data as the pandemic impacted student's time to graduate.
- b. **IB and AP data are strong data points: Dr. Danser presented them and touched on them.**
 - i. **AP Data: Historically where we have been with qualifying scores. Note: before 2015/2016 we did not offer many AP courses.**
 - ii. **AP testing was very different; shorter, at home, virtually, we do not see the exams just the data.**
 - iii. **Our NMSI initiative gave immediate bumps to Biology. We have had so much success that NMSI is partnering with us for a 4th year.**
 - iv. **We don't know what our numbers would be if the test was taken as normal. But we did show gains this year.**
 - v. **Despite the pandemic we have made sure our students tested during the lock down. We were able to motivate them to take the AP exam.**
 - vi. **We offer a lot of AP tests. It is a challenge from a master schedule point but we continue to add them. As students want to take the AP exam.**
 - vii. **We do not know how AP will be this year as they may finish their courses before Jan 19th and not test till the end of May. We may need prep sessions to meet with kids to review for the AP exam for testing.**
 - viii. **Esler: Is college board holding fast to the May testing? Or modifications?**
 - ix. **Dr. Danser: So far Collge Board is making no modifications.**
 - x. **IB data: very differently. It was a mix of data from previous years and their current assessment in the I.B. classes. Teachers were instrumental in this.**
 - xi. **We had some improvements and some dips but end with 8 out of 30 diplomas (DP students)**
 - xii. **Literature may have benefited from a more traditional IB test.**
 - xiii. **Numbers in enrollment for DP are looking very good. 43 DP year 2 students and 19 CP students. We have only lot one student from the CP plan. 53 DP year 1 students and 29 CP students. Numbers continue to increase slowly and steadily.**
 - xiv. **Exposure to the IB program is a great experience and helps students navigate college easier and more friendlier due to the amount of reading and writing in the I.B. program.**
 - xv. **We need to market IB better so that when they hear a hard course they embrace the challenge instead of avoiding it.**
 - xvi. **Dr. Bob; the passing rates in AP is lower than IB why? What is happeneing?**
 - xvii. **Dr. Danser: Your highest performing students choose IB – DP and CP. They are within the top percentiles of GPA and taking Higher level courses since**

freshman year. They are a smaller group that also makes a true commitment to a college program. AP is an exposure piece. Students are encouraged to try AP as it may be the first time they ever try a college level class. We use data to try and get students to try it out. The exposure to the curriculum is necessary. Sometimes the preparation for students and even teachers needs to be improved as students don't like to study on their own. Also students don't want to take the test. We need students to take the xams as it helps the students see the rigor of a freshman level college course. We let everyone test no matter what.

- xviii. Ideally in AP literature and the other senior courses, the senior year students may have trouble with internal buy in. This impacts not just AP but also IB as students check out.
- xix. Dr. Bobb is the data showing parity for all our AP and IB courses? What is the break down?
- xx. Dr. Danser will find it and report on it.
- xxi. Harris: IB's demographic has changed over the last 5 years, as the classes look more like the demographics of our school.
- xxii. Eberhart: The school consistently uses counselors and staff to motivate students to try honors, AP, and IB courses.
- xxiii. Dr. Danser: we also use the AP potential report to try and get more students into the AP courses. If they have potential we try and push them to rise to the challenges. Students say they are not an AP kid but when we show them the data they are pleasantly surprised that they can do it. Confidence helps motivate the students.
- xxiv. We want all kids to be in our honors and AP classes. Exposure builds confidence and lets students realize they can excel.
- xxv. Do we have a prep-course so people are not going into AP cold?
- xxvi. Dr. Danser: beyond the 9th grade some of the courses can be seen as a prep. But we let everyone in as the 9th grade is our first AP class. Not every class has hard pre-requisites instead we try to work with students to have some exposure prior to taking AP.
- xxvii. Dr. Danser: There is a lot of preparation and support during the course for AP between Saturday school, NMSI, and professional learning for teachers. With the NMSI grant students were motivated to do their best so they could win money for 3,4,5. We need to support kids so they can make it through this year with the support they need.
- xxviii. Decosta: AP exams and AP courses help students get into the colleges of their choice. College is very competitive and with the college and career readiness center we try to encourage student to take more AP courses so they can get into their 1st pick for college.
- xxix. We do not have finalized data for failure rates. But students that come to school and are engaged are doing well while the students that don't come to

Meeting Summary/Minutes

school or do not engage are the ones who are not doing well. We are still finding kids every day that do not have technology or internet. We are glad to have you how can we support you. Teachers have been very compassionate 1st quarter.

- xxx. Remediation plans are being looked at after hours to help students recover their grades and get distance support.

VIII. Announcements

- a. **Chase: Happy Birthday**
- b. **Time keeper position announced. So we stay on track.**
- c. **Inclement weather warning for Thursday (29 Oct) buildings closed but virtual learning continues.**

- IX. Adjournment motion: Motioned by Garry Long seconded by Virgil Murray motion passed unanimously.**