Student Assignment Meeting Summary
4/16/2025
Stone Mountain High School Library
6:30 – 8:30 p.m.

Meeting Agenda

- ✓ Welcome and housekeeping
- ✓ Vision and outcomes
- ✓ Review guiding principles and example
- ✓ Understand the BIG QUESTION
- ✓ Understanding MIRACLES
- ✓ Develop 2-3 guiding principles for each SAP area (buildings, boundaries, and programs)
- ✓ Review the SAP timeline
- ✓ Understand next steps and complete the exit ticket

Key Takeaways

- ★ Monthly updates are keeping over 900 community stakeholders in the loop about committee progress.
- ★ Membership is being reshaped to ensure consistent engagement and diverse perspectives.
- ★ Staff and researchers will collaborate over summer to test and refine practical recommendations.
- ★ Equity and access to special programming are central to the evolving boundary and program planning.
- ★ Transportation limitations remain a significant barrier and are a core consideration in planning.
- ★ The guiding principles survey has been refined and reissued based on usability feedback.

Topics

Program Access & Equity



- Universal access to specialized programs is a core goal, regardless of boundary or proximity.
- Suggestions include offering similar programs regionally to reduce travel and expand participation.
- Discussions emphasized avoiding proximity-based privilege and supporting flexibility in programming choices.

Boundary & School Design Concepts

- Flexible, regularly updated boundary models (every 3–5 years) are encouraged to minimize disruption.
- Boundaries should reflect community conditions, demographics, and shifting family/work dynamics.
- Considerations include grade-specific boundary logic, consolidation of low-enrollment elementary schools, and facilities reuse.

Transportation Challenges

- Transportation barriers affect equity, punctuality, and participation—especially in program access.
- The district owns 900+ buses but operates ~600 due to driver shortages, causing logistical strain.
- Potential solutions include partnerships with city transit systems (e.g., MARTA) and creative routing options.

Research & National Benchmarks

- Hanover Research is studying comparable district models for magnet and program offerings.
- Exploration of national certifications like Magnet Schools of America is underway to guide programming development.
- Additional research and data (e.g., transportation analytics) are being shared via Google Drive.

Evolving Student Needs

- Boundaries and programming must respond to neurodiverse learners and evolving student demographics.
- Emphasis on starting inclusive planning early (early childhood) and leveraging new language and awareness.
- Acknowledgment that outdated assumptions (e.g., neighborhood elementary school models) may need rethinking

Next Steps

Review additional data posted to Google Drive and website.

Continue brainstorming ideas for guiding principles.

Central Committee's next meeting is scheduled for May 14.