

# Meeting Minutes

## Springdale Park Elementary

Date: 01/27/2021

Time: 6:30-7:30

Location: Zoom Video Conferencing Meeting:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83933143293?pwd=ZHM5YXVTSzUvakhxajZ5bzAwTjZ2dz09>

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

Role	Name (or Vacant)	Present or Absent
Principal	Terry Harness	Present
Parent/Guardian	Jenny Reiner	Present
Parent/Guardian	Honora Handley	Present
Parent/Guardian	Cat Hoelker	Present
Instructional Staff	Jessica Correa	Present
Instructional Staff	Nathan Stephenson	Present
Instructional Staff	Corrie Madlem	Present
Community Member	Brian Knight	Present
Community Member	Elise Blalock	Present
Swing Seat	Tony Kearney	Present
Student (High Schools)		

Guests: Diane Jacobi; Kindergarten Parent

Quorum Established: [Yes]

### III. Action Items

- a. **Approval of Agenda:** Motion made by: [Jenny Reiner]; Seconded by: Elise Blalock  
Members Approving: All Members  
Members Opposing: None  
Members Abstaining: None  
**Motion [Passes]**
- b. **Approval of Previous Minutes:** List amendments to the minutes: None  
Motion made by: Cat Hoelker; Seconded by: Corrie Madlem  
Members Approving: All Members  
Members Opposing: None

Members Abstaining: None

**Motion** [Passes]

## IV. Discussion Items

### a. Discussion Item 1: Principal's Forum:

Mr. Harness updated the team on several topics including: The return of some students to Face to Face instruction at SPARK and an update on SPARK's Academic Data.

#### Return & Learn: Face to Face Instruction

SPARK had 99% (693/700) of our families complete their declaration for their children. SPARK had the highest response rate of any school in Atlanta Public Schools. Out of the 99% of families who responded, 54% chose in person learning at SPARK while the remaining 46% will continue with SPARK Virtual. Out of 23 teachers/staff who applied for telework status, only 11 were approved. Out of the 11 approved, 8 of those approvals were homeroom teachers across 5th, 4th, 3rd, 2nd and Kindergarten. The remaining 3 staff members are support staff. Based on the total percentages of students who will return to in person learning and those who will remain virtual, we have done our best to accommodate all students by assigning them a teacher to provide in-person or virtual instruction. This did mean that some children may have a new change in teacher.

As you know, we had some K-3 students return to the building this week on Monday 01/25. We have had roughly 175 students in the building on Monday and Tuesday. The school did have to make some additional changes in class rosters to continue to accommodate the needs of keeping class sizes small for safety. As we looked at class lists, we considered the number of students who could safely be in the classrooms while keeping in mind the number of students in the virtual setting. We also had to think about scheduling teachers who must telework for various health reasons. Also, the school received many last-minute requests from parents who decided against sending their child in person although they had previously elected to return in person. Overall, the school feels good about how it has gone and think all the planning and procedures in place seem to be going well. Teachers have been able to take students outside to eat lunch and for recess. Mr. Harness noted that he has sent updates in the SPARK-e for families to review Now SPARK is expecting our students in grades 3-5 whose parents declared the face-to-face option will now return to SPARK on

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February 8<sup>th</sup> as per the District's announcement on Friday 01/22 delaying their return for in person learning.

The district will open the new declaration of intent window on February 15th. The window will remain open through March 1st. This new declaration of intent will be for the 4th Quarter and parents will be able to choose one of three options that has previously been announced: face to face at SPARK, virtual learning through SPARK, or Atlanta Virtual Academy.

Also, the district is preparing to implement COVID-19 surveillance testing of employees in all our schools and buildings. This weekly testing will allow us to be proactive and identify the presence of the COVID-19 virus, even in individuals who may be asymptomatic. More details about this will be forthcoming.

Honora Handley: She asked Diane Jacobi to consider how the district is working to make sure they are being equitable to students who are choosing to remain virtual. There is a feeling that the district is not providing enough support to families and students who are not returning face to face.

GO Team members also asked why the District is not providing more staffing resources to schools. Are there not people who are certified to teach that work in the central office who could help schools? Diane responded and noted that she was not sure the exact number of staff who held these credentials but noted that some staff had received an email letting them know they may be asked to help in schools.

### SPARK Academic Data:

- Mr. Harness and his team took a detailed look to identify trends in STAR Data across the past year to help determine trends and develop recommendations. Mr. Harness evaluated each grade level's performance and compared the growth pattern to previous years. One noticing was that most students are continuing to make progress and grow. However, it was noted that in some subjects and with some grades this growth has not been as robust as previous school years. Another finding showed that the largest group of students seemingly negatively affected were special populations: Students with Disabilities, English as a Second Language students, and students in the Multi-Tiered Support System Process.

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- Mr. Harness noted several proposals for trying to best support all students. The first major recommendation was working with teachers to define set scheduled times for uninterrupted small group support. During virtual learning finding opportunities to provide uninterrupted small group supports has been a challenge for teachers. Teachers are often not only providing instruction but also helping students trouble shoot technology issues. Going forward he wants to make sure this time is carefully planned and scheduled so that teachers can conference and work on specific skills to help students. Mr. Harness noted that Springdale Park has historically been successful because of small class sizes and the ability of teachers to provide small group supports. Another recommendation was trying to create more opportunities for students to utilize print resources including potentially lending physical books from the school library, utilizing older textbook readers, etc.

**b. Discussion Item 4: Preliminary Budget Discussions:**

Mr. Harness shared some thoughts regarding the preliminary budget guidance he has received thus far as well his proposed strategic priorities. As of now, taking into consideration some of the strategies developed after doing the recent intensive data evaluation, Mr. Harness wants to make sure the budget supports those efforts. One thought would be having the guidance counselor position return to a full-time status, and potentially adding on a full-time media specialist. Mr. Harness will be presenting a more detailed look at the budget at the next meeting.

**c. Discussion Item 5: Prekindergarten at SPARK/Grady Cluster:**

Mr. Harness had initial conversations with several stakeholders about the prospect of SPARK hosting pre-k students. Mr. Harness shared that the Grady Cluster does not have a lot of assigned sites at this time that host pe-k and there is an opportunity for this to grow and support Grady schools. However, this idea will need to be put on hold for the time due to budget constraints in the pre-k program along with the all the issues SPARK is working through regarding the impacts of COVID-19.

**d. Discussion Item 6: Road Safety Update:**

The Atlanta city council has approved speed cameras on Ponce De Leon. However, now the city and the school district are determining who will be responsible for the cost of implementing the program. This is an ongoing process and once more information is finalized it will be shared out with the community.

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e. **Discussion Item 7:** Cluster Update:

Cat Hoelker attended a Cluster meeting which primarily served as an opportunity for the members to reflect about what is going well for the cluster and to develop goals for the cluster. The work revolved around continuing to align the cluster strategic plan with district strategic plan. She noted that specifics regarding various issues including the Inman Campus update were not discussed.

f. **Discussion Item 8:** Inman Campus Update:

The district does not have an update regarding the future of the building. Travis Norvell, from APS, has previously said the Board of Education has not received the official recommendation from the consults hired to help guide the decision-making process. This was delayed because of COVID. The board will not make a decision until this report is received.

- V. **Public Comment:** A kindergarten parent asked about the thought process regarding class rosters and specific teachers having been recently changed. Mr. Harness noted that changes had to be made to make sure students who were returning would be doing so safely to accommodate the amount of physical distancing needed. This meant the school did have to change classes rosters and move a few teachers to accommodate the needs of the school. This meant a kindergarten teacher had to be reassigned to a different grade level.

VI. **Adjournment**

Motion made by: [Jenny Reiner Seconded by: Corrie Madlem

Members Approving: All Members in Favor

Members Opposing: None

Members Abstaining:

**Motion** [Passes]

**ADJOURNED AT 8:01 pm**

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**Minutes Taken By: Nathan Stephenson**

**Position: Secretary**

**Date Approved: 02/24/2021**