

Budget Approval Meeting Minutes

Sarah Smith Elementary

Date: March 7, 2024

Time: 3:15

Location: Sarah Smith Intermediate Campus Media Center

- I. Call to order: 3:17
- II. Roll Call

Role	Name (or Vacant)	Present or Absent
Principal	Dwight Hutson	P
Parent/Guardian	Cimona Hinton Dirickson	P
Parent/Guardian	Mary Posada	P
Parent/Guardian	Ann Mintman	P
Instructional Staff	Bejay Osby (Acting Chair)	P
Instructional Staff	Jennifer Chestnut	A
Instructional Staff	Karla Lamar	P
Community Member	Laquisha Smith	P
Community Member	Ben Miller	P
Swing Seat	Andrea Almario	P

Guests Present: None

Quorum Established: Yes

III. Action Items

- A. **Approval of Agenda:** Motion made by: [Bejay Osby](#); Seconded by: [Cimona Hinto Dirickson](#)
 - Members Approving: All
 - Members Opposing: None
 - Members Abstaining: None**Motion Passes**
- B. **Approval of Previous Minutes:** *List amendments to the minutes: none*
 Motion made by: [Bejay Osby](#) Seconded by: [Andrea Almario](#)
 - Members Approving: All
 - Members Opposing: None
 - Members Abstaining: None**Motion Passes**
- C. **Approval of the Budget (after final presentation/review):**
 Motion made by: [Ann Mintman](#) Seconded by: [Karla Lamar](#)

Members Approving: All
 Members Opposing: None
 Members Abstaining: None

Motion Passes

IV. Discussion Items

A. Discussion Item 1: Presentation of the final budget

- Mr. Hutson reviewed the Budget Parameters which are: Create a schoolwide culture of high expectations, trust, and strong communication. Cultivate a global learning community that aligns with IB curriculum and supports a diverse population. Develop a literate community where students read and write with clarity across the curriculum. Embed a data driven system of support for all. Offer a rigorous curriculum. Create a well-rounded curriculum. Implement the whole child team with fidelity. Offer professional learning and tiered coaching. Foster an active and engaged school community.
- He outlined how the budget aligns and specifically supports our school priorities.
- Changes were made to the draft budget that was presented at the last meeting during the staffing conference. These changes reflect an allocation change of **-\$168,340.00**

Change at Staffing Conference	Impact to Proposed Budget
Added two teacher tutors to support readers from reserves.	- \$37,800
Moving instructional coach role to Readers are Leader support	+ \$130,540
Created a new fifth grade position	- \$109,171
Moved the remaining funds to supplies	- \$21,369

- An instructional coach position is moving to a Readers are Leaders support who will be working mostly with grades K-3. Sarah Smith currently has 3 coaches, next year there will be 2 and one Readers are Leaders coaching position.
- This opened money in the budget to add another 5th grade position and keep class sizes in line with current class size.
- Readers are Leaders program description- GA wants all teachers to be trained in the science of reading. This coach works specifically teaching the science of reading to the younger grades. We received \$130,540 from APS for this role.

Budget Approval Meeting Minutes

- Discussion: Are our school priorities reflected in this budget? Karla asked if the budget is mostly staffing, where does the money for the curriculum come from. Mr. Hutson said we're working on the bare bones budget for curriculum, focusing to keep class sizes small and relying on the foundation to help support the curriculum. Bejay wanted clarity on the 5th grade class size because there was a lot of concern. Mr. Hutson clarified, they are adding a 7th class to that grade to support a smaller class size. Projection was increased to 27 without the additional section, with an additional teacher it will be 22 and remain in line with the current class situation. Ann asked about the change in coaches, with one being mainly at the PC, will it affect how the math/IB coach implement their support. That has not been determined yet. Mr. Hutson feels like we need the coaches, and we will need to figure out how to bring the coach back for next year. Some other counties are seeing growth overall with an implementation of the science of reading in the younger grades. Cimona feels like it's a gamble to remove a coach from the 4-5 grade setting. The current coaches planned for next year include literacy primarily K-3, IB coach K-5, and Math Coach K-5. Bejay discussed the multiple layers of support built into the structure of the teachers: PLCs, staff training etc to support all students. He also asked about the removal of the 30 minutes of intervention, and how will students who are falling behind be supported? Mr. Hutson said more than likely Wednesday tutoring will come back. During the school day, they will continue differentiation, analyzing data and supporting students that way as well.
- How are district and cluster priorities reflected in our budget? Ann thinks the priorities are aligned, especially when looking at the change to add a 5th grade. This sets students up for more success on Milestones, and keeps class sizes aligned with other schools in our district. Cimona expressed concerned about Reading in the upper grades. Mr. Hutson said they'll continue to monitor student growth through MAP scores, they'll use the staff to support all students at all levels. Karla brought up that there are a lot of teachers who have or are currently going through Orton Gillingham training and the science of reading trainings. There is an opportunity to develop teacher leaders in literacy as well.
- After the discussion, the GO team voted to approve the Budget.

B. Discussion Item 2: Security Grant Survey

The Governor is proposing a Grant aimed at enhancing security in schools statewide. This will include \$45,000 given annually to each school. The survey will rank 13

options for ways to spend the money. The GO team discussed areas of need and ranked the security measures.

The rankings were as follows:

1. Cameras
2. Fencing
3. Lighting
4. Badger Readers
5. Security Aide
6. Window coverings
7. Ballistic Film
8. Security resource officer
9. Shared security resource officer
10. Metal Detectors
11. Student ID system
12. 2 way radios
13. Clear backpacks

V. Information Items

A. Principal's Report

- Science award night, and Science night was a hit! Parents and students raved.
- Adiiiv placed 3rd at State for the technology fair!
- March 12- Safety and security will be coming to register from 8-12 for the volunteer/level 3 clearance.

B. Information Item 2

GO Team be sure to update and complete your training

C. Cluster Representative Recap:

Cimona relayed the information from the previous cluster rep meeting.

- First part of meeting focused on APS's Summer program. Power UP summer programs are open for registration. Student's RIT scores from their MAP assessments are used to identify students who would be a good fit for the program. Garden hills will host SRS this summer. Power up focuses on academics in the morning, enrichment in the afternoon.
- Next they focused on Family Engagement priorities. The carver cluster is a model. The cluster plan is to increase engagement, and to recruit and retain and increase the success of our employees. Cluster nights, parent social, and an annual 5th grade day at Sutton were discussed.

Budget Approval Meeting Minutes

- They also talked about how they have increased funding for DLI work visas, established a pipeline with Georgia State University to teach in APS and a career day for NAHS to recruit. They have also coordinated a cluster wide IB training.
- They discussed their priorities in student achievement. They want to minimize the achievement gap, prioritizing the whole child and value multilingual programs. Many action items have been implemented: school improvement plans, updated Math at the elementary level, they have begun to review and update math in the middle grades, prepare for new ELA adoption, and provide training based off the family engagement surveys.
- [Cluster Rep Meeting Minutes](#)
- [Video](#)

VI. Announcements

Karla: The IB showcase for NAHS is March 26th and there is a parent night for elementary and middle school parents to go and learn about the diploma program and career program through NAPPS on April 10th at Sutton, 6pm

VII. Public Comment

Elizabeth Zielinski. Ms. Zielinski wanted to express her appreciation for the additional 5th grade class. She also encouraged Sarah Smith to set a class size and publish, which would help to recruit families as well.

VIII. Adjournment

Motion made by: Ann Mintman; Seconded by: Cimona Hinton Dirickson

Members Approving: All

Members Opposing: None

Members Abstaining: None

Motion Passes

ADJOURNED AT 4:27

Minutes Taken By: [Ann Mintman](#)

Position: [Secretary](#)

Date Approved: 4.18.24