

## Meeting Minutes

### Meeting Information

Date: 2025-10-29 4:30 P.M.

Location: Zoom

### Meeting Notes

#### Meeting Procedures and GO Team Membership

- **Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes:** After initial confusion, Shonda from the Go Team office provided a link to the draft minutes from the September 4th meeting. A motion was made, seconded, and carried to approve the minutes.
- **Nomination and Vote for New Staff Member:** Principal Grant nominated Kenyatta Rogers to fill a staff vacancy on the GO Team. A formal vote was held, and Ms. Rogers was unanimously approved and welcomed to the team.

#### Strategic Plan and Academic Performance

- **Strategic Plan Goals for 2025-2026:** Principal Grant presented the school's data-driven strategic plan, which is adjusted throughout the year.
  - **ELA Goal:** Increase 3rd-5th grade proficient/above from 17% to 22%, and distinguished from 5% to 10%.
  - **Math Goal:** Increase 3rd-5th grade proficient/above from 22% to 30%, and distinguished from 6% to 11%.
  - **Science Goal:** Decrease beginning levels from 68% to 45%, and increase proficient/above from 7% to 20%. A significant drop in science scores was attributed to a focus on new ELA and math standards.
  - **Attendance Goal:** Increase the average daily attendance rate by 3%.
- **Review of MAP and Georgia Milestones Data:**
  - **MAP Results:** Showed a positive trend with fewer students in the lowest level. The focus is on moving students from "yellow" (target) to "green" (proficient) using individualized interventions.
  - **Georgia Milestones Results:** Overall content mastery was down by 1.9 points. ELA scores were up slightly, but Math and Science scores declined.
  - **Improvement Initiatives:** To address the science dip, the school has a new partnership with Gaslight Company and Urban House for weekly

5th-grade hands-on projects and has revamped the science lab. PLCs remain focused on new ELA standards and math.

### **Discussion on Student Attendance**

- When asked how the GO Team could help achieve strategic goals, Principal Grant identified improving student attendance as the most critical area for support.
- The school faces challenges with a transient student population, though students with consistent attendance perform well.
- Efforts are focused on building relationships with families to make them comfortable seeking support.
- **Ideas Suggested:** Holding quarterly "attendance rallies" and sending parent surveys to understand attendance barriers. Ms. Rogers emphasized creating a welcoming community to make families feel the "Thicket love."

### **Stakeholder Engagement Framework**

- The team conducted a stakeholder engagement exercise, focusing on how to **Inform**, get **Input** from, and **Invite** four key groups into the work.
- **Engaging Families:**
  - **Successes:** Digital tools (JOT forms), events with food ("muffins and moms"), and well-attended events like Grandparents Day.
  - **New Initiatives:** A new volunteer program is launching in November, allowing parents to sign up for tasks and earn points.
- **Engaging Students:**
  - **Successes:** A student survey about cafeteria food led to significant improvements, demonstrating the power of student voice.
  - **Ideas:** Involve students in morning announcements and school marketing (e.g., creating rap songs).
- **Engaging Staff:**
  - **Methods:** Social events and regular surveys for feedback on leadership.
  - **Discussion:** There were differing perceptions of the principal's "open door policy." A suggestion was made to foster a culture for more open feedback. The principal agreed to refine survey questions to better capture staff well-being.
- **Engaging the Community:**
  - **Successes:** PTA membership has "skyrocketed." A "design team" was formed to analyze feedback from the Georgia Climate Survey.
  - **Areas for Improvement:** A key suggestion was to increase teacher involvement in the PTA. It was also noted that the process for addressing

student behavioral issues can be slow and frustrating, highlighting a need for stronger parent partnership.

## APS for 2040 School Closure Plan

- **Background:** Atlanta Public Schools (APS) plans to close schools in two years due to declining enrollment and funding issues.
- **Impact on the Thoreau Cluster:** A proposed scenario involves closing Continental Colony Elementary and distributing its students to other cluster schools, including Fickett. Fickett is not slated for closure but will be affected by an influx of new students.
- **Concerns:**
  - **Class Size:** Fear that class sizes could increase significantly (e.g., from 1:17 to 1:25), negatively impacting students needing individualized attention.
  - **Resources:** Questions were raised about classroom capacity and the effectiveness of proposed "wraparound services" with larger classes.
  - **Parent Engagement:** Concern that parents from schools not closing (like Fickett) may not attend community meetings, failing to understand they will also be affected. It was suggested to use "room moms" to disseminate urgent district notifications.



## Next Arrangements

- Post the approved meeting minutes on the website.
- Update the organizational chart on the website.
- Principal Grant to send Ms. Rogers' information to the team.
- The parent liaison will send out a link in November for the new parent volunteer program.
- A link will be created and sent to staff to encourage them to join the PTA.
- [Speaker 1] will share the staff survey questions with the team to get feedback on tailoring them for more reflective responses.
- [Speaker 1] will find and send out information about next week's community meetings for distribution.
- Explore creating a system (e.g., using "room moms") to filter and share urgent district notifications with parents.