GO TEAMS
STRONG SCHOOLS START WITH ME!

Meeting Agenda

Morningside Elementary

Date: September 17, 2025

Time: 4:00 pm

Location: MES Conference Room

I. Call to Order: 4:03 PM **Start Live Stream – Yes, by Brian Baron**

II. Roll Call; Establish Quorum – Quorum established by A. Espelosin

Role	Name *(or Vacant)*	Present or Absent
Principal	Brian Baron	Present
Parent/Guardian	Kristen Cincotta	Present
Parent/Guardian	Chapelle Washington Freer	Present
Parent/Guardian	John Peterson	Present
Instructional Staff	Kristina Davis	Present
Instructional Staff	Allison Espelosin	Present
Instructional Staff	Jeanette Grier	Present
Community Member	Kristen Pollock	Present
Community Member	Beth Gerrin	Present
Swing Seat	Snehal Patel	Present

III. Action Items

A. Approval of Agenda: Kristen Pollock motions to approve agenda; seconded by Chappelle Washington Freer; passed unanimously

B. Approval of Previous Minutes: Kristen Pollock motions to approve minutes; seconded by Snehal Patel; passed unanimously

IV. Discussion Items

A. School Strategic Plan

i. Strategic Plan & Priorities Review

1. Principal Baron presents previous strategic plan that ended in the spring of 2025. The left side of the document on the strategic plan has the ranked 7 priorities with strategies as to how to achieve each priority. The question was brought up as to whether we want to add in a different subgroup because our English Language Learners and Students with Disabilities have fallen below 15 students.
2. The priorities included scheduling and reducing class sizes; data-driven multi-tiered system of support; focus on individual student needs; create a welcoming, inclusive, and responsive culture;

parents engage in school-family activities that reflect the diversity of students (Snehal Patel mentioned that the PTA has created a new Equity and Belonging Committee this year); create an environment that motivates and retains staff (this year had 98% retention this year!); build capacity of talented and knowledgeable staff

3. Mr. Baron suggested keeping consistent focus on reading, math, and attendance goals for the next strategic plan.

ii. SMART Goals: Attainable, trackable, time-based

1. Reading (Milestones) Increase from 77% to 80% proficiency - we stayed at 77% proficient. Suggestion for next year – adding in to reduce beginning level learners while increasing proficiency to 79%
2. Math (Milestones) 76% to 78% proficiency – we increased to 80% proficiency. Suggestion for next year – adding in to reduce beginning level learners while increasing proficiency to 82%
3. Attendance – The goal was to increase attendance to have 85% of students with fewer than 10 absences. We hit 89%. Mr. LaSalle spear headed this effort! While this was good, there was discussion about our subgroups. While most saw an increase in the number of students that missed fewer than 10 days, not all did

B. Data Discussion – MAP is a snapshot in time of when a child took that assessment. Beginning of the year MAP serves as a baseline.

i. MAP Results:

1. Reading – 74% of students are proficient or above; 7% are beginning
2. Math – 75 % of students are proficient or above; 3% beginning
3. We are 2nd in the district!
4. Cohort comparisons shown: Current 4th grade reading data puts them at 7th in the state (5th if you take out magnet schools) – see slides from presentation for more details
5. Subgroups – data broken down by subgroups – see slides from presentation for more details

ii. 2025 GA Milestones Results

1. ELA – went up 0.1% as proficient or above
2. Math – went up almost 4% as proficient or above
3. Science – fell about 6 % as proficient or above – 5th grade had many changes last year, including the loss of a long-time science teacher

4. 3-5 only had 5% in beginning in each grade level
5. 3rd grade had no beginning learners in math
6. Closing gaps in ELA and Math overall
    a. Black/African American students increased from 41% to 52% in reading and math
    b. Students with Disabilities increased from 21% to 34% in reading and from 26% to 33% in math
    c. EL students increased from 13% to 21% in both reading and math
    d. Hispanic students showed a slight decrease in both reading (47% to 45%) and math
    e. White students decreased slightly in reading (83% to 81%) but increased in math (84% to 88%)
    f. It was noted that Black and Hispanic students are still underperforming compared to other groups. Mr. Baron acknowledged the gap but emphasized the significant progress being made and that the work will continue to ultimately eliminate these gaps.
7. Discussion on what may be the reason for the gains - "Naming" children and what they need; pulling small groups throughout the day, having an outside group come in and help meet a need.
8. This year the focus is to move students up at least one category (excluding distinguished as there is nowhere else to go).
9. Consistency is key.
10. It was mentioned that having the outside group that came in for the subgroups to help with math had a significant impact on students; consideration to bring in another group that could help target the Hispanic students
11. What is causing the discrepancy with black and Hispanic students vs. the other subgroups? Mr. Baron and Dr. Sinclair are trying some new ideas this year to help make connections with school and home and work to collaborate and find more ways to meet each student's needs
12. Suggestions for the future made by several committee members:
    a. Having more student input and ways to make connections with students will help create a more inclusive and supportive culture.
    b. A committee member asked if there was a way to make students more comfortable asking questions and asking for help. Team started brainstorming ideas and ways to make this possible.

c. Could there be a "voicemail" that students can call and leave a message to be "heard" if they don't feel comfortable talking to someone in person.

d. A teacher's idea of offering a tutorial for all students one day per week was brought up as a good idea to possibly help those students that may be too shy/embarrassed/nervous to ask questions in class.

e. Pamper/connect with parents/administrators/teachers?

V. Information Items

A. Principal's Report

i. Enrollment and Leveling Updates – There is a revision to what was presented about funds for the lower number of students than projected (the difference is 24 students). The money that originally was allotted was in fact pulled back, not what was previously reported last meeting – However, what we owe ($11, 118) is held harmless meaning we don't owe anything.

ii. Additional Information Items – Angela Banks is a lead Pre-K teacher now! Just made a recommendation for a new paraprofessional hire. The position for a special education paraprofessional has been posted and we are about to start interviews.

B. APS Forward 2040 –Comprehensive Long-Range Facilities Plan Update – the district is pushing out information about the plan. 2 meetings – 10/20 and 11/10 at noon for virtual and 6pm at CLL for in person. These are plans for discussion – nothing final yet. The scenarios don't affect the elementary school or middle school in our cluster, but does affect Midtown High School.

C. CONGRATULATIONS – Morningside Elementary's GO Team was selected as the recipient of the 2025 Outstanding GO Team Award. The award will be presented November 1st at the APYes awards

D. G3Summit is on 9/27

VI. Announcements

VII. Public Comment: No

VIII. Adjournment: Kristen Pollock motions to adjourn; Chappelle Washington Freer seconds; passed unanimously

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Minutes Taken By: A. Espelosin

Position: Secretary

Date Approved: