

MINUTES

Sandtown Middle School: School Governance Council

9/19/2023 | 6:00pm | *Virtual* Public may attend the meeting by joining this link: [SGC Meeting Link 9.19.23](#)

SGC Members

Attendees: Miranda Freeman, Principal | Javon Norman, Teacher | Thomas Morse, Parent | Camille Crowder, Appointed Staff | Natosha Rucker, Appointed Staff | Sheila Brown, Parent | Diedre Caldwell, Parent | Myana Solomon, Parent | Jayaina Griggs, Parent | Marcia Green, Teacher | Erica Douglas, Parent | Tonya Rawlings, Parent | Monica Roberts, Assistant Principal

Meeting began at 6:05 by Camille Crowder.

Ms. Crowder introduced herself to the SGC Meeting Team and the audience. She stated that one of the agenda items is the Charter Dollars being asked from staff members to award for student activities.

Approved Agenda Items

SGC Team reviewed the Agenda Items.

Ms. Griggs accepted the agenda. Ms. Brown seconded the agenda at 6:08 p.m

Action Items

- **Review August Meeting Minutes**
- Charter funds review for SY 2022
 - Charter funds were dispersed to Ms. Green and Ms. Walker
 - Link to complete surveys were sent out and emailed to all members.
 - Funds requests were sent to the council.
 - A Google doc for a survey to explain how requested funds were utilized will be sent out to teachers.
- Career and college expansion brought up to the council.
- New member training and using the FCS email address provided- that will be the main communication.
- Need for volunteers.
- **New members introduction**
 - Sheila Brown- 8th grade parent.
 - Diedre Caldwell- 8th grade parent.
 - Maiyana Soloman- Randolph Elem teacher, 7th grade parent.

- Jaynaia Griggs- 6th grade parent.
- M. Green, N. Rucker, C. Crowder, J. Norman, T. Morse introduced.
- Leadership
 - Ms. C. Crowder was nominated for Chair and the vote was unanimous to elect for position.
 - Ms. J. Griggs was nominated for vice chair and vote was unanimous to elect for position.
 - Parliamentary vote: updates website and takes minutes. Ms. J. Norman was nominated and accepted the position.
- Standing Committees
 - Budget and Finance- chair (C. Crowder) will be a part of every committee. Need anyone who has grant writing experience.
 - Members: T. Morse, M. Solomon, D. Caldwell
 - Community and Outreach
 - Members: T. Morse, J. Griggs, Douglas, S. Brown
 - Principals Selection
 - Members: M. Green, E. Douglas, S. Brown
 - Superintendent Council member- gives updates.
 - T. Morse
- All new committee leaders need to complete the training using the link provided by
- Meeting Times
 - Last year it was on Tuesday evenings.
 - The council agreed that the 2nd Tuesday of each month will work based on votes.
- Myron Freeman
 - Introduced a Men of Sandtown program to increase the presence of males and dads with working with students.
 - Helping with bus and car rider duty, cafeteria, support/mentoring of students
- T. Morse- community involvement
 - Mentoring program for young men and young ladies
 - Bring awareness to SGC and the work.
 - Advocate for teachers and admin- advocate the great things happening at SMS.

Principal Freeman Update

- Sent thanks to the staff.
- Spoke about the 12 days of school.
- Reviewed the 3 Big Rocks: Tier 1 Instruction, Attendance, and Interventions during 2nd Period SSS Block
- Discussed adjusting iReady math and reading goals based on the diagnostic results. -
- Inappropriate use of technology, class disruption, battery, off-campus fighting, threat, bus behavior, tribunal hearing
- Decrease in discipline; We dropped from 39 to 8.
- Parents should receive updates through a weekly newsletter- be sure emails are being received. Address with teacher or administrator if not received.
- Volunteers needed to monitor the cafeteria, restrooms, copies for teachers, and bulletin boards. Check-in with front office.
- Financial Literacy Night, On Oct. 19.
- Rawlings mentioned about College tours which will be discussed later with Charter Dollars.

- T. Morse- how do I receive information on how to know what Sandtown is doing so that he can participate? Ms. Freeman will add him to the email.
- Crowder asked if we could approve the August Meeting Minutes; Thomas Morse made a motion to approve the minutes. Deidra Caldwell seconded the meeting minutes.

Action Item

- Ms. Crowder discussed the roles and responsibilities of the newly elected officials of the SGC Board for Orientation.
- Ms. Crowder informed each newly elected official of training dates available, with the last training date being Oct 17 10-11:30 at the FCS Building.
- Ms. Crowder has signed up for the Oct 17 10-11:30 meeting; and asked others to do the same.
- Ms. Crowder discussed website updates; Ms. Norman suggested that she has yet to be able to get in to access the website. Crowder mentioned that she would check with Pass-Cameron to help gain access.
- Ms. Crowder mentioned that the FCS will do an audit of our online presence and wants to ensure that we are in good standing when the audit happens in October.

Discussion Items

- Ms. Crowder mentioned that we need members of the SGC Board to be a part of the Cross-Council Meetings.
- There are several meetings to align tasks with the strategic plan for the school. It offers opportunities to work with other SGC members in the district. They are face-to-face meetings with Ms. Foster. There are three dates.
- Meetings allow us the opportunity to see what other schools are doing across the district.
- Ms. Crowder asked for volunteers to attend the meeting.
- Ms. Crowder stated that we needed at least two members to attend the meeting.
- Ms. Brown stated that she would attend on Nov. 3
- Ms. Caldwell agreed to attend.
- Ms. Griggs suggested that she would have to check her calendar.
- Ms. Green also agreed to attend.
- Mr. Morse also agrees to attend.
- The link to attend the sessions was placed on the agenda for the council to review.
- Any aspect of getting teachers to seek out funds for Charter Dollars and how others can benefit from the resource is our priority.

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Semester Action Plan

- Ms. Crowder mentioned community involvement and volunteers. How does this align to our strategic plan? Ms. Crowder allowed the team to discuss some of their ideas for our action plan. Encouraged Mr. Morse to discuss his ideas.
- T-Morse mentioned- getting parents involved in mentor sessions. Inclusive leadership development. Proposal to Ms. Green for TSA. Morse has gone through restorative practice and empowerment circles to offer support to parents. Help parents to get involved and keep them engaged and create a pipeline for mentors for the mentor program. Need parents in leadership

programs for our students. Draw more connections for our students from Middle to High School.

- Ms. Crowder- suggested that it relates to the discipline and restorative circles that will be mentioned to Wise.
- T. Morse- Stated that we wanted a multigenerational approach and not to leave out grandparents who are also raising students.
- Ms. Crowder- stated that Morse has been vocal in bridging the gap. Relationships matter so we make sure that we keep the connection within the community. She asked for more ideas before continuing the meeting.

Website Update

- Ms. Crowder mentioned that the website needs to be updated.
- Ms. Norman mentioned that she does not have access to update the website.
- Ms. Crowder mentioned that she would speak to Ms. Pass-Cameron as she and her have access.
- The website needs to be updated by October.

Principal Update

- Thanked everyone for supporting SMS.
- Thanked everyone for their support from parents. It makes a difference to have parents in the building. - Hopefully, more parents can become involved. Students respond well. Thanked parents for the lunches and breakfast that we had.
- Academic goals for SY24
- Attendance, increase by 30%
- Focus on Celebrating Scholars who have 3 or fewer days each month and perfect attendance.
- -Tier 1 Instruction- ensuring students are performing well on SS and Science Unite Assessments.
- The attendance goal is to decrease severe absence by 30%
- Making sure that teachers are taking attendance for each class.
- -Data clerks are calling into teacher's rooms when they have not taken attendance.
- Counselors are coming up with how we celebrate students for attendance; want to give students attainable awards.
- Working to verify residency due to chronic absence with social worker and data clerk.
- We're at 70% of satisfactory of attendance
- -Red is severe; orange is chronic which the team is trying to decrease.
- Attendance team has roles that they are using to target attendance.

701- students are attending school regularly

108- at risk

124-chronic absence

65- severe absences.

- Will continue to address Attendance quarterly for the next three quarters.

Discipline Data

- 51 incidents for 6-8th
- 44 days-ISS
- 168 days- OSS fighting is automatic OSS and warrants suspensions
- Other avenues are taken such as detention.

7th Grade- has more incidence.

- Ms. Blackley is making sure to have PBIS events to curb behavior
- W, Thurs, and Fri (has more incidents)

Team will make sure to monitor for supervision.

PBIS-

Principal Freeman gave kudos to the PBIS Leadership Team for working to reward students for showcasing JAG SWAG

Next event was mentioned by Ms. Norman for Sept 28 as a Game Day Carnival Theme

Principal Freeman mentioned that teachers will be rewarded for providing points and PBIS Leadership Team is working towards this goal as well.

Parent Town Hall-

Principal Freeman also mentioned offering Parent Town Hall Meetings. It will be virtual during the day. This will allow Admin to go over individual data for specific grade levels. Principal Freeman asked Ms. Roberts to clarify. She clarified that it will also be a combination of PTSA members as well. Principal Freeman also asked for the audience to check for invitations for these Parent Town Hall Meetings. PTSA will be on Oct. 19.

Communication

- Grades are completed weekly in IC.
- Weekly communication through IC that tells about upcoming assignments and standards.
- Let Admin know if parents are not getting information.
- Teachers know to respond to parents in 24-48 hours.
- Teachers are also setting up parent conferences.
- Communications are being set out; staff members who are not communicating with parents are being addressed.
- Messages are being sent via Twitter Blackboard and the school website.

Volunteers

- Still in need of volunteers
- Thanked those who have volunteered.

Questions

- No questions
- Griggs communicated parent concerns about lockers and the frequency of when they go to their lockers specifically for 6th Grade.
- 6th-grade parents are concerned because of work being left in their lockers and teachers are threatening students about failing the assignments.
- Principal Freeman addressed that no student or scholar should fail an assignment as they will be given an opportunity to turn in the assignment. She expressed the issue with locker breaks given we have students out that require monitoring and coverage. We only have 60 minutes and we need to spend more time in class and not in the hallway. Each grade level has about 3 locker breaks. She stated that she would check in with Mr. Bush to see their locker transition times.
- Ms. Rawlings asked about Financial Literacy.
- Ms. Roberts clarified that the Financial Literacy in the SMORE is a district initiative based on Financial Literacy. She provided the date and time and that Sandtown was one of the selected schools to participate and wanted to take advantage of the opportunity.
- Ms. Rawlings thanked Ms. Roberts for her clarification.

Value Added Flexibility

- Ms. Crowder stated that this is shared government/District and school level.
- Provides local and state waivers.
- This portion represents everyone including staff, teachers, and parents).
- This helps us to identify our challenges
- Which can help align with the school improvement plan.
- Allows us to suggest things that would benefit students and staff.
- We can suggest what our school needs and encourage school feedback.
- Waivable state policies such as class size, certification requirement, and early intervention to name a few.
- Non-waivable items: student discipline, FERPA, Discrimination
- Non-waivable items for FCS: Grading, Curriculum, Evaluation, School Year, and School Calendar.
- Fall 2023 VAF Timeline
- Things to do include get the proposal, provide feedback, and send it to the Zone Superintendent.
- Charter School Focus: IB
- We will address the application further in October.
- Crowder asked who wants to be a member of the VAF to send an email to Ms. Crowder. Mr. Morse placed in the chat his wanting to be a part of the committee.

Charter Dollars

- We have been awarded \$46,390

College Tours- Presented by Ms. Rawlings and Ms. Bataille
Spellman College, Clark Atlanta, and Morehouse

Oct. 26

10 a.m.

Geared towards 8th Grade.

80 students (40 females for Spellman; 40 males for Clark) Everyone can attend Clark Atlanta

2 busses

\$450 per bus

5 chaperons for each bus

Tennessee St. and Henry Medical College

-chosen path

Prepare scholars for strong academics.

How it supports Strategic Plan-

1. Historical Awareness
2. STEAM and STEM review
3. Visualize the opportunity to climb the ladder of success.
4. Serve as an incentive.
5. Most students had never toured a college.
6. Students will be exposed to black excellence and engage in mentorship activities.
7. Civic organization and add in other collaboration.

Trip provides two sessions.

- a. Road Map through School
- b. Middle to Grad Schol (focus on major and STEAM and STEM difference)

The total Trip amount is \$9,000.

The second trip is for all grade levels.

Questions:

Ms. Brown mentioned that food is not covered by SGC.

Ms. Bataille confirmed money is not about the Food; trying to off-set the cost.

Motion approved by the following SGC Members

Ms. Norman
Ms. Green
Ms. Rucker
Ms. Caldwell
Ms. Crowder

PBIS: Silent Party

Ms. Norman

PBIS Coach

- Host a listening party to reward students for showcasing Jag SWAG
- It will be hosted on Nov 17 right before Thanksgiving Break.
- Guest will arrive to Gym or Cafeteria
- Two DJs spin tow different styles of music
- Students select their DJ of choice and dance on the dance floor
- All you hear is cheering or singing along.
- All music is radio edited.
- Wanted the event to be inclusive of SEC and G Hall Students
- Asked for the Classic Package (2 DJ's, 300 headphones)
- Asked for \$4,000
- Relates to the Strategic Plan because it increases students being rewarded for PBIS points and then it also ensures that we help create a safe learning environment.

The following members approved the Silent Listening party

Ms. Caldwell
Ms. Brown
Ms. Rucker
Ms. Green
Ms. Wise

Dispro: Wise Mindfulness Classroom

- Helps students to practice mindfulness

- Meditation chairs
- Completed fund-raiser but still in need of funds.
- Needs \$2300
- Get the itemized list to vote yes or no once we have the itemized items from Ms. Wise.

Questions-

- No questions for Ms. Wise

PBIS- Ms. Roberts (Student Activity Center-8th Grade)

- In need of student activity center.
- Outlets explore alternatives
- Students are excited about the room.
- 8th Grade Team is doing a great job in discipline.
- Student will engage in the room by buying time 1 minute (20 points for 20 minutes)
- Would like to purchase the following items: Wireless Silent Party, Connect 4, Bing Bag Chairs, Device Charging Stations, High-top Tables, Decorations, Area Rugs, PS5 Console, 360 Photobooths.
- Asked for \$5,000

The following members approved.

Ms. Rucker

Ms. Norman

Ms. Caldwell

Ms. Brown

Community Council/Involvement

Morse-Attended TSA

- School-wide
- Give formal introduction meetings.
- Nothing to report at the moment.
- Take detailed notes for next meeting.

Public Comment

- Ms. Rawlings asked about an auditorium now that we have a Drama Club for performances.
- Principal Freeman suggested that a building request form will need to be submitted, but she will investigate it.
- Ms. Solomon stated that she was having technology issues but had been in the meeting and wanted to make note of this for recording purposes.
- Ms. Crowder assured Ms. Solomon that the meeting was being recorded and that the meeting minutes will be shared by Ms. Norman.

Meeting Adjourned

Crowder adjourned the meeting at 7:12.
Crowder thanked everyone in attendance.

SGC Member List

SGC Members & Email Address	Term End Date
Miranda Freeman, Principal FreemanM@fultonschools.org	N/A
Javon Norman, Teacher (Parliamentarian) normanj1@fultonschools.org	6/30/2024
Camille Crowder, Teacher (Chair) CrowderC@fultonschools.org	6/30/2025
Jaynaia Griggs (Co-Chair) griggsj1@fultonschools.org	6/30/2025
Natosha Rucker, School Employee-Teacher ruckern@fultonschools.org	6/30/2024
Sheila Brown, Parent BrownS14@fultonschools.org	6/30/2023
Marcia Green, School Employee-Teacher greenm3@fultonschools.org	6/30/2025
Deidre Caldwell, Parent caldwellde@fultonschools.org	6/30/2024
