

# Meeting Minutes

**Morningside Elementary School**

**Date:** Tuesday, October 19, 2021

**Time:** 5pm

**Location:** Zoom Call for GO Team & Public Comment

**Live Streamed for Community at**

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCz00uNPOXwsUzSD7cVghFaw/live>

**I. Call to order:**

**II. Roll Call; Establish Quorum**

Role	Name <i>(or Vacant)</i>	Present or Absent
Principal	Audrey Sofianos	Present
Parent/Guardian	Shawn McCollough	Present
Parent/Guardian	Lisa Olmsted	Present
Parent/Guardian	Shannon Thibodeau	Absent
Instructional Staff	Stephanie Felton	Present
Instructional Staff	Lynn Slater	Present
Instructional Staff	Wendy Westwood	Present
Community Member	Barbara Crum	Present*
Community Member	Emre Memecan	Present
Swing Seat	Aisha Stith	Present

\*Arrived after roll call

Quorum Established: Yes

**III. Public Comment:** Noone signed up to make public comments at this meeting.

**IV. Action Items**

**A. Approval of Meeting Agenda:** Motion made by Lisa; Seconded by: Stephanie

Members Approving: ALL

Members Opposing: NONE

Members Abstaining: NONE

**Motion: Passes**

**B. Approval of Previous Minutes:** Motion made by Lisa; Seconded by Barbara

Members Approving: ALL

Members Opposing: NONE

Members Abstaining: NONE

**Motion: Passes**

**V. Information Items****A. PTA Update:**

The PTA co-president Tony, updated us on the Boosterthon, it was very successful. PTA will be distributing teacher gifts for their assistance with the fundraiser. They are also planning another fundraiser for October 30th. This will be the MES annual Monster Bash. They reported the upcoming event well organized and will be good for the entire community. They also let us know that we will have an E-book fair soon and several more events are planned to round out the year.

**B. Foundation Update:**

Kristen Holtz said the recent MES foundation fundraiser earned approximately 115,000. They are in the process of considering expenses for the remainder of this year and utilizing funds for the move back to the MES property. A question was asked about the continuity of leadership at the foundation. It was reported that there is a plan in place to ensure the MES foundation has leadership in place for the future.

**C. Principal's Report:**

Ms. Sofianos first began with leveling information for this year. She reported losses due to smaller than expected enrollment. Our projected enrollment was 905 while actual enrollment is 813. We have a difference of 92 students which will result in the loss of some funds. However, due to

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several APS departments working together, CARES funding and our school reserve funds our total impact will be -11,155.16. Due to MES banking positions in the fall we will be able to use the remaining funds for an additional paraprofessional and a parent liaison.

Ms. Sofianos also gave a data review of the Fall MAP data. She shared the summary charts and RIT score summary reports. MES scored above national averages and APS averages at every grade level. Information was also shared about how this data was used to identify intervention students for our 3D time (additional 30 minutes added to the school day).

Ms. Sofianos also shared correlation between the MAP scores and GMAS. The schools will be focusing on providing support for students in the lower performing categories. Next steps will be digging deeper into sub groups to further support those students. There was also discussion of how this will be used to extend learning for proficient and higher learners. Parent members asked Teacher members what they think of the 3D time. Teachers felt it was helpful, but everyone is getting used to the extra 30 minute days. 3D time is productive and especially helpful that it occurs first thing in the morning.

### **D. Cluster Advisory Team (Stephanie Felton)**

Stephanie reported that several ideas have been proposed for the cluster. Possibilities include Inman being 4th grade for one year and moving to 4th-5th after that year. Another proposal was to have the board consider opening Inman as a K-5 campus after that. She also reported that they may consider delaying the proposal to give the new (unhired) principal to plan for opening the Inman campus.

### **E. Family Engagement Advisory Committee (Shannon Thibodeau, information shared by Lisa Olmested)**

The family engagement committee shared that the community would like clarification on several topics. The community would like to understand APS's definition of equity. They would also like to see the research studies supporting the academic decision related to the proposed 4-5 academy. Questions regarding transportation were also asked, as walkability was the highest ranked issue for the Inman building. Additionally, they wanted to know if opening the Inman 4-5 academy will address the overcrowding within the Midtown cluster. Concerns were also shared regarding the level of community engagement with a school that students attend for such a short time, and

projections that the 4-5 academy could be overcrowded by the 2025-26 school year.

### **F. Signature Program (Lisa Olmsted)**

At the September board meeting it was announced that the Midtown Cluster would need to choose a new signature program for the cluster. At the October meeting there was a presentation on the signature program; the certifying body for the College and Career signature program is no longer certifying individual schools and will only certify entire districts. CAT will vote in November on two options. Option 1: the cluster is ready to vote on a signature program or option two, the cluster needs more time to research the signature plan option.

## **VI. Discussion Items**

### **A. Discussion Item 1: Inman Building Update (Lisa Olmsted)**

Local school board members are the best way to impact district level decisions. Some pros shared about the 4-5 academy are more personalized instruction, targeted SEL, technology and leveling language and fine arts offerings across the cluster. Additionally, K-3 schools can focus on early childhood education. Having K-3 buildings may also create space for more preK offerings in the cluster. Cons mentioned were the possibility of losing some support that the Hope/Hill campus offers for students. Teachers will work on a staff survey about the 4-5 academy. Concerns brought up by the team included a lack of information on academics and how a 4-5 academy would be better academically. Discussion also included a reminder that the MES community has different reactions to the 4-5 academy: some support it and some do not. The discussion also included capacity for the new building will be 847 with fewer homeroom classrooms than are currently at Inman.

Signature Program: Members stated they would like more information and a comparison of options because it is new to everyone. Aisha said that data about both programs would be helpful since they have been implemented in other clusters by now. For the next CAT meeting, Lisa stated the community would probably choose the option that allows more time for consideration.

### **B. Discussion Item 2: Strategic Plan (Audrey Sofianos)**

The Go Team reviewed the training and discussions we had earlier this month. Audrey suggested setting up a work session to continue to address the strategic plan. That was

scheduled for Wednesday, Oct 27, 2021@ 3:15. We will continue to work on the strategic plan at the November 10th regular GO Team meeting. Members can attend the meeting at MES media center.

### C. Discussion Item 3: Future Agenda Items

Discussion of future agenda items included the desire to keep discussing the cluster signature program and the strategic plan.

### VII. Announcements

- Encourage people to vote, there are board members on the ballot as well as E-SPLOST is on the ballot in Fulton County.
- Next meeting is Nov 10, 2021@ 5pm

VIII. Public Comment - No community members signed up to make comments at this meeting.

### IX. Adjournment

Motion made by: Lisa; Seconded by: Aisha

Members Approving: ALL

Members Opposing: NONE

Members Abstaining: NONE

**Motion: Passes**

**ADJOURNED AT 6:42**

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**Minutes Taken By:** Wendy Westwood

**Position:** Secretary

**Date Approved:** November 10, 2021

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