GO TEAMS
STRONG SCHOOLS START WITH ME!

Meeting Minutes

Willis A. Sutton Middle School
Date: January 27th
Time: 5:42
Recording:

I. **Call to order: Lamar**
II. **Roll Call**

Role	Name *(or Vacant)*	Present or Absent (P or A)
Principal	Dr. Dominique Merriweather	P
Parent/Guardian	Stephanie Houghton (aw)	P
Parent/Guardian	Annette Sullivan	P
Parent/Guardian	Ashley Scott	P
Instructional Staff	De'Markious Lamar	P
Instructional Staff	Adrianne Williams	P
Instructional Staff	Matthew Bryant	P
Community Member	Joel Iverson	P
Community Member	Marissa Rosenbloom	P
Swing Seat	Robert Bailey	P

Action Items

A. Approval of Minutes

i. Motion:
1. Made By: Bryant
2. Seconded By: Williams

ii. Members Approving: all approved
iii. Members Opposing: n/a
iv. Members Abstaining: none
v. **Motion: Passed**

III. Discussion Items

A. School Strategic Plan

Ranking Strategic Plan Objectives	***How Sutton GO Team Ranked the Strategic Plan Objectives*** 1. *Delivering targeted instruction, remediation, and interventions to accelerate growth* 2. *Meeting the unique and diverse learning needs of every student* 3. *Embedding Social Emotional Learning practices to build belonging and a positive school culture* 4. *Providing proactive support for students experiencing social or emotional challenges* 5. *Implementing targeted supports to help students overcome academic challenges* 6. *Designing learning experiences that promote inquiry, exploration, and student voice (NEW)* 7. *Equipping teachers with the tools, training, and technology needed to deliver high-quality instruction* 8. *Engage parents and the community through effective outreach* 9. *Ensuring all families have equitable access to school events and opportunities to support their students*

Proposed Program Changes	*DLI Internal Modification at Sutton:*
	- *Conversation about how DLI should look at Sutton*
	- ***Leadership Thoughts (Semester)***
	  - *Possibly DLI through Connections ONLY*
	  - *DLI Art*
	  - *DLI Home Economics*
	  - *DLI Media Arts*
	- *Would be the same at North ATL HS*
	- *Surveys would be sent out to all stakeholders (parents, teachers, community members, etc)*

FY 27 Budget Development	*$22 million dollar budget* *Projected 1706 students for FY26* *Money Per Pupil: $13,288* *Keep Signature Programming: IB Programming (IB Coach)*

	Where We Are Going: *GO Team Feedback* *GO Tem takes action*
Additional Discussion Items	*n/a*
Review 2025-2030 Strategic Plan Development	*Who Are We (APS)* ● *We are Atlanta's public school system.* ● *We are **A COMMUNITY OF BELIEVERS GETTING BACK TO BASICS*** ***Our goal is to have Sutton's Plan Approved: January 2026*** ***APS District Goals:*** **Our Strength is Our Team** **Atlanta's students will have effective and engaged teachers, leaders, and staff.** ➢ Increase concentration of highly-effective teachers and leaders ➢ Prioritize engagement and retention for staff ➢ Grow and promote strong teachers, leaders, and staff **Our Responsibility Is Shared** **Atlanta's students will have supportive families, communities, and partners.** ➢ Build meaningful partnerships ➢ Expand Atlanta Partners for Education (APFE) impact ➢ Increase access and engagement for families and communities **Our System Is Efficient & Effective** **Atlanta's students will have the schools and resources they need to succeed.** ➢ Maximize facility usage for the student and community good ➢ Leverage data to drive strategic financial investments ➢ Implement sustainability initiatives **We Are Strengthening Our Instructional Core** **Atlanta's students will have high-quality instruction, materials, and targeted support.** ➢ Implement high-quality, relevant, and engaging instructional materials and professional learning in all core content areas ➢ Target resources towards subgroups (eg. exceptional education, English learners, economically-disadvantaged) ➢ Accelerate early learning **We Are Caring For Every Child** **Atlanta's students will have trusted, supportive adults meeting their unique needs.** ➢ Expand strategies that reduce chronic absenteeism and disproportionate discipline ➢ Implement systematic culture and climate strategies ➢ Increase student access to trusted and reliable adults (eg. mentors, coaches, counselors) **We Are Sparking Student Curiosity** **Atlanta's students will have access to explore and expand their passions and interests.** ➢ Promote robust arts, athletics, world language, and enrichment offerings ➢ Expand access to high-interest and workforce-ready offerings (e.g. career programs and pathways, advanced coursework) ➢ Explore specialized and innovative school models (eg. School of the Arts)

APS Goals and Key Performance Indicators

Focus Area: We Are Caring For Every Child

Actual (2025) (Light pink: 2024)		Target (2030)
68.8%	**Absenteeism** % of students who are not chronically absent*	80%
60%	**Sense of Belonging** % students who feel a sense of belonging*	75%
89.6%	**Discipline: All Students** % of all students without suspensions (OSS) *	95%
83.5%	**Discipline: Students with Disabilities** % of Students with Disabilities students without suspensions (OSS)*	95%
86.4%	**Discipline: Black Students** % of Black students without suspensions (OSS)*	95%
56%	**Student-Staff Relationships** % of students feeling comfortable going to most or all of the adults in the school for help*	75%
0%	**Student Success Plans** % of students with individual success plans	90%
19%	**School Climate** % of schools with 4 or 5 star climate rating*	50%

APS School Strategic Planning Overview

School Strategic Planning Overview

Purpose: To cascade the district strategic plan to the school level, while grounding our focus in the school's Continuous Improvement Plan. This will **create alignment, reduce confusion, and simplify our efforts**.

Timeline: Your school's 2030 Strategic Goals and Objectives should be **updated, approved and ranked by January 2026**. Schools will focus on the strategies as part of FY27 Budget and Continuous Improvement Plan processes.

Sutton 2030 Data Goals:

Sutton 2030 Goals Can Be Found Here:

- https://drive.google.com/file/d/1EYYDFO2Ku29FHIpQmo4LDgPEOIYYdtEQ/view?usp=sha

	ring
Align Mission/Vision/Purpose :	***Sutton Mission and Goals:*** ***Do our current mission and vision align with APS's overall mission?*** - *All GO Team members agree that Sutton does this.* **Mission**: Through the utilization of the International Baccalaureate program, Sutton Middle School aims to develop self-motivated, inquiring, knowledgeable, and caring young people who are prepared to thrive academically and socially in high school, college, career, and life **Vision**: A diverse, high-performing school that supports our students, educators, and families, rooted in a strong community, working together to improve student outcomes and intercultural understanding and make our communities a better and more equitable place. ***Sutton SMART Goals Are:*** The percentage of proficient and distinguished scores on the EOG in Math by all subgroup students will increase by 5%.

	The percentage of proficient and distinguished scores on the EOG in ELA by all subgroup students will increase by 5%. Reduce the out-of-school suspension rate at Sutton Middle School to below 0.30 by the end of the academic year through the implementation of targeted behavioral interventions and support programs. Stakeholder engagement will be supported through a minimum of one event a month that targets the needs of parents and community.
Confirm 2030 Goals	***CIP Goals to 2030*** ● ***Sutton's 2030 Goals*** ○ ***https://drive.google.com/file/d/1EYYDFO2Ku29FHIpQmo4LDgPEOIYYdtEQ/view?usp=sharing***

Continuous Improvement Goals

1 By May 2026 we will increase the percent of students in grades 6-8 scoring proficient and above by at least 5 percentage points from 52% in SY 2025 to 57% in SY 2026 on the EOG GMAS.

2 By May 2026 we will increase the percent of students in grades 6-8 scoring proficient and above by at least 5 percentage points from 46% in SY 2025 to 51% in SY 2026 on the EOG GMAS.

3 By May 2026, decrease the percentage of students suspended by .5% from .37% to .32%.

2030 Strategic Plan Goals

1 By May 2030, we will increase the percent of students in grades 6–8 scoring proficient and above on the EOG GMAS by at least 15 percentage points—from 52% in SY 2025 to 67% in SY 2030.

2 By May 2030, we will increase the percent of students in grades 6–8 scoring proficient and above on the EOG GMAS by at least 15 percentage points—from 46% in SY 2025 to 61% in SY 2030.

3 By May 2030, we will decrease the percentage of students suspended by 2%—from 0.37% in SY 2025 to 0.17% in SY 2030.

Previous 2022 - 2025 Plan

When do students get weekly SEL lessons? (Update)

- *Lift taken off teachers*
- *Counselors took the lead on this with focus groups/small group interventions.*

What is working well?

- *Overall, significant gains. Proficiency and above increased across the board*
- *Targeting instructions*
- *Personalized Learning*
- *The state adopted ELA standards. Teachers are consistently working to implement this.*

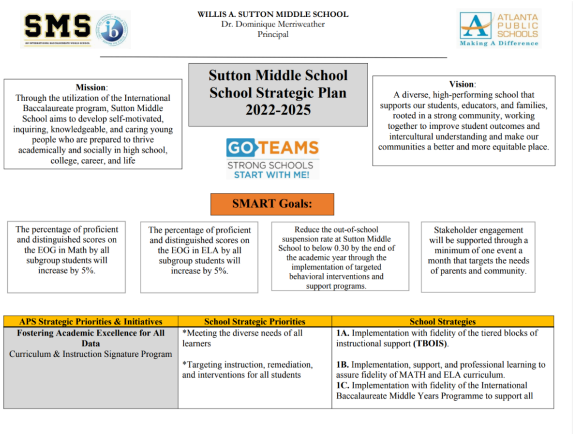
Continue:

- *Parent engagement has been significant.*
- *Parents loved seeing the grade-level newsletter.*

Starting next month:

- *As a school, we try to have virtual office hours effective December 2025.*
- *Dr. Merriweather looks for students to have student planners.*
- *Teachers will work with students on executive functioning skills during extended homeroom (beginning Jan. 2026)*

Identify Additional Goals



SMS

WILLIS A. SUTTON MIDDLE SCHOOL
Dr. Dominique Merriweather
Principal

ATLANTA PUBLIC SCHOOLS
Making A Difference

Mission:
Through the utilization of the International Baccalaureate program, Sutton Middle School aims to develop self-motivated, inquiring, knowledgeable, and caring young people who are prepared to thrive academically and socially in high school, college, career, and life

Sutton Middle School School Strategic Plan 2022-2025

GO TEAMS
STRONG SCHOOLS START WITH ME!

Vision:
A diverse, high-performing school that supports our students, educators, and families, rooted in a strong community, working together to improve student outcomes and intercultural understanding and make our communities a better and more equitable place.

SMART Goals:

The percentage of proficient and distinguished scores on the EOG in Math by all subgroup students will increase by 5%.

The percentage of proficient and distinguished scores on the EOG in ELA by all subgroup students will increase by 5%.

Reduce the out-of-school suspension rate at Sutton Middle School to below 0.30 by the end of the academic year through the implementation of targeted behavioral interventions and support programs.

Stakeholder engagement will be supported through a minimum of one event a month that targets the needs of parents and community.

APS Strategic Priorities & Initiatives	School Strategic Priorities	School Strategies
Fostering Academic Excellence for All Data Curriculum & Instruction Signature Program	*Meeting the diverse needs of all learners *Targeting instruction, remediation, and interventions for all students	**1A.** Implementation with fidelity of the tiered blocks of instructional support **(TBOIS)**. **1B.** Implementation, support, and professional learning to assure fidelity of MATH and ELA curriculum. **1C.** Implementation with fidelity of the International Baccalaureate Middle Years Programme to support all

New To Add: ***Add to Community of Belivers:*** ***- Aligning school operations and resources to maximize academic and social-emotional outcomes.*** ***We are Sparking Student Curiosity Designing learning experiences that promote inquiry, exploration, and student voice.*** -	

B. Principal's Report

CCRPI Results	***State Website: https://ccrpireportspublic.gadoe.org/ccrpireportspublicweb/Views/Shared/_Layout.html*** ***Sutton Content Mastery*** • *75.5 (3.1 difference from 2024)* • *CCRPI Progress: 88.6 (0.6 difference from 2024)* • *Closing Gaps: 82.4 (1.6 difference from 2024)* • *Readiness: 86.1 (1.6 increase from 2024)* • *Cumulative Score: 83.2*
Cluster Advisory Team	***Next Meeting in February 2026***
Additional Discussion Items	

IV. Announcements

- *Academic Planners are being used effectively by students (executive functioning)*
- *GMAS Readiness - making sure we are ready in all content areas*
- *If stakeholders want to see Winter MAP, please review APS Insights*
- *Any responses about Bus Route Discussions from all stakeholders*
    - *Will be sent to Sutton Source*

V. Public Comment

- Public Comment Notes: n/a

VI. Adjournment

A. Motion made by: Bryant

B. Seconded by: Sullivan

Members Approving:

Members Opposing:

Members Abstaining:

Motion: PASSED

ADJOURNED AT: 6:17

Minutes Taken By: Matthew Bryant
Position: Secretary
Date Approved: