

January minutes

School: Esther Jackson Elementary School

Date: 1/16/2025

Time: 3:45 PM

Location: Esther Jackson Conference Room

SGC Members:

Ms. Nikol Boyd, Principal | Ms. Jill Vitagliano, Staff | Ms. Lisa MacMillan, Teacher | Mrs. Katelyn Bivins, Teacher | Ms. Avery Sather, Teacher | Kyle Finley, Parent | Lisette Hoschek, Parent | | Nohemi Rojas-Sanchez, Parent | Zach Vaughan, Community Member | Kenny Bittick, Community Member |

3:45PM Call to Order (Jill Vitagliano)

Ms. Vitagliano called the meeting to order.

3:47PM Action Item: Approve Agenda (Jill Vitagliano)

Ms. Vitagliano asked for a motion to approve the agenda. Mr. Finley motioned to approve the agenda. Mr. Vaughan second the motion. All were in favor.

3:50PM Action Item: Approve November Minutes (Jill Vitagliano)

Ms. Vitagliano asked for a motion to approve the minutes from December. Ms. Hoschek motioned to approve the minutes. Ms. Bivins second the motion. All were in favor.

3:52PM Discussion Item: Planning for Parent/Teacher SGC Elections* (Katelyn Bivins)

Ms. Bivins reported that the Outreach Committee met today. Declaration period to serve is from 2/3/25-3/28/25. Voting window for SGC will be 4/16/25-2/23/25. There will be one teacher spot (Bivings) and two parent spots (Hoschek and Rojas-Sanchez) open. The committee plans to reach out to parents with students in PK-3rd grade to see if anyone is interested in serving. Ms. Hoschek will reach out through Facebook groups (both through Martins Landing and EJE pages). The committee sent information regarding SGC to be added to SPOTS newsletter, the marquee in front of the school, and flyers to be translated. At the For Day in February Ms. Vitagliano and Ms. Long will share information regarding SGC and the open spots. Flyers will be sent home with students 2/13/25 and target letters to parents and families will be sent 2/27/25. Flyers will also be passed out at morning carpool 2/27/25 and afternoon carpool and with walkers 3/6/25. Students will be given stickers regarding the SGC declaration on 3/20/25 to wear home. At Bingo night Ms. Boyd will share that there are openings in SGC for next year. Ms. Hoschek will also inquire with the Martins Landing management company about possibly putting up a sign in the clear boxes outside of the school with the QR code.

4:00PM Informational Item: Principal's Update (Ms. Boyd)

Ms. Boyd discussed the implementation of Linewise and noted the superintendent plans to have a universal policy in place for all schools regarding cell phone use by students at school. Ms. Boyd discussed reasons this is important even at the elementary level.

Ms. Boyd also expressed sincere appreciation for the community support she received while on medical leave. She reported the surgery went well and that she is still recovering. She also noted her staff did an excellent job while she was on leave.

Ms. Boyd discussed enrollment projection for next year (we are currently projected to be under 500). She provided feedback that historically our student population has increased after the seat day has passed. She also discussed how COSA requests may impact enrollment projections.

Ms. Boyd presented growth data and acknowledged our school for improving our CCRPI steadily since 2018. The EJE staff continues to meet students where they are and help all students grow. She talked about ways she hopes to celebrate staff because she is proud of how hard they work to meet the needs of all students.

Ms. Rojas-Sanchez asked if we should anticipate any changes to the school when the new president is inaugurated. Ms. Boyd discussed where our funding currently comes from, including the state and Title 1. She assured SGC to be transparent when she has any new information.

Ms. Boyd also discussed budget cuts the district has made including the Media Center Paraprofessional position and decreasing the amount given per pupil to \$130/student. The budget opens in Feb. Ms. Boyd discussed the possibility of purchasing additional positions needed such as a bilingual liaison.

4:26PM Discussion Item: Charter Dollar Expenditure Proposals (All Members)

At the last meeting the council voted to provide \$1000 to the 5th grade for their field trip. Ms. V reported quotes for a walking track included:

Reams Enterprise \$77, 014.52 for 900 ft long x 8 ft wide

Triad: \$66,324 for 980 feet long x 8 ft wide and \$55, 808 for 820 ft long x 8 ft wide

Ms. Boyd discussed additional funds that may be used along with our Charter Dollars if the committee votes to approve using the money for a walking track. Ms. Boyd will visit Manning Oaks to see their track and talk with the contractors regarding the quotes. She'll also check with the PTA to see if any money may be needed to help with the Spring Carnival.

4:45 PM Action Item: Approve Charter Dollar Expenditure Proposals (if needed) (Jill Vitagliano)

It was decided to postpone voting to approve the track until the next meeting.

4:48 PM Discussion Item: Draft Next Meeting's Agenda (All Members)

The February meeting will be moved to 2/27/25. Both the Community Outreach Committee and the Finance Committee will meet prior to the council meeting at 3:00 and 3:15 2/27/25.

4:51 PM Action Item: Meeting Adjournment (Jill Vitagliano)

Ms. Vitagliano asked for a motion to end the meeting. Ms. Bivins motioned to end the meeting. Mr. Vaughan second the motion. All were in favor.

Meeting Norms:

Be respectful of time | Be respectful of each other's perspectives | Use individual strengths to maximize our collective work | Assume good will | Let thoughts be completed before commenting, please do not interrupt others | Maintain confidentiality

Notes and Reminders

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***SGC Elections**

The declaration period for parents and teachers interested in serving on their local SGCs will run from **February 3rd to March 28th**. Click [here](#) to check how many council seats your school has open for these positions in this year's election cycle.

****Annual Budget Approval**

FY26 Budget development begins on February 10th and will **conclude on February 28th (Elementary Schools) and March 7th (Middle & High Schools)**. SGCs should schedule their February and March meetings prior to their budget closure date to ensure the council has time to discuss and approve FY26 fiscal allocations.

All Dates are Subject to Change

*****Charter Dollars**

This year, schools have received **\$46,391 in Charter Dollars** to help meet their strategic goals through local innovative solutions. These funds should be used for non-personnel purchases such as supplies, registrations, communications, etc. When purchasing personnel, schools are advised to use other funding sources allowable for positions. If Charter Dollars are requested for personnel, the expenditure will require approval from the Zone Superintendent, SGC, and Executive Director of Governance and Strategy. Additionally, any materials purchased to support literacy instruction must align with [GaDOE literacy requirements](#).

Each Charter Dollar expenditure requires an SGC vote for approval, the completion of the [Charter Dollar Expenditure Form](#), and is subject to the same district guidelines that govern school cost center budgets. All Charter Dollars must be spent in the year they are received to support our current student population. We

encourage SGCs to schedule discussions early in the year to plan for these expenditures, ensuring all purchases are made before end-of-year spending deadlines. See our [Charter Dollar Matrix](#) for examples of FCS-supported expenditures.