

**E. Rivers Elementary School**

**Date: February 10, 2025**

**Time: 3:30pm**

**Recording: <https://atlantapublicschools-us.zoom.us/j/82969175850?pwd=QmpNYTI2SUhGMEIPSUZ0cGIwRkRQdz09>**

- I. Call to order: 3:33pm
- II. Roll Call

Role	Name (or Vacant)	Present or Absent
Principal	Dr. John Waller	P
Parent/Guardian	Paige Dees	P
Parent/Guardian	Erica Militello	P
Parent/Guardian	Khaki Janusz	P
Instructional Staff	Wendy Sanders	P
Instructional Staff	Dr. Whitney Niles	P
Instructional Staff	Nicole Cheroff	P
Community Member	Dr. Hersh Chopra	P
Community Member	Amanetta Somerville	P
Swing Seat	Megan Martinez	P
Student (High Schools)		

Quorum Established: **Yes**

**III. Action Items**

- a. **Approval of Agenda:** Motion made by: [Nicole Cheroff](#); Seconded by: [Wendy Sanders](#)  
 Members Approving: 10  
 Members Opposing: 0  
 Members Abstaining: 0  
**Motion Passes**
- b. **Approval of Previous Minutes:** Motion made by: [manetta Somerville](#); Seconded by: [Nicole Cheroff](#)  
 Members Approving: 10  
 Members Opposing: 0  
 Members Abstaining: 0  
**Motion Passes**

**IV. Discussion Items**

**a. Discussion Item 1: Principal Search Process & Timeline**

- i. Dr. Curtis Douglass - Superintendent of North Atlanta Cluster:  
 A survey has been shared for parents, teachers, public, etc to give feedback on the search, survey closes 2/18; the job is publicly posted and will be posted until 3/3 - Timeline:



GO Team members also sits in on tier 2 & 3 screening  
 Superintendent will interview final 3 candidates for tier 4

**b. Discussion Item 2: Budget Development Presentation**

- i. Does our budget align with our strategic plan, need to ensure and vote on the alignment today.
- ii. IB funding came in at \$243k vs request of \$422k - this will fund one specialist, IB dues & fees, and an additional \$100 per pupil
- iii. Total budget for FY 2026 rolls up o \$2m higher than 2025; certain funds must go to the line in which they are originally allocated
- iv. Key Proposals

**Minor changes in programming and positions**  
**Minimize non-staffing budget to prioritize hiring of staff**  
**Use EIP funding for homeroom teachers to lower average class sizes (5 teachers)**  
**Add one homeroom in third grade**  
**Re-purpose bookkeeper from hourly to part-time**

Private funding (foundation, PTA) will allow us to minimize non-staffing budget

**Provide increased support for DLI/ESOL with continued push-in from paraprofessionals and/or ESOL teachers**

**Add hourly para and EIP teacher to provide instructional support to targeted students**

**Include 23 stipends for teacher leaders and club sponsors**

**Utilize reserve for new principal flexibility, instructional support, and resources**

Key Proposal					
Grade Level	FY26 Projection	Current Enrollment	HRs 24-25	HRs 25-26	Avg. Class Size 25-26
K	103	107	5	5	21 (DLI – 25; Non-DLI – 18)
1	112	112	5	5	22 (DLI – 25; Non-DLI – 21)
2	112	112	6	6	19 (DLI – 24; Non-DLI – 16)
3	115	107	5	6	19 (DLI – 23; Non-DLI – 17)
4	104	118	6	6	17 (DLI – 22; Non-DLI – 15)
5	112	116	6	6	19 (DLI – 20; Non-DLI – 18)
<b>Total</b>	<b>658</b>	<b>672</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>19</b>

- v. Certain positions are tight vs. flexible on where and how budget can be allocated
- vi. Select EIP funds will be used for grade level teacher allotments, along with one full time standalone EIP teacher (focused on Push-in support)
- vii. 4 proposed ESOL teachers with focus on push-in support in primarily DLI classrooms
- viii. Overall summary of how budget works out

SUMMARY OF POSITION CHANGES TO SUPPORT THE FY26 BUDGET	
CREATED	REMOVED
1.0 Third Grade Teacher	Hourly bookkeeper
0.5 EIP Teacher (new total = 1.0)	
0.5 Bookkeeper	
Hourly paraprofessional (new total = 3)	

- ix. review of non-staffing, \$313k of the total budget, a lot of the lines are able to be funded through foundation
- x. 77% of allotted budget goes to instruction personnel
- xi. Current plan for **holdback** of \$149k: Priority 1 – funds for any “payback” required at leveling due to under-enrollment from projection; Priority 2 – funds for instructional support staff (i.e., to deliver student interventions in math and/or reading, instructional para or teacher); Priority 3 – funds for instructional materials and teaching supplies

DRAFT Budget Approved Motion Made By: Nicole Cheroff; Seconded By Paige Dees

Members Approving: 10

Members Opposing: 0

Members Abstaining: 0

Motion Passes

**V. Information Items**

- a. N/A

**VI. Announcements**

- a. N/A

**VII. Adjournment**

Motion made by: [Amanetta Somerville](#); Seconded by: [Wendy Sanders](#)

Members Approving: 10

Members Opposing: 0

Members Abstaining: 0

Motion Passes

ADJOURNED AT 4:41pm

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Minutes Taken By: [Erica Militello](#)

Position: [Secretary](#)

Date Approved: