

# Meeting Minutes

**Morningside Elementary School**

**Date:** Wednesday, February 9, 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: 5:04 p.m**

**II. Roll Call; Establish Quorum**

<b>Role</b>	<b>Name (or Vacant)</b>	<b>Present or Absent</b>
Principal	Audrey Sofianos	Present
Parent/Guardian	Victor Kucek	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

**Quorum Established:**

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

**IV. Action Items**

**A. Approval of Meeting Agenda:** Motion made by Emre; Seconded by Barbara

- *Amendments: 1. Remove approve meeting minutes for January 26; still in process. Will move to next meeting. 2. Change order of Discussion items so that the Principal's Report and Data presentation is first and the Budget presentation is second.*

**Members Approving:** ALL

**Members Opposing:** NONE

**Members Abstaining:** NONE

**Motion:** Passes

**B. Approval of Previous Minutes (January 26, 2022):** Vote deferred to next meeting**C. Approve MES strategic plan for 2022-2025:** Motion made by Barbara; Seconded by Victor

**Members Approving:** ALL

**Members Opposing:** NONE

**Members Abstaining:** NONE

**Motion:** Passes

**V. Discussion Items**

**A. Discussion Item 1: Principal Report:** *Presentation of MAP data between Fall and Winter administration. Since the Go Team has a data presentation in each meeting, Principal Sofianos said we can look at additional data in upcoming meetings if the team wants to see something different. Explanation of colors in the MAP Data: Red = beginning; Yellow = developing. Math was particularly troubling in the loss of Proficiency between Fall and Winter. Families should have received MAP reports the previous week. If not received, families should reach out to teachers. Lisa asked if the next meeting could include a data presentation of MAP Scores by grade. That might be possible for each grade, but might not be possible for all sub-groups by grade, depending on the size of the subgroup (if the group is 15 or less, the scores can't be provided for student confidentiality).*

*Discussion of Sub-Group Data: Victor asked about strategies to help students advance from the red category into the next category. Principal Sofianos reminded the team that the subgroup categories are small. So changes in 1-2 students could make a big difference for the data presented. Emre expressed that given the significant difference between subgroups and the overall achievement numbers, we owe it to do what we need to do to fix the gaps. Victor and Emre asked what is happening now in response to the MAP scores.*

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*In response to the data, Mr Tadesse has been working with small groups of students at teacher request. Teachers shared strategies in their classrooms for how students support each other. Victor suggested formalizing these approaches across the school.*

*Barbara noted that, according to the Atlanta Business Chronicle education report, MES was near the top.*

*Next meeting will include data by grade and, where possible, student group and National comparison.*

**B. Discussion Item 2: Budget Presentation:** *After the work session, Principal Sofianos made some changes, including adding a teacher position out of concern about 2nd and 4th grade. The teacher position is currently scheduled for 2nd grade, but that could change depending on final registrations this Spring. Additional budget updates include adding a 0.5 position EIP to supplement the current EIP team. The school will keep Materials and Supplies in the budget to support teachers and will keep Teacher Stipends in the budget in order to pay teachers for additional programs that they support. Other schools have needed to remove this from their budget, but MES can keep it.*

*In the past, MES has budgeted for Transportation. This covers field trips, but will need to be cut. Transportation fees for field trips will now be part of the student fees paid for at the beginning of the year by families.*

*There will be no additional funding in the budget for training. Staff will receive district-funded training and foundation-funded training.*

*Results of these changes is that class sizes will come down by one student from the numbers presented in the February 7 work session. Next year there will be 38 core teachers; there are 40 teachers this year.*

*CARES funding of \$195,000 presented as covering Instructional Coach, Para-professional, Materials and Supplies, and a Para-professional/building substitute.*

*Leveling will be in September. Principal Sofianos did not want to put a teacher in the leveling budget because that comes too late in the year (if the school is able to keep it). Instead, the budget proposes leaving the Parent Liaison role in the Leveling reserve.*

*Trade-offs were discussed. Adding a Signature Program Specialist means that the school will need to lose one Instructional Coach position. School will lose the STEM Program Specialist, but will replace that with a teacher who will have math and reading focus. The school will trade one full time PE teacher for 1 paraprofessional that will assist the PE coach. All other specials positions will remain the same.*

*Team responses: Ms Slater likes the idea of the Parent Liaison because this could be helpful in communicating with new families or families who don't understand the testing*

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process in helping with student engagement and preparation. Aisha also agrees that the Parent Liaison position is important, and stressed the importance of hiring the right person who is committed to growth for Black and Latino students. Team suggested moving the Parent Liaison from the leveling budget and replacing it with the ParaProfessional. As a result, the school may better know where the ParaProfessional position will be most useful at the time of leveling, but the Parent Liaison role might be more effective if ready to start earlier.

*Next Steps: Principal Sofianos will have her HR consultation and a Staffing Meeting on February 24. The next Go Team meeting conflicts with the Midtown Cluster Advisory Meeting, so the next Go Team meeting will be rescheduled to March 3.*

**C. Discussion Item 3: Family Engagement Committee:** *With the budget and upcoming Facilities Master Planning updates, Shannon and Lisa felt it is time to schedule another Family Engagement Committee meeting. The Community Engagement presentation from the Board Retreat specifically included getting feedback via Go Teams and Cluster Advisory Teams. Discussed how to engage with Black and Latino families now.*

### VI. Information Items

*Summary of February 7 Work Session (added to minutes, not discussed in meeting): Team members met to begin initial discussions about the FY 2023 budget. Information provided by Ms Sofianos included preliminary costs of certain staff positions, including 0.5 EIP teacher, Instructional coach (reduction of 2 to 1), permanent building substitute, and Signature Program Specialist. The first budget presentation will be made on February 9, 2022.*

### VII. Announcements

- Topping Off Ceremony at Morningside Elementary building is Monday, February 14 and Go Team members are invited to attend.
- Remember to recruit candidates for the Go Team candidate declaration.

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

**IX. Adjournment:** Motion made by Barbara; Seconded by Emre

**Members Approving:** ALL

**Members Opposing:** NONE

**Members Abstaining:** NONE

**Motion: Passes**

**ADJOURNED AT:** 6:18 p.m.

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STRONG SCHOOLS  
START WITH ME!

**Minutes Taken By:** Wendy Westwood

**Position:** Secretary

**Date Approved:** March 3, 2022

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