# Call to order

A meeting of the GO Team for Sarah Smith Elementary was held in room 1121 on November 13, 2017. The meeting was called to order by Elizabeth Cox at 3:15pm.

# Attendees

Attendees included:

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| Michael Forehand | Elizabeth Cox | Alfonso Champion | Robert Sarkissian |
| Christina Barnette | Chiesa Carter | Sherry Riley |  |
|  |  |  |  |

# Members not in attendance

Members not in attendance included:

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| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Laura Troup | Jana Thomas |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |

# Is there are quorum present? Circle or highlight Yes or No

# Approve Meeting Agenda and Previous Minutes

Minutes approved? Circle or highlight Yes or No

Robert Sarkissian moved and Cheisa Carter seconded to approve the minutes of the October GO Team meeting. The minutes were unanimously approved.

# Discussion/Information/Action Items

1. Out-of-Zone: Becky Pruitt gave an overview of the process of managing out-of-zone students. Students with returned mail, excessive abences and tardies are identified as being potentially out-of-zone. Becky Pruitt/Kathy Johnson send the parents a standard APS notification requesting residency verification. So far, Ms. Pruitt has identified 36 families throught his process, 25 of which verified that they had moved to a new residence within the Sarah Smith district. Eight students were confirmed to be out-of-zone and left Sarah Smith. Ms. Pruitt engages a social worker when appropriate. Out-of-zone students have been from varied locations, primarily apartments.

Corey Edwards, a representative from the APS Department of Student Assignment and Record, stated that APS has a full-time residency officer, Joshua Arnold, and a hotline that can be called anonymously. APS is notifed of potential out-of-zone families through the US Postal Service change of address process. This year, APS has identified 40 potential out-of-zone families, some of which overlap with the families on Ms. Pruitt’s list. Mr. Edwards said APS’s former process of requiring families to provide residency verification every year was abandoned due to the inordinate amount of time and paperwork involved. Families are now required to provide residency verification only in Kindergarten, 6th and 9th grades, or anytime they move. However, schools may implement their own processes in addition to this requirement. Going forward, Mr. Forehand is considering requiring every family to provide a GA Power bill every year.

Tanya Malone, the APS Attendance and Homeless Liaison spoke about the McKinney Vento Homeless Act. She gave many different definitions of homelessness, including people living with other people. For example, if parents get divorced and one of the parents has sole custody and is staying with a friend out-of-zone, the child can still attend Sarah Smith. Homelessness is in effect for a whole year, even if the parent finds a home outside of the district. Given the shame associated with homelessness, families are reluctant to disclose their living situation. Only the principal is allowed to be informed about homeless students. The principal is not allowed to tell teachers or disclose the number of homeless students. Ms. Malone stressed that she follows a very rigorous process to determine if a family is indeed homelessness.

1. New Community GO Team Member: Dr. Forehand nominated Connie York from Blue Heron Nature Reserve to fill the open Community Representative seat on the board. All the other candidates are very strong candidates and are encouraged to run for a Parent Representative position in the spring. Elizabeth Cox received confirmation from APS that there is not a conflict of interest in having someone from the Blue

Heron Nature Reserve on the board. Dr. Forehand moved to approve Connie York as the new Community Representative. Alfonso Champion seconded. Motion unanimously approved.

1. Chairperson Update: Elizabeth Cox reminded GO Team members to take the GO Team training if they haven’t already done so.
2. Principal Update: Dr. Forehand said he is visiting our Hispanic community on a regular basis.
3. CCRPI Review:

Christina Barnette presented her 2017 CCRPI data analysis. Her slides will be posted on the GO Team website. Highlights include:

* Smith’s 2017 CCRPI is 80.8%, down from 83.8% in 2016 and 88% in 2017
* Smith’s CCRPI score ranked 16th out all APS schools
* Decline is driven by a drop in GA Milestones scores across all four subjects (ELA, Math, Science, Social Studies) and a drop in students’ growth rate
* Subgroup performance is down. Our English Leaners, Economically Disadvantaged, and Hispanic subgroups received “RED” performance flags in all subjects.
* Lexile scores improved in 5th grade, as compared to their 3rd grade scores.
* Dr Forehand stated that the CCRPI is a moving target and changes every year. He said our population is different from most schools in APS, and as such, comparison with other schools is difficult. Schoolslikeme.gov is a website that provides a list of schools with similar demographics.
* Dr. Forehand expects CCRPI scores to improve because we are implementing Eureka Math and Fundations/Just Words with fidelity. Other schools have seen increases after implementing these programs. Also, team teaching in 5th grade is expected to boost science and social studies scores.
* Dr. Forehand expects our subgroups to perform better next year because the CCRPI is “lowering the bar” for subgroup performance. Performance will be measured by growth (at least 3%) rather than achieving a particular threshold for each subgroup.
1. Strategic Plan Review: Dr. Forehand presented the revised strategic plan. Mr. Champion made a motion to approve and Dr. Riley seconded the motion. The plan was approved unanimously.

# Public Comment

* A parent said that she heard that Dr. Hamilton plans to retire. Dr. Forehand confirmed that Dr. Hamilton is planning to retire at the end of the school year but has not officially announced her retirement. The parent also suggested that the strategic plan be revised based on the 2017 CCRPI results.

* A parent suggested that the GO Team consider including an instructional coach in the 2018 budget. Dr. Forehand said he plans to hire an Assistant Principal with a strong instructional background.
* A parent questioned the decision to eliminate leveled math in 5th grade. Dr. Forehand said the teachers weren’t able to build relationships with the students and wanted to stop. Jessica Harron added that the teachers of the lowest math group stuggled to give sufficient help to all of their students. It’s especially difficult for those teachers that have a large grouping of ED/EL/SWD in their classes.The teachers agreed that they can better serve students through differentiating within the classroom rather than leveling.
* A parent asked if we are looking at what is going on in the Dual Immersion classrooms. Is it reasonable to think that one teacher can handle the large ESOL population in those classrooms? Dr. Forehand said ESOL teachers are pushing-in to provide additional support for DI classrooms.
* Dr. Riley relayed a question she received via email: Why can’t the Parent Liaison translate at IEP meetings? Dr. Forehand explained that our Parent Liaison, Sophia Jackson, is legally prohibited from translating at IEP meetings because she has not been certified. Parent Liaisons must take three courses in order to become certified for IEP translating. Teachers can contact APS for a certified translator to attend their IEP meetings. Dr. Forehand will communicate this to the teachers.
* A suggestion was made to find a math tutoring program similar to the EAF tutoring reading program.

# Additional Discussion

* Christina Barnette suggested implementing GO Team committees for Dual Immersion and CCRPI. Elizabeth Cox read the GO Team rules for holding working sessions outside of of official GO Team meetings.

# Adjournment

Elizabeth Cox adjourned the meeting at 5:27pm.

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| Christina Barnette |  | November 13, 2017 |
| Secretary |  | Date |