



Amy Carter | Swing Representative
Maria Diedrich | Parent Representative
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Brent McBride | Principal

WARREN T. JACKSON ELEMENTARY GO-TEAM MEETING MINUTES

Thursday, March 8, 2018, Ms. Pete's Classroom

I. Call to Order - Zachary White, Chair - 3:37 p.m.

- A. **Roll Call** - Vicki McGinty, Secretary - All members present except Amy Carter (Jesse Shannon participating via teleconference), quorum confirmed.

Guests present: Chaundra Gipson (APS), Christin Akin, Marion Hindman, Holly Eittreim, Lauren Ralls, Cynthia Agee, Kim Makurat, Fran Grice, Danette Smith, Amy Kirson, Melanie Walker, Teresa Webb, Bria Pete, Kelly Laurent, Karen Alteri, Amy Van Wormer, Blake and Drew Allvine, Patrick and Leigh Braswell, Grace Vise, Todd Kennedy, Allie Yancey, Allyson Atwell, Shanti Sparks

- B. Standing motion to approve January 11, 2018 meeting minutes, passed unanimously.
- C. Standing motion to approve March 8, 2018 meeting agenda, passed unanimously.

II. Information Items

- A. **Principal's Report** - Principal McBride discussed the information learned at the meeting the day before regarding the delay in collecting Fulton County property taxes and its effect on school budget in the future. He also explained the change in the way the CCRPI is calculated for this year. He is not yet sure how this will impact the budget and will report back on this when there is more information.

III. Discussion Items

- A. **Strategic Plan and Budget** - Mr. McBride's proposed budget was presented. *Please see the attached document for the details of the plan.*
- B. **Family Engagement & Communications Advisory Committee**- Ms. Ugwonal provided an update. She advised that they have not yet had their training but, given the parent interest in the Dual Language Immersion (DLI) decision, they wanted to ensure that there was a vehicle for community members to be heard on this issue, anonymously if they wished. A google





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document was created with the pros and cons of adopting DLI for next year and was distributed to stakeholders in the community via email and they were given the opportunity to add to the lists. Ms. Ugwonalì further noted that the Family Engagement and Communications Advisory Committee is not limited to GO Team members, but is open to other parents or teachers.

- C. **Dual Language Immersion Program** - Mr. McBride presented his opinion that DLI should be adopted for the 2018-19 school year at Jackson for kindergarten. He read aloud a letter from the principal at Morris Brandon regarding how the program has worked there. The GO Team had a lengthy discussion regarding the pros and cons of DLI. *Please see the attached pro/con list* that was created by Ms. Ugwonalì and Ms. Kennedy and which reflects the many pros and cons of this issue as considered by the GO Team. The team noted the many ways in which information was gathered regarding DLI and feedback was gleaned from stakeholders in the community, including:
- an information session at an earlier GO Team meeting where Dr. Margaret McKenzie, Coordinator of ESOL and World Language for APS, spoke regarding DLI;
 - a coffee talk by Mr. McBride for parents (attended by many GO Team members) where Dr. McKenzie presented again and DLI was discussed at length;
 - a follow up email sent by Ms. Kennedy to the attendees of the coffee talk asking for their response on whether DLI should be implemented;
 - the distribution of the pro/con list via email which was added to by community members;
 - numerous emails received and reviewed by GO Team members from teachers, current parents, and parents of incoming kindergarteners regarding their opinions on DLI;
 - numerous in-person conversations by various GO Team members with stakeholders in the Jackson community, as well as teachers and parents at other cluster schools that have adopted DLI, regarding their thoughts on the matter; and
 - an observation visit by the GO Team to Morris Brandon Elementary, a North Atlanta cluster elementary school that started a “1 way” DLI program last year.



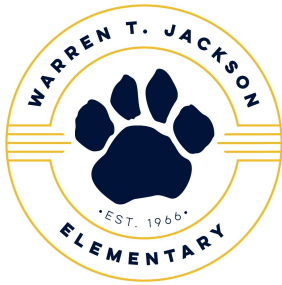


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V. Public Comment - During the public comment portion of the meeting, the following stakeholders spoke:

1. Christin Akin (5th grade teacher) - Expressed her opinion that DLI should not be implemented next year. Concerned that less than 50% of students in each grade would benefit; that class sizes may be increased, which makes it more difficult for teachers to differentiate based on need; that the needs of special education students would not be adequately served; and that the teachers currently have a lot on their plates with the many programs (STEAM and IB) Jackson currently has, and that any new program should be implemented with fidelity and excellence.
2. Blake Allvine (parent of current K and two rising K) - Expressed her opinion that DLI should be implemented next year. She would love for her children to have this opportunity. She believes that some of the hesitation on the part of others stems from fear of the unknown. Because Jackson would not do anything without excellence, this program would be likely to succeed with the support of parents. The plug could be pulled on the program if it does not prove successful.
3. Leigh Braswell (parent of current 1st and two rising K) - Expressed her opinion that DLI should be implemented next year. From her discussions with many in and outside the program at other cluster schools, it is her impression that those in the program love it and those outside the program do not notice it is in their school. The statistics show benefits in both reading and math for DLI students. The positive cognitive effects of DLI will affect these children for the rest of their lives. The program would also make Jackson more competitive with other schools.
4. Patrick Braswell (parent of current 1st and two rising K) - Expressed his opinion that DLI should be implemented next year. He stated that this should not be a for/against discussion but rather a decision whether or not to participate in the program once it is implemented. He believes the program is a win/win and that it would have little to no impact on students not in it. The potential impact to upper grade students is far outweighed by the benefit to the younger students in the program.
5. Holly Eittreim (parent of current 1st grader and two rising K) - Expressed her opinion that DLI should be implemented next year. She stated that her family chose where they are living because of Jackson and that they believe in public education. It is important for Jackson to remain competitive among cluster schools. There will always be challenges associated with





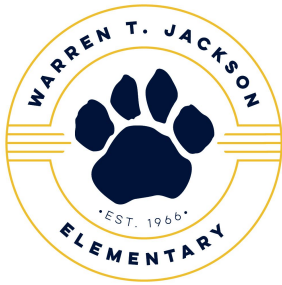
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- implementing new programs. In today's global environment, knowing a second language is critical.
6. Bria Pete (IB coordinator and previous 4th grade teacher) - Expressed her opinion that DLI should not be implemented next year. She noted that IB is Jackson's signature program, so everything we do should be aligned with this. None of the cluster schools that have implemented DLI have had their IB evaluation, so we do not know whether the program will be considered in alignment with IB. The teachers have a lot on their plate with IB and STEAM. She is concerned about starting DLI without the data on 1 way programs who don't have a sizable native speaker population.
 7. Lauren Ralls (parent of 2nd grader and rising K) - Expressed her opinion that DLI should be implemented next year. She would love for her daughter to have this opportunity. Jackson parents will be there to help implement the program and support it.
 8. Rhea Leigh Renn (K teacher and parent of 5th grader) - Expressed her opinion that DLI should not be implemented next year. She noted that the teachers are on the front lines and know what works. Jackson doesn't need to try to be like everyone else because Jackson is a school of excellence and is one-of-a-kind.
 9. Grace Vise (parent of 3d and 1st graders) - Expressed her opinion that DLI should not be implemented next year. She noted that she has had the unique opportunity to be in the school for many hours through her work as PTA co-president. She has seen how much effort it takes to roll out a new program successfully. As there is no mandate that this program be started next year, she suggested that we all talk a step back and take more time to assess whether the program would be a good fit for Jackson. If we take more time and do decide to implement DLI, we can do so very successfully with a specific plan in place. She suggested the possibility of putting together a steering committee of parents to look at DLI.

VI. Action Items

- A. **Budget Approval** - Mr. McBride's proposed budget was approved unanimously by the GO Team.
- B. **Dual Language Immersion Program Implementation** - The GO Team voted unanimously not to implement DLI for the 2018-19 school year.





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VII. Adjournment - The meeting was adjourned at 5:17pm.

Exhibits to Minutes:

Mr. McBride's Proposed Budget document
DLI Pro/Con List

