



| Date                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    | Time             | Location      |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------|---------------|
| November 18, 2025                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       | 5:30 pm-6:00 pm  | Zoom          |
| Organizer                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               | Facilitators     | Meeting Type  |
| Cluster Advisory Team<br>Strategy & School Governance                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   | Tauheedah Uthman | Informational |
| Meeting Objective & Scope                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |                  |               |
| Review and provide feedback on initiatives that impact or involve the cluster. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Budget:</b> Concerns as we enter the FY27 budget process.</li> <li><b>Attendance:</b> How is attendance looking at your school and what is working?</li> </ul> |                  |               |

**I. Discussion Items**

**a. Budget-Concerns as we enter the FY27 budget process**

- i. Getting a better understanding of what this looks. What will the overall outlook look like for APS.
  1. The team discussed concerns related to long-term budget stability as APS enters the FY27 budget process, particularly in light of enrollment shifts, school consolidations/closures, and the ongoing impacts of redevelopment and Tax Allocation Districts (TADs) on revenue growth. There was discussion around ensuring that budget decisions remain transparent, equitable, and aligned with student needs across the cluster. The team also emphasized the importance of allocating budget resources in ways that directly support classrooms, ensuring teachers have the materials, staffing support, and instructional resources needed without having to go without or rely on personal funds. The team expressed interest in understanding how funding will be prioritized to sustain instructional programs, staffing stability, and student pathways during periods of transition and change.

**b. Attendance-How is attendance at your school and what is working?**

- i. Monthly perfect attendance recognitions, raffle tickets for student to earn and win prizes monthly, news letter recognition, start of school day party or end of week/month party.
  1. The team discussed student attendance trends with a focus on strategies that are currently showing positive results. Incentive-based programs were identified as particularly effective in improving attendance across multiple schools. These include monthly attendance celebrations, grade-level competitions using a traveling trophy, daily "In Your Seat" challenges to promote on-time arrival, and attendance parties that incentivize both students and families. Schools reported an overall upward trend in attendance compared to the previous year.
  2. The team also highlighted the role of school social workers in supporting attendance, noting that proactive follow-up with students who miss two or more consecutive days has been impactful. Some schools shared that





adjusting social worker schedules to allow for greater parent engagement during morning drop-off or afternoon pick-up has strengthened family communication. Additionally, the use of AI-generated attendance and progress reports sent to families of chronically absent students has increased parent awareness and engagement.

3. Suggestions for continued improvement included exploring additional low-cost incentives such as weekly attendance celebrations, daily raffle systems, and schoolwide recognition activities. The team discussed the need to confirm whether district-level funding for attendance incentives remains available, as some schools previously received designated funds to support these initiatives. Overall, the team agreed that consistent communication, strategic use of incentives, and focused family outreach are key factors contributing to improved attendance.

**c. Other-Is there anything else your team would like us to know?**

- i. The team emphasized the importance of continued communication and transparency as schools navigate periods of transition and change. Ensuring that stakeholder feedback is heard, that best practices are shared across the cluster, and that adequate support is provided to schools, staff, and families were identified as priorities moving forward.

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**Submitted By:** [Tauheedah Uthman](#)

**Position:** [Therrell Cluster Advisory Team Chair and Cluster Representative-Continental Colony Elementary School](#)

