

Meeting Minutes

Morningside Elementary School

Date: Wednesday, January 26, 2022

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: 5:02 pm

II. Roll Call; Establish Quorum

Role	Name (or Vacant)	Present or Absent
Principal	Audrey Sofianos	Present
Parent/Guardian	Victor Kucek	Present
Parent/Guardian	Lisa Olmsted	Present
Parent/Guardian	Shannon Thibodeau	Present
Instructional Staff	Stephanie Felton	Absent
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

Quorum Established: Yes

III. Public Comment: No members of the community signed up to make comments.

IV. Action Items

A. Approval of Meeting Agenda:

Summary of the work session will be sent to the team.

Meeting Minutes

Update: Add FMP Community Meeting Summary. Motion made by Barbara; Seconded by Emre:

Members Approving: ALL

Members Opposing: NONE

Members Abstaining: NONE

Motion: Passes

B. Approval of Previous Minutes: Minutes were updated for December 8, 2021. Motion made by Barbara; Seconded by Emre

Members Approving: ALL

Members Opposing: NONE

Members Abstaining: NONE

Motion: Passes

C. Approve MES strategic plan for 2022-2025 - Vote Not Taken

Members Approving: ALL

Members Opposing: NONE

Members Abstaining: NONE

Motion: Passes

D. Rank Strategic Priorities:

The team reviewed feedback from the MES Leadership Team about the Strategic Priorities. The top three priorities from the Leadership Team were Priorities #5, #9, and #2. Wendy shared that her team felt #2 and #4 were similar and went well together, #9 was their top priority and #10 was important. Barbara, Victor, Aisha and Emre agreed on #2 as their top priority. Based on what is being said in the parent community after a few years of covid and feeling disconnected to the school, Lisa felt #10 would have strong parent support. Shannon reminded the team that parents also often want to know how the school will continue to challenge and raise the bar for already-high performing learners. Diane reminded the team that the strategic plan is multi-year, and these ranked priorities are for one-year deep focus. The Go Team must rank two, but it is a good idea for the team to rank 5 in case budget situations change. Initial Top Five from team included priorities #2, #5, #4, #10, and #8. Team discussed adding a priority from the "Equipping and Empowering Leaders and Staff," which was missing in

the first set of top 5 priorities. Revision to the Top Five from team included priorities #2, #4, #10, #8, and #7.

Final Ranked Priorities for Vote (Focus on Students, then Teachers, then Community):

#1 - Priority #1: Imbed a data-driven multi-tier system of support to improve individual as well as student group performance, focusing on both academic and social emotional learning outcomes.

#2 - Priority #8: Provide resources to enhance teaching and learning.

#3 - Priority #10: Ensure that parents engaging in school-family activities reflect the diversity of our school.

#4 - Priority #4: Focus on individual student needs.

#5 - Priority #9: Create a welcoming, inclusive and responsive school culture that embraces all of our Morningside students and families.

Members Approving: Barbara, Emre, Lynn, Stephanie, Wendy, Aisha, Lisa, Victor

Members Opposing: Shannon

Members Abstaining: NONE

Motion: Passes

VI. Discussion Items

A. Discussion Item 1: Budget Allocation

Budget discussion started with an update to the final number: \$7,584,627. We are currently planning for FY23, which is the 2022-2023 school year. The allocation is for 822 students, which is a decrease of 83 students. The Executive Summary slide showed the decrease year-to-year of the budget. Ms Sofianos expects to Right Size the budget this year, and work to minimize the impact. Victor asked if the entire budget is used. Ms Sofianos said yes; occasionally there is carryover (if a staff member resigns and there is a period of time where that position is not filled, for example). Emre asked about how the drop in enrollment impacts the discussion of overcrowding. Ms Sofianos confirmed that MES will stay in the Inman building next year, and even the drop in enrollment doesn't bring us low enough to fit in the building. Emre asked how the school plans to accommodate the decrease. Ms Sofianos said she will focus on operational changes, streamline where she can, maximize where she can, while focusing on strategic priorities of increasing achievement and focusing on retaining the best people. The CARES allocation is intended to help alleviate the covid impact, and MES is receiving the same amount next year as for the current year. Leveling reserve will be \$117,168. Ms Sofianos said that there will be choices for the team to consider in the next meeting for how to manage this. The team set a Work Session for February 7 (virtual, at 5pm) in order to give

some initial feedback to Ms Sofianos ahead of the first budget presentation on February 9. Question was asked about where the drop in enrollment is coming from. For MES, the answer was: Private School, Home School, and Family Moves.

A. Discussion Item 2: Principal Report

Discussion deferred to future meeting.

Information items:

- A. Summary of Midtown Cluster Advisory Team meeting on January 19, 2022:**
Primary discussion was of Signature Programming for the Midtown cluster. The CAT recommended a short runway for a decision but a longer runway for implementation. There was concern about going into budgeting without knowing the signature program if there is a position needed to support the transition. Current target is to make a recommendation in March so that the budget is tied to signature programming. CAT is comfortable making the recommendation of STEM to be presented to the community but wants the recommendation to explain why this was the recommendation. Hope to see more engagement outside the CAT on Signature Programming with the CAT recommendation just a part of the information presented. The CAT also received brief highlights ahead of the FMP meeting. High School projections were higher than initially identified in 2019. 2019 had the High School reaching 100% capacity in 10 years. New projections show High School at 125% capacity in 10 years. Elementary School projections dropped from 2019 estimates, but not enough to alleviate the capacity challenges in the cluster in the long term.
- B. Summary from the Go Team Work Session on January 12, 2022** (*Summary emailed to team on February 9, 2022*): The Go Team met on January 12 to review updates on the Strategic Plan. The updates included information from Travis and school staff (leadership team, teacher team). Lots of very good discussion and a few action items. Specific discussion items included the percent growth in SMART Goals: how to balance between being aggressive and overreaching. The Strategic Plan will also not reference "Annual" plan and instead will reference "annual reporting" to measure targets, since this is a multi-year plan. Also, discussion about what MES is currently doing, and how that can be enhanced, not just repeated, as well as strengthening support if the "delivery" method continues to be uncertain.
- C. Report from the January 25 FMP Community Meeting** : Very detailed community meeting about the APS Facilities Master Plan. This was a good opportunity for people to learn about the FMP - what it is, and what it is supposed to be doing, and an opportunity for level-setting for people familiar

Meeting Minutes

with the work from 2019-2020. The presentation has a lot of data that is hard to summarize quickly, so watching the recording or the Board Retreat on Facebook is a good idea. Some key takeaways were that enrollment losses were not uniform but the losses in Elementary School were significant. Kindergarten losses have begun to bounce back and the project leaders assume K losses were due to deferred enrollments. They reviewed where students went (in leaving APS), and reasons for decreases. The presentation reviewed birth statistics, growth trends, housing data yields and trends down to the school zone and cluster levels. They reviewed their capacity models and calculations, and utilization rates by school. Next Steps included scenarios being available in March 2022 and Cluster-Specific conversations happening in March.

VII. Announcements

- **Next Meeting will be a Work Session on February 7 at 5pm. The meeting will be virtual.**
- **Next Regular Meeting - February 9 at 5:00 pm**

VIII. Public Comment - No one was present in the Zoom waiting room for public comment.

IX. Adjournment

Motion made by: Victor; Seconded by: Shannon

Members Approving: ALL

Members Opposing: NONE

Members Abstaining: NONE

Motion: Passes

ADJOURNED AT 6:42 pm

Minutes Taken By: Wendy Westwood

Position: Secretary

Date Approved: March 3, 2022