



Amy Carter | Swing Representative  
Maria Diedrich, Vice Chair | Parent Representative  
Vicki McGinty, Secretary | Parent Representative  
Kesha Payne | Faculty Representative  
Heather Perry | Cluster/Faculty Representative  
Zack Sexton | Parent Representative  
Jesse Shannon | Community Representative  
Dana Ugwonali | Community Representative  
Zachary White, Chair | Faculty Representative  
Brent McBride | Principal

## WARREN T. JACKSON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL GO-TEAM MEETING MINUTES

Thursday, August 3 2017, 3:00 pm | Ms. Pete's Classroom

- I. Call to Order - Zachary White, 3:10 pm
- A. Roll Call - Vicki McGinty— presence of quorum confirmed

Present: Brent McBride, Heather Perry, Kesha Payne, Amy Carter,  
Dana Ugwonali, Zachary White, Maria Diedrich, Vicki McGinty

Absent: Jesse Shannon

Also present: Kimberly Kennedy (parent representative nominee); Chaundra Gipson (APS GO Team liaison); Stephanie Word (APS intern)

### II. Action Items

- A. Standing motion to approve minutes from 5/4/17 meeting, approved unanimously.

B. Mr. McBride nominated Kimberly Kennedy to fill the open parent representative position vacated by Zack Sexton. The term of this position will run through June 30, 2018. Per Section 2.8 of the GO Team Handbook, any vacancy on the GO Team must be filled by a temporary member nominated by the principal and appointed by a majority vote of the remaining GO Team members. The replacement member will fill the vacancy until the position's regularly scheduled election. The GO Team voted unanimously to approve Mr. McBride's nomination of Ms. Kennedy.

### III. Information items (Strategic Plan Update by Mr. McBride)

A. With regard to Jackson's school priority of increasing student literacy,, a location has been identified for the Lexile based leveled book room. Also, a consultant from BBB will be meeting with teachers to discuss ways to improve Lexile reading levels.

B. With regard to the school priority of supporting all Jackson teachers in becoming certified to teach gifted students, 20 teachers have or will have attended gifted certification training during the summer block. Many other teachers will use the professional development days during the upcoming school year to attend the training.

C. With regard to the school priority of establishing a K-5 technology education program, a STEM special has been implemented into all grade levels and aligns with the science curriculum. SPARK days will be held on August 9th-11th, wherein the students in grades 3-5 will visit a STEAM truck.

D. Per Mr. McBride, as this was not a regularly-scheduled meeting that was on the original schedule, but rather was added to fill a vacant GO Team position, we would not be voting on any action items at this meeting other than filling the vacant position. Thus, if any adjustments are needed to the strategic plan, these will be discussed at our September meeting.

### III. Discussion items

A. The GO Team discussed the planned future implementation (during the 2018-2019 school year) of a dual immersion program utilizing half day Spanish and half day English instruction, initially in one Kindergarten classroom. This is a program that has been adopted by the entire North Atlanta cluster. The team discussed the extent to which this program has been successful at other cluster elementary schools that have already implemented dual immersion and how the program might be implemented most successfully at Jackson. The GO Team further discussed the adoption of Spanish as the foreign language offering for all Jackson students, including those who are not part of the dual immersion program. This





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would replace French as the foreign language taught at Jackson. A survey was provided to all Jackson parents at the end of last school year, the results of which indicated a majority support (76%) among respondents for changing the foreign language to Spanish. The team discussed the need to provide some clarification to parents that this survey was not directed toward their opinions regarding a dual immersion program, which already has been adopted by the cluster, but toward changing the foreign language instruction for all students. According to APS, the GO Team must approve any change in foreign language instruction, so we will add this as part of our strategic plan during our September meeting. Mr. McBride will address dual immersion at one of this year's coffee talks to provide relevant information to parents.

B. The GO Team discussed the possibility of seeking a strategic waiver with regard to the district's foreign language requirement to allow more time for Fine Arts instruction. At the present time, chorus has become an after-school program because there is no time during the school day for chorus to be taught unless it takes the place of the general music class, which is not desired. The group discussed the overall decrease over the past several years in Fine Arts instruction at Jackson due to time constraints in the curriculum. Specifically, Jackson previously offered band, orchestra, chorus, general music, and drama. Currently, only general music can be offered during the school day, with chorus being offered as an after-school program. We believe the participation in chorus will decrease dramatically if it is an after school program. The team discussed the belief that many students have benefitted greatly from the chorus program at Jackson, with  $\frac{3}{4}$  students typically participating, and our belief that parents support continuing the program during the school day.

The district currently requires three meetings of foreign language per week (which is more than what is required by IB). The GO Team plans to seek a strategic waiver to convert one of the three weekly French classes to chorus instruction. According to Ms. Gipson from APS, for such a waiver to be approved, we would need to show that it aligns with our strategic plan. Thus, the GO Team will need to revise the strategic plan at our September meeting to reflect the school priority of enhancing Fine Arts instruction at Jackson. We will then prepare the waiver to submit to APS.

**VII. Adjournment** - The meeting was adjourned at 4:32.

vmm

