

Athletic Advisory Council

Meeting Date: September 25, 2024

Meeting Time: 6:00p – 7:30p

Questions asked during the meeting:

1. What are the Department of Athletics Goals?

Goal 1: Leadership (Servant Leadership) - The Department of Athletics will actively demonstrate and promote Servant Leadership principles within the athletic department, fostering a collaborative and student-centered approach to leadership.

Goal 2: Integrity - The Department of Athletics will ensure all athletic programs within the district operate with the highest level of integrity and ethical standards, fostering trust and transparency.

Goal 3: Accountability - The Department of Athletics will establish a culture of accountability, ensuring all stakeholders within the athletic department take responsibility for their actions and outcomes.

Goal 4: Equity - The Department of Athletics will promote equity and inclusivity within the athletic department, ensuring that all students have equal access and opportunities in sports.

2. What are the plans for Facility Improvements at each school throughout the district?

Each SPLOST yields a certain percentage for Athletic Infrastructure and Improvements. Working closely with the Capital Improvements and Facilities office, assessments were done for each of the athletic facilities in the district. We have taken the findings from those assessments and will prioritize each facility at each school. Some of the work has already begun at different locations. We have also been in talks with some of our partners to help assist with some additional resources at different locations such as the Atlanta Braves Foundation.

3. How can a school establish a booster club? What are the APS Guidelines?

Regulation JHC-R(1): Student Organizations and Extracurricular Activities

Atlanta Public Schools has guidelines for booster clubs in the local school. The document can be found on the Board of Education website and each Athletic Director has access to it in the Athletics Department Google Drive.

4. What is the process for the Department of Athletics to make decisions?

The Athletics Office uses the following when making decisions:

- a. Define what the objective is and if there is a thorough understanding by all parties involved.
- b. Depending on what type of decision is needed, there are certain criteria that are needed which include cost-effectiveness, quality, and vendor reliability. Sustainability is also a major factor.
- c. We will consult with school-level ADs and administrators to gather additional insights. We are also looking to bring in some student assistance when it comes to uniforms in the future.

5. Can a meeting be arranged so athletes from other schools meet to discuss athletics?

Yes, that is in our plans for the future. Our school ADs have discussed creating athletic councils within their schools. North Atlanta and a few other schools currently have one. This would allow

members from each school to meet and have discussions about athletics in Atlanta Public Schools. We are hoping that the creation of this council will also help with the process.

6. What can the Department of Athletics put in place to provide professional development and training opportunities for coaches and student-athletes?

With the assistance of our partners such as the Atlanta Braves Foundation, Atlanta Falcons, Soccer in the Streets, Georgia State University, Atlanta Track Club, etc., we are working to create different coaching clinics and workshops. We are also working with other organizations such as Atlanta Parks and Recreation and others to create sport-specific camps that our student-athletes can attend. School level ADs are also tasked with finding additional resources for their coaches and student-athletes.

7. How can the Department of Athletics improve student voice and help them become better leaders?

The creation of the Athletic Advisory Council at the district level and student-athlete-led committees at the school level will allow students to have more of a voice in decisions. The Student Advisory Council is another great resource for students to have a voice. We listened from the first meeting we had with our Athletic Advisory Council and postponed the district Flag Football Invitational because it was stated that many young ladies would miss the event due to SAT testing. We want to hear the feedback and allow input on things that will affect our student-athletes.

8. What is the process for a school athletics department to build a program from the bottom up?
 - a. The first thing that must happen is there has to be student interest in the sport. Local school AD should sent out a survey for student feedback
 - b. Ensure district funding is available for the sport for equipment, etc.
 - c. Ensure a facility is available for practices and games.
 - d. A quality coaching staff that has knowledge of the sport and experience in running a program.
 - e. Georgia High School Association sends out an Intent-to-Participate survey each year that is due on March 1.

9. How can the Department of Athletics improve vertical alignment within each cluster?

We are working with each Middle School and High School Athletic Director to create a vertical alignment among the athletic departments in each cluster. The Athletics Office will also schedule meetings with the Middle School and High School Principals to gain insight on what they may see as need resources. Some of our cluster schools have already had conversations of hosting the cluster middle school basketball games at the high school gyms.

10. What is the Department of Athletics doing to provide equity in sports and particularly female sports?

The Athletics Office is excited that we have 5 female ADs at the High School level and 5 at the Middle school level. We also have provided speakers and presenters for our female athletic directors. We had a female athletic administrator from Georgia State speak to our MS and HS female ADs on the importance of knowing the “WHY” of being an athletic administrator. Asking our female ADs to be involved with the ordering of female sport uniforms is a process that we will be incorporating moving forward. We are reviewing our policies for all athletics to ensure there is equity in both male and female sports.

11. What is the process for scheduling an athletic contest?

Schools are responsible for scheduling ALL their athletic contests for each sport. The Athletics Office and safety/security are involved with the scheduling of varsity football games at the stadiums only because of the two shared stadiums and ensuring games do not overlap.

12. What is the process for budgeting for all schools in the Department of Athletics?

Each school is given a specific amount of equipment needed for the sports offered. We also have conversations with the school AD to determine what additional equipment may be needed. We are in the process of reviewing past budgets and determining a specific percentage for budgeting for each school dependent on the size of the athletic program. In May, we gave each high school athletic department an additional \$2000 - \$2500 to spend on additional equipment. In October, each high school was given access to additional funding for resources needed for the athletic department. Our athletic budget process was updated in April which caused a shift in how we are able to provide for our programs.

13. Can School Dude be improved?

School Dude is a part of the Facilities Department. We can pass along any concerns to the members of that department.

14. What is the ULTIMATE GOAL for the Athletic Advisory Council?

The Atlanta Public Schools Athletic Advisory Council made up of student-athletes and community members/stakeholders chosen by the high school athletic director to provide insight into the student-athlete experience and promote growth and education through sports participation in Atlanta Public Schools. This committee meets every month to address current topics of interest of Atlanta Public Schools student-athletes and stakeholders and serves as a conduit of communication among student-athletes and stakeholders from each cluster.

- A. Communication: Promoting communication between the student-athlete, stakeholders and the Department of Athletics
- B. Providing Input: Giving feedback and insight on issues affecting student-athletes, APS Athletic Programs, and APS Athletic Facilities
- C. Creating a voice: Generating student-athlete and stakeholder voices in the creation of policies.
- D. Building community: Fostering a sense of community among student-athletes, stakeholders, the school campus, and the cluster.
- E. Advocating: Supporting and advocating for student-athletes and stakeholders

The group decided that we would meet each month (October, November, December, and January).

A possible face-to-face meeting in November

What are the possible roles for the members of the council?

Are subcommittees an option?

Next meeting Schedule for:

Tuesday, October 29, 2024: 6:00pm – 7:30pm