Paul D. West Middle School

Where improvement is a process, not a destination

24-25 School Governance Council

Date: 1/22/2025 Time: 5:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m. Location: MS TEAMS

Meeting Norms: Start and End on Time, Be Respectful of Others' Opinions, Work for the Good of All Students

Membership	Parent	Parent	Parent	Teacher	Teacher	Principal Appointed	Principal Appointed	Community	Community	Non-Voting Member
Name	Christine (Christy) Taylor 6/30/26	Brittani Thornton 6/30/25*	Maria Stephens 6/30/25*	Shanna Van Ness-Acrum 6/30/26	Ms. Session 6/30/2025	Joan Gage 6/30/26	Joseph Geib 6/30/25*	Tyler Rouse 6/30/26	Jennifer Person 6/30/25*	Dr. Darrell Stephens
Board Position	Member	Member	Member	Chair	Member	Parliamentarian	Member	Vice-Chair	Member	Non-Voting Member
		x		x	x	x	x			

Minutes

Item

Procedure: Call to Order- Dr Van Ness called the meeting to order at 5:02

Action Item: Approval of Agenda

Motion to approve: Mr. Geib

2nd: Ms. Gage

Results: Pass, all in favor

Action Item: Approval of October Meeting Minutes

Action Item: Approval of Meeting Minutes

Motion to approve: Mr. Geib

2nd: Ms. Sessions

Results: Pass, all in favor

Discussion Item: Reviewed Meeting Norms- Meeting Norms: Start and End on Time, Be Respectful of Others' Opinions, Work for the Good of All Students

Discussion:

Paul D. West Council Seats Open for Election by School - Spring 2025- 2 parent seats, 1 teacher seat

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.

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		x		x	x	x	x			

Minutes

Item

Discussion Item: Planning for 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.

Discussion Item: Charter Dollar Expenditure Proposals

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.

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		x		x	x	x	x			

Minutes

Item

Informational Item: Principal's Update

Ms. Dixson joined the SGC tonight in place of Dr. Stephens. She gave the principal report. She discussed our current progress with strategic initiatives.

Good news for the school and SGC, The Panther Programmers competed in the First Lego Super Regionals.

Pictured shared: Our spelling bee winners. A new initiative, Kennesaw State Mobile Learning, sponsored by Toyota (Driving Possibilities) in 8th grade Science, Mobile Learning, twice a month they come and work with the students.

Enrollment: Enrollment has dropped to 781 students.

Staff: We continue to need a Spanish teacher.

Attendance: Goal to reduce the total number of students within the chronic absence. The grade level administrators have been meeting with the social workers and other team members to talk to parents and found out the why behind the absences.

Approval of Strategic Plan, we are excited about the New Teacher Project in support of our mathematic instruction. It is part of the Promise school 25% from the state. We will be off that list soon, but as a result from being on the list, we continue to receive support.

Discussion Item: Draft Next Meeting's Agenda

Action Item: Meeting Adjournment

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Motion to approve: Mr. Geib

2nd: Ms. Thornton

Results: Pass, all in favor