MINUTES

Shakerag Elementary School Governance Council

SGC Members

Megan Ames, Community Member (approved)	Brittany Burnett, Staff (appointed)	Craig Cunningham, Community Member (approved)
Keith Kreutzer, Parent (elected)	Christine Lemerond, Principal	Mia Mandel, Staff (appointed)
NaTasha Pennywell, Teacher (elected)	Kathy Preuss, Parent (elected)	Megha Solanki, Parent (elected)
Debbie Wise, Staff (elected)		

FY25 Norms: Be focused and the voice of all stakeholders.　~　Be present, timely, and goal oriented.

We will now begin our September 10 , 2025 meeting of the School Governance Council of Shakerag Elementary School. The Council welcomes and encourages citizens to attend its meetings to become better acquainted with the school programs and the role of the School Governance Council. This meeting is open to the public but is not a public meeting. Citizens are welcome to attend the meeting but must refrain from interruption or distracting the council proceedings. If there are any questions or information that you have for the council, you may contact one of the council members after this meeting or plan to speak at one of the meetings that reserves time for public comment. You can find the council member contact information, meeting dates, and agenda on the School Governance page of the Shakerag Elementary School website.

Time	Item	Owner
8:00am	**Action Item: Call to Order** Motion to start: Debbie Wise Second motion: Kathy Preuss	Mrs. Wise
8:01am	**Action Item: Approve Agenda** Motion to approve: Megan Ames Second motion: Kathy Preuss	Mrs. Wise
8:02am	**Action Item: Approve August Meeting Minutes** Motion to approve: Keith Kreutzer Second motion: Kathy Preuss	Mrs. Wise
8:03am	**Information Item: Principal's Update** Allocations and Staffing - Mrs. Lemerond explained that we've had a great start to the school year. - Most beginning of the year assessments complete - FCS using Amira to screen for characteristics of dyslexia - We will have results by 09/12/25 - Lost a 5th grade position, and gained a 1st grade position - We are currently looking for a 1st grade teacher - Interviews are set up, but we want to make sure it is a good fit - Normally we have 23 students in a 1st grade class, and currently We have 25 students per class - We are looking at getting additional support until they get a teacher - Can change format if it gets too late in the process - We will navigate this the best we can - Picture day will be next week with new vendor GCI - Conferences begin September 22	Mrs. Lemerond

- Hands on Shakerag September 27th, 9:00 – 11:00

8:09am	**Information Item: Safety Updates: Linewize and Classwize**	Mrs. Lemerond

- Linewize- monitoring every key stroke made on any FCS device
- Classwize- teachers have access to see and monitor students on screen

8:20am	**Action Item: Strategic Plan*****	Mrs. Lemerond

- Mrs. Lemerond presented document draft on strategic plan
Motion to approve: Keith Kreutzer
Second motion: Brittany Burnett

8:43am	**Discussion/Action Item: VAF – Increase class size******	Mrs. Lemerond

- Discussion on VAF
- Will ask to renew waiver next year

8:49am	**Action Item: Trainings and SGC Cross Council Meeting***	All Members

- Make sure you have completed all required training ASAP

- We need one rep to attend the SGC Cross Council Meeting (10/3)
    - Debbie Wise volunteered to attend if we couldn't find anyone else

8:51am	**Discussion Item: Set Next Meeting Agenda**	Mrs. Wise

- Council Initiatives**
    - Will decide on initiatives next meeting

- Charter Funds
    - We typically use the funds for instructional supplies and materials since we purchase our STEM/CTAE teacher up front.

Action Item: Motion was made to move all $30,000 to instructional supplies and materials.

Motion to approve: Keith Kreutzer

Second motion: Brittany Burnett

9:03am	**Action Item: Meeting Adjournment**	Mrs. Wise

Motion to adjourn: Kathy Preuss

Second motion: Keith Kreutzer

Our next meeting will be October 8th, 2025, at 8:00 am

Notes from the Governance and Flexibility Team

*SGC Council Development Opportunities:

SGC Essential Training

Our comprehensive SGC training course is essential for understanding the vital roles and responsibilities within the School Governance Council. This training is designed to equip members with knowledge about the SGC's core structure and key processes for successful school governance.

Login Instructions for Canvas:
1. Open your browser and go to fultonschools.instructure.com.
2. Click "employee log in" and sign in with your Microsoft account.
3. Complete authentication and follow the prompts to reduce sign-in requests.
4. Once logged in, find the School Governance Essential Training listed under courses.

Requirements:
- All SGC members must complete all three modules by the end of August 2025.
- We suggest completing the training prior to your initial SGC meeting if possible.

2025 In Person Officer Training

All SGC Officers (Council Chairs, Vice-Chairs, and Parliamentarians) are required to complete Officer Training (*unless completed in previous years*). Please note that this will be a more in depth, hands-on training for newly elected officers. This is different from the Officer Training Module found in the Canvas Training.

Click below to register to attend one of the sessions.

In-Person Officer Training Sign Up Genius

Fall 2025 Cross Council Events

The Governance & Flexibility Team is excited to invite all School Governance Councils to our Fall Cross Council events—two engaging mornings designed to connect, collaborate, and inspire.

Dates & Locations
- Monday, September 29 | South Learning Center | 9:00 a.m.–12:00 p.m.
- Friday, October 3 | North Learning Center | 9:00 a.m.–12:00 p.m.

These sessions are a unique opportunity for SGC members to learn from district leaders, the Governance & Flexibility Team, and each other. They bring together councils from across the district, creating space for collaboration within feeder patterns and across grade bands.

This year's theme centers on three key pillars:
- Teamwork – Kicking off the governance year with energy and excitement for our shared work
- Integrity – Defining our goals and committing to action within our schools
- Accountability – Monitoring strategic priorities and sharing progress with our stakeholders

We are asking each school to send at least **one** representative to one of the two events (both sessions will cover the same material). Once every school has a representative registered, we will open additional spots for other members who would like to join.

Register now via our Sign-up Genius link to secure your spot and join us in shaping another successful year of governance in Fulton County Schools.

2025 Fall Cross Council Sign Up Link

** SY25-26 Council Initiatives: Begin discussions to determine the focus of the council's upcoming work. Lean on your school's Semester Action Plan to ensure the work of the council is aligned with the goals and initiatives being targeted by the school leaders. Task the council with prioritizing 1 – 2 initiatives the SGC could lead or support throughout the year.

***Strategic Planning

August is the start of an important and exciting time for our School Governance Councils. Each year, councils work alongside their principal and school community to create a School Strategic Action Plan. This plan serves as a roadmap for the year ahead and focuses on the priorities that will have the greatest impact on student success.

This month, SGCs should begin conversations about their 2025–26 plan. These discussions are a chance to celebrate what is working well, identify areas for growth, and set clear goals that will guide the work of both the school and the council.

In September, councils will finalize their plan and take a formal vote to approve it. Principals will then submit the approved plan by **September 30** using the online Strategic Action Plan form. All planning tools, including the form, metric definitions, drafting documents, and optional project planning templates, are available on the Charter System website Resources page.

In October, Zone Superintendents will review and approve each plan. Once approved, these plans should remain at the heart of SGC meetings, guiding decision making, tracking progress, and engaging the school community in the work ahead.

The strategic planning process is more than a requirement. It is an opportunity for councils to lead with purpose and to make a meaningful difference for their schools.

****VAF/Programmatic Updates**

All flexibility and programming submissions are due from schools by September 30 and can be completed using the VAF/Programming Form located on the Charter System Website Flexibility page.

Schools should use the form to submit the following:
- New Value-Added Flexibility Requests – Use the form to request any new flexibilities for the 2026–27 school year.
- Updates on Current Flexibilities – All schools approved for value-added flexibilities since 2021 must submit an implementation update. If your school has multiple approved flexibilities, you may select them from the dropdown in the form and submit a single update on overall progress. A separate update for each flexibility is not required.
- Magnet Program Updates/Requests – This includes requests for new magnet programs, updates on all current magnet programs, and notices of sunsetting or discontinuing magnet programs. All schools with magnet programs must submit an update for each program. Schools with multiple magnet programs will need to complete multiple forms.

All submissions require School Governance Council approval and a 30-day public comment period. Instructions for managing the public comment process are available on the *Charter System Website*.

Schools wishing to opt-in to one of the four district preapproved waivers should complete the short *Opt-In Notice of Adoption* form and follow the linked instructions.

Please contact the Governance & Flexibility Team with any questions or to request additional support.