

## DT Howard Middle School

Date: September 8, 2025

Time: 4:45pm

Location: Virtual/YouTube:

<https://www.youtube.com/@DavidTHowardMiddle/streams>

I. Call to order: 4:48p

II. Roll Call

Role	Name (or Vacant)	Present or Absent
Principal	Tekeshia Hollis	P
Parent/Guardian	Doug Brooks	P
Parent/Guardian	Deonne Malick El-Deiry <i>Chair &amp; Cluster Advisory Team (CAT) Representative</i>	P
Parent/Guardian	Joshua Griggs	P
Instructional Staff	Regina Bryant	P
Instructional Staff	Sudie Nolan-Cassimas <i>Vice Chair</i>	P
Instructional Staff	Jason Langbehn	P
Community Member	Heena Patel <i>Secretary</i>	P
Community Member	Open	
Swing Seat	Jenny Reiner	P
Student (High Schools)		

Quorum Established: [Yes or No]

III. Action Items

Approval of Agenda: Motion made by: Sudie Nolan-Cassimas Seconded by: Regina Bryant

Members Approving: 8

Members Opposing: 0

Members Abstaining: 0

Motion Passes

a. Approval of Previous Minutes:

Motion made by: Joshua Griggs Seconded by: Sudie Nolan-Cassimas

Members Approving: 8

Members Opposing: 0

Members Abstaining: 0

## Motion Passes

### b. Action Item 1: Fill Open Community Seat Motion:

**Principal Hollis:** Nominated Boyd Baker, noting he served last year and is a business owner in the community with children who matriculated through the Midtown cluster

Motion made by: [Jenny Reiner](#); Seconded by: [Sudie Nolan](#)

Members Approving: 8

Members Opposing: 0

Members Abstaining: 0

Motion Passes

## IV. Discussion Items

### a. Discussion Item 1: [Georgia Milestones Data](#)

Principal Hollis presented detailed milestone data for ELA, Math, Science, and Social Studies by grade level and subgroups.

#### Details

- **Principal Hollis:** Showed that overall school data is trending positively, with decreases in beginning learners and increases in proficient/distinguished learners
- **Principal Hollis:** Highlighted concerns with Black and Hispanic student performance in some subjects
- **Principal Hollis:** Noted that female students are outperforming male students in ELA
- **Josh Griggs:** Commended the overall growth at the aggregate level, particularly the 5% growth in math, 12% growth in science, and 6% growth in social studies
- **Josh Griggs:** Expressed interest in seeing data double-matrixed by race and grade level
- **Sudie Nolan:** Mentioned challenges with shifting student populations, particularly EL students, and resource constraints

#### Conclusion

- The school has surpassed pre-COVID data in ELA, science, and social studies
- Math scores are higher than 2024 but not yet at 2019 levels
- Intervention strategies include small group pull-outs, push-in support for EL learners, and monthly data review meetings

### b. Discussion Item 2: [Review new APS Strategic Plan](#)

- c. **Discussion Item 3: Howard Middle School Strategic Plan SY25**
  - i. Mission and Vision

Principal Hollis presented proposed changes to the school's mission and vision statements.

## Details

- o **Principal Hollis:** Shared current mission: "Through an inclusive culture of equity, collaboration, and excellence, all students will be empowered to be innovators and responsive citizens"
- o **Principal Hollis:** Proposed new mission: "All students will be empowered to be innovators, critical thinkers, and responsive citizens"
- o **Principal Hollis:** Shared current vision: "David T. Howard is an engaging and inclusive community that ensures all students reach their individual academic potential and critical thinking skills so they can navigate a rapidly changing world"
- o **Principal Hollis:** Proposed new vision: "All students will reach their academic potential and develop critical thinking skills to navigate a rapidly changing world"
- o **Josh Griggs:** Suggested making the mission present tense and possibly naming the role of teachers more explicitly

## Conclusion

- o The team will consider these proposed changes at the G3 Summit

## V. Information Items

- a. Principal's Report

### Budget adjustments and enrollment

Principal Hollis presented enrollment figures and resulting budget adjustments.

## Details

- b. **Principal Hollis:** Reported 15-day enrollment count of 1197 versus projected 1115, resulting in a budget adjustment of \$606,514
- c. **Principal Hollis:** Outlined plans to add three teachers (two in 6th grade - one ELA, one Math; one ELA in 8th grade)
- d. **Principal Hollis:** Noted other budget allocations for software, supplies, increasing reading teacher from 0.5 to 0.8 FTE, hourly security guard, furniture, and teacher stipends
- e. **Principal Hollis:** Mentioned current enrollment is at 1192

## Conclusion

- f. New teacher positions have been posted with a target start date of October 1st
- g. The school now has separate reading and math intervention teachers instead of one person doing both

## b. Comprehensive Long Range Facilities Plan Update - Reshaping Education

Shalanda Miller provided an update on the facilities master planning process.

## Details

- o **Shalanda:** Announced virtual call at 7pm for Midtown and Washington clusters to discuss overpopulated schools
- o **Shalanda:** Mentioned in-person follow-up meeting on September 10th at Midtown High School
- o **Shalanda:** Emphasized that proposed scenarios have been released and feedback is requested
- o **Deonne:** Added that there is one scenario proposed for Midtown involving an addition

## Conclusion

- o Scenarios will be presented in November with a vote in December
- o Go Team members are encouraged to attend the Go Team-specific engagement session on September 11th at 6pm

## VI. Announcements

## VII. Public Comment 10 minutes

Two parents shared concerns about achievement gaps in math performance.

## Details

- o **Melissa Hawkins:** Expressed concern about Black students' math milestone data, noting 35% of Black students were in the beginning learner category for 7th grade math
- o **Stacee Burton White:** Highlighted widening achievement gaps between white students and Black/Hispanic students, noting Black students' scores declined 13 points and Hispanic students' scores declined 23 points from 2023 to 2025
- o **Stacee Burton White:** Requested creation of a task force to address the widening achievement gap and investigate issues in math instruction

## Conclusion

- Principal Hollis noted these concerns would be addressed in upcoming meetings and data discussions

## VIII. Adjournment

Motion made by: ; Seconded by:

Members Approving: 8

Members Opposing: 0

Members Abstaining: 0

Motion Passes

ADJOURNED AT 6:22pm

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Minutes Taken By: Heena Patel

Position: Secretary

Date Approved: [Insert Date When Approved]