

Meeting Minutes

DT Howard Middle School

Date: August 7, 2025

Time: 4:45pm

Location: Virtual: Youtube

https://www.youtube.com/live/HjBUJWPEXcc?si=PT6m_FpOHfSldse2

I. Call to order: 4:53pm

II. Roll Call

| Role | Name (or Vacant) | Present or Absent |
|---------------------|---|---|
| Principal | Tekeshia Hollis | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Present <input type="checkbox"/> Absent |
| Parent/Guardian | Doug Brooks | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Present <input type="checkbox"/> Absent |
| Parent/Guardian | Deonne Malick El-Deiry <i>Chair & Cluster Advisory Team (CAT) Representative</i> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Present <input type="checkbox"/> Absent |
| Parent/Guardian | Joshua Griggs | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Present <input type="checkbox"/> Absent |
| Instructional Staff | Regina Bryant | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Present <input type="checkbox"/> Absent |
| Instructional Staff | Sudie Nolan-Cassimatis <i>Vice Chair</i> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Present <input type="checkbox"/> Absent |
| Instructional Staff | Jason Langbehn | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Present <input type="checkbox"/> Absent |
| Community Member | Heena Patel <i>Secretary</i> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Present <input type="checkbox"/> Absent |
| Community Member | Open | N/A |
| Swing Seat | Jenny Reiner | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Present <input type="checkbox"/> Absent |

Guests Present: N/A

Quorum Established: Yes

III. Action Items

A. **Approval of Agenda:** Motion made by: Sudi Nolan Seconded by: Deonne Malick El-Deiry

Members Approving: 7 (Jenny Reiner was voted into Go Team later in the meeting)

Members Opposing: 0

Members Abstaining: 0

Motion Passes

B. **Fill Open Community Member Seat:** Principal Hollis requested this item be tabled to allow her time to review candidates. Hollis is looking for a community member that is not a David T Howard Parent and requested names be sent to her for consideration.

i. Community Seat Interest Form:

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/candidatebank>

Motion made by: **Deonne Malick El-Deiry** Seconded by: **Doug Brooks**
Members Approving: 7 (Jenny Reiner was voted into Go Team later in the meeting)

Members Opposing: 0

Members Abstaining: 0

Motion Passes

- C. Fill Open Swing Seat:** Jenny Reiner, voted in as Swing Seat Go Team member
- Principal Hollis nominated., Dr Davis, 6th grade Howard Middle School Math Teacher
 - Deonne Malick El-Deiry nominated, Jenny Reiner, parent and community member

Vote:

- Jenny Reiner: (4) Doug Brooks, Deonne Malick El-Deiry, Sudi Nolan & Heena Patel
- Dr Davis: (3) Jason Langbehn, Regina Bryant & Joshua Griggs

D. Approval of Previous Minutes, April 22, 2025

Motion made by: **Sudi Nolan** Seconded by: **Regina Bryant**

Members Approving: 8

Members Opposing: 0

Members Abstaining: 0

E. Election of Officers and Representatives

- Chair: Deonne Malick El-Deiry, self nominated.
Members Approving: 8
Members Opposing: 0
Members Abstaining: 0
- Vice-Chair, Sudi Nolan Cassimatas, nominated by Deonne Malick El-Deiry.
Members Approving: 8
Members Opposing: 0
Members Abstaining: 0
- Secretary: Heena Patel, nominated by Deonne Malick El-Deiry.
Members Approving: 8
Members Opposing: 0
Members Abstaining: 0
- Cluster Representative, Deonne Malick El-Deiry, nominated by Sudi Nolan Cassimatas.
Members Approving: 8
Members Opposing: 0
Members Abstaining: 0

F. Review and Approve Public Comment Protocol

- Recommendation to continue with last year's adjusted public comment that allowed public comment both at the beginning of the GO Team meeting (10 minutes) and at the end of the meeting (10 minutes). This will allow the

community an opportunity to engage prior to meeting discussions, as well as after meeting discussions. In addition, Deonne Malick El-Deiry requested continuing to allow public comment at maximal meetings so that community has a voice in the Governance of the school.

Motion made by: [Joshua Griggs](#) Seconded by: [Regina Bryant](#)

Members Approving: 8

Members Opposing: 0

Members Abstaining: 0

Motion Passes

G. Set GO Team Meeting Calendar : all meetings will begin at 4:45pm

- i. September 8, virtual only
- ii. October 6, in person media center & virtual component (hybrid)
- iii. November 11, virtual only
- iv. January 27, in person media center & virtual component (hybrid)
- v. February 10, virtual only
- vi. March 9, in person media center & virtual component (hybrid)
- vii. April 20, virtual only

Motion made by: [Sudi Nolan Cassimatas](#) Seconded by: [Regina Bryant](#)

Members Approving: 8

Members Opposing: 0

Members Abstaining: 0

Motion Passes

H. Review, Confirm/Update, and Adopt GO Team Meeting Norms: Proposed changes of norms include: Principal Hollis proposed maximum meeting time of 90 minutes. Deonne Malick El-Deiry proposed ability to extend meeting by majority vote if necessary.

Motion made by: [Sudi Cassimatas Nolan](#) Seconded by: [Heena Patel](#)

Members Approving: 7

Members Opposing: 0

Members Abstaining: 1, Regina Bryant

Motion Passes

IV. Discussion Items

- A. **Discussion Item 1:** Milestones, Principal Hollis shared ELA and Math milestones data is to be publicly released August 8, 2025. Principal Hollis will report out to community on this data in upcoming meetings.

V. Information Items

- A. **Principal's Report:** Presentation start timer 1:00.55
- i. **Electronic Device** update was provided by Principal Hollis including use of smartwatches at school in watch function only, as well as discipline updates. Malick brought forth concerns and questions regarding implementation of school guidelines around smartwatches. Principal

Hollis reported out the first week is an adjustment period, students are transition from summer. She is meeting with staff to proactively continue discussion around norms for personal electronic devices. Students will have a townhall regarding rules next week, that will include use of electronic devices. Nolan suggested watches be in school mode. Malick requested update on personal electronic device survey to parents and staff, per SY24/25 April 22, 2025 GO Team meeting. Hollis will update Go Team when the survey report out to community will happen.

ii. Attendance:

1. 1231 students currently enrolled but still in the first week, last day to drop no show students is Friday. Howard was projected to have 1115 for SY25/26 per budget process. Malick requested if grade enrollment could be added to slide. Hollis provided current enrollment as 457(6), 396(7) , 366(8). Griggs asked if there were trends for in the 115 additional students enrolled, Hollis reported it is a number of reasons that include but aren't limited to: moving into cluster, not choosing private, economic state, and cluster lines being close to facilities such as CDC and VA. Hollis reported we have experienced more than expected for enrollment each year, however this large increase was not expected. Malick asked about additional funding for the additional students, Hollis reported out that we do not get full funding (\$11,000ish) that was received per student in budgeting process but a portion, approximately \$5900. Hollis stated at the next go team meeting she will discuss how these additional funds will be used, she believes she will be adding 6th grade teachers.

iii. CCRPI attendance rate of 90.1%

B. Comprehensive Facilities Plan Update: start timer 1:08.20

i. Shalanda Miller, Howard Go Team Task Force Seat, as Chair SY24/25

shalanda.miller@gmail.com

1. Provided brief update on three task force meetings: staffing, early childhood education centers, HUBS, cluster boundaries, priorities of schools
2. Future Public Meetings: August 25, October 20 and November 10 see flyer attached at end of th
3. Board voting: December 2025 board meeting
4. Reminded community all Task Force meetings are open to the public.

ii. Deonne Malick El-Deiry, Midtown Community Task Force Seat

1. Feedback: Use **APS Let's Talk** for Feedback regarding Comprehensive Facilities Plan Questions, Concerns & Suggestions:
<https://www.atlantapublicschools.us/domain/14240>
 - a. Once on the APS Lets Talk Page, Click "APS Trending Topics", then click the orange button labeled "Comprehensive Facilities Plan"
 2. Cluster Meeting: Midtown task force members have formally requested a Midtown Cluster Community Meeting via Let's Talk and through email and through Let's Talk . We have not been given a date or time.
 3. August 18: proposal to community goes live. APS & HMP (the firm used for planning) made a point to say "these are assumptions that can change at anytime" and this is a "living document". Feedback from the task force and the community will be used to shape this process.
 4. November APS BOE Meeting: First Read of the Recommendations
 5. December APS BOE Meeting: Second Read of Recommendations, Board of Education Vote.
- iii. APS "Reshaping Education" Facility Master Plan Landing Page:
<https://www.atlantapublicschools.us/APS2040>
 - iv. See Engagement Opportunities document below or FMP landing webpage for updates

VI. Announcements

- A. Parent conference** dates are published on website. New half days may also be added as conference options, waiting to hear guidelines around these dates from district.
- B. New Parent Boot Camp:** in person and virtual options offered, this event is supported by PTO.
- C. Special events were highlighted**
- D. Curriculum Night, August 26**
- E. Principal Coffees:** update this year, will have alternating meeting modes similar to Go Team. Meetings. Meetings will be either virtual only or hybrid (in person & virtual)
- F. G3 Summit: Go Team Summit *Saturday Sept 27*.** Principal Hollis asked GO Team office if there is a virtual option for this commitment. Diane Jacobi reported that they will follow up on this question/request.
- G. First Midtown GO Team Friday Football Game: August 15**

VII. Adjournment

Motion made by: **Sudi Nolan Cassimatas** Seconded by: **Regina Bryant**

Members Approving: 8

Members Opposing: 0

Members Abstaining: 0

ADJOURNED AT 6:21pm

Minutes Taken By: Deonne Malick El-Deiry

Position: acting Secretary

Date Approved: 9/8/2025



Upcoming Public Engagement Opportunities

Join Us For

APS Forward 2040:

Reshaping the Future of Education

In-Person Public Meetings

Monday, August 25th 6PM*
Monday, October 20th 6PM*
Monday, November 10th 6PM*

Center for Learning and Leadership
130 Trinity Ave • Atlanta, GA 30303

Virtual Public Meetings

Monday, August 25th 12PM(Noon)
Monday, October 20th 12PM(Noon)
Monday, November 10th 12PM(Noon)

Link will be provided
closer to the date

Community Task Force Meetings

Tuesday, August 5th 6PM
Thursday, October 9th 6PM

Center for Learning and Leadership
130 Trinity Ave • Atlanta, GA 30303
Open to public to observe

Let's Talk!

Your specific question or comment will be routed to the appropriate APS staff member, who will follow up with you in a timely fashion. Available 24/7 from your phone, computer, or tablet.

Community Outreach Meetings

We'll Come to YOU!

August 26, 27, 28
Dates and Times TBD

Public Survey

Provide feedback and shape the future of your school. Open until August 5, 2025. Available in English or Spanish. Scan the QR Code Below to be taken to the Online Survey.



Other Important Dates

- Options Go Public: August 18
- First Read: November Board Meeting
- Second Read: December Board Meeting
- All updates here: atlantapublicschools.us/APS2040

*Recording Posted to Website after the meeting is adjourned.



Próximas oportunidades de participación pública

Únase a nosotros para

APS Forward 2040:

Redefiniendo el futuro de la educación

Reuniones públicas presenciales

Lunes 25 de Agosto • 18:00h*
Lunes 20 de Octubre • 18:00h*
Lunes 10 de Noviembre • 18:00h*

Centro de Aprendizaje y Liderazgo
130 Trinity Ave • Atlanta, GA 30303

Reuniones públicas virtuales

Lunes 25 de Agosto • 12:00h*
Lunes 20 de Octubre • 12:00h*
Lunes 10 de Noviembre • 12:00h*

Se proporcionará un enlace más cerca de la fecha.

Reuniones del grupo de trabajo comunitario

Martes 5 de agosto • 18:00h*
Jueves 9 de octubre • 18:00h*

Centro de Aprendizaje y Liderazgo
130 Trinity Ave • Atlanta, GA 30303
Abierto al público para observar

¡Hablemos!

Su pregunta o comentario específico se enviará al miembro del personal de APS correspondiente, quien se pondrá en contacto con usted a la brevedad. Disponible 24/7 desde su teléfono, computadora o tablet.

Reuniones de extensión comunitaria

¡Iremos a ti!

26, 27, 28 de Agosto
Fechas y horarios a determinar

Encuesta pública

Comparte tu opinión y define el futuro de tu escuela. Abierto hasta el 5 de agosto de 2025. Disponible en inglés o español. Escanea el código QR a continuación para acceder a la encuesta en línea.



Otras fechas importantes

- Opciones disponibles para la bolsa: 18 de Agosto
- Primera lectura: Reunión de la Junta Directiva de Noviembre
- Segunda lectura: Reunión de la Junta Directiva de Diciembre
- Todas las actualizaciones aquí: atlantapublicschools.us/APS2040

*Grabación publicada en el sitio web después de que se levanta la reunión.

Let's Talk!



Welcome to Let's Talk!

► Performance Division

► Student Experience Division

► **APS Trending Topics**



| | | | |
|---|---|---|---------------------------------|
| General Inquiries | Goals & Guardrails | Our Next 100 Days: Strategic Planning | Safety & Security |
| School Nutrition | Comprehensive Facilities Plan (CFP) | Athletics | Board of Education |
| Facilities - Capital Improvements, SPLOST | Facilities - Maintenance & Operations,... | Facilities - Planning, GIS, Attendance Zone | Facilities - Property & Rentals |
| Report Bullying in APS | Speed Zone Cameras/Safety Concerns | Student Assignment & Records | |