

William M. Finch Elementary

Date: **November 20, 2025**

Time: **3:30 PM**

Location: **Zoom Virtual**

- I. Call to order: 3:35 PM
- II. Roll Call

Role	Name (or Vacant)	Present or Absent
Principal	Dr. Tara Spencer	Present
Parent/Guardian	Ms. Edwina Lawrence	Present
Parent/Guardian	Ms. Jasmine King	Absent
Parent/Guardian	Ms. Kashon Caldwell	Present
Instructional Staff	Ms. Tesia Germain	Present
Instructional Staff	Ms. Erin Gore	Present
Instructional Staff	Ms. Tatyana McKnight	Present
Community Member	Dr. Terence Lester	Present
Community Member	Pastor Eric Thomas	Present
Swing Seat	Ms. Rekina LeCount	Present
Student (High Schools)		

Quorum Established: **Yes** or No]

III. Action Items

- a. **Approval of Agenda:** Motion made by: **Ms. Tatyana McKnight**; Seconded by: **Ms. Rekina LeCount**
Members Approving: Ms. Edwina Lawrence, Ms. Kashon Caldwell, Ms. Tesia Germain, Ms. Erin Gore, Dr. Terence Lester, and Pastor Eric Thomas
Members Opposing: 0
Members Abstaining: 0
Motion [Passes/Fails]
- b. **Approval of Previous Minutes:** *List amendments to the minutes:*
 Motion made by: **Ms. Erin Gore**; Seconded by: **Dr. Terence Lester**
Members Approving: Ms. Edwina Lawrence, Ms. Kashon Caldwell, Ms. Tesia Germain, Dr. Terence Lester, Ms. Rekina LeCount, and Pastor Eric Thomas
Members Opposing: 0
Members Abstaining: 0
Motion [Passes/Fails]

IV. Discussion Items

- a. **Discussion Item 1: 2025-2030 Strategic Plan Development-** The team discussed the development of the school's strategic plan, focusing on aligning with district priorities.
 - i. **Confirm Mission/Vision, Goals from Previous Meeting**
 - Dr. Spencer reminded the team of their previously established goals: increasing reading proficiency to 35% by 2030, increasing math proficiency to 35% by 2030, and increasing attendance rate for chronically absent students from 67% to 76% by 2030.
 - Dr. Spencer reviewed the district's strategic plan focus areas: "We Are Strengthening Our Instructional Core," "We Are Caring For Every Child," "We Are Sparking Student Curiosity," "Our Strength is Our Team," "Our Responsibility is Shared," and "Our School is Efficient and Effective" Dr. Spencer explained the purpose is to "cascade the district strategic plan to the school level" to create alignment and reduce confusion.
 - Dr. Spencer reviewed the proposed mission statement: "FINCH Elementary School is committed to intentionally nurturing accountable, proactive, and compassionate citizens through student-focused learning, collaboration, and equity, empowering every child to reach their greatest
 - ii. **Develop 2025-2030 Strategic Plan Objectives**

The team evaluated current strategic priorities to determine which to continue, stop, or start.

 - Go Team Members inquired about the priorities as Dr. Spencer explained each one including priority #6 "Improve leadership capacity". Dr. Spencer highlighted that leadership extends beyond the classroom.
 - A few GO Team members shared their experiences as a teacher leader who has been given opportunities to lead PLCs and work with coaches and other leadership opportunities that may help teachers develop skills they didn't know they had
 - GO Team members also questioned how to measure "ensuring students are college and career ready" at the elementary level. Dr. Spencer explained it starts with ensuring students have access to rigorous instructional materials and grade-level standards. In all, the team decided not to stop any current priorities and identified closing achievement gaps for students with disabilities as a new strategic objective

Dr. Spencer will leave the opportunity open for team members to contribute additional ideas for the strategic plan.

iii. Homework and Projects Discussion

There was a discussion about homework policies and projects at FINCH. A GO Team member expressed concern about limited homework assignments and projects done at home. Dr. Spencer explained her philosophy that since educators chose this career path, they should take responsibility for student learning rather than relying on parents. Dr. Spencer also noted that a policy for 15-20 minutes of homework in ELA and math was implemented this year and the school balances homework expectations with recognition of varying home support situations.

V. Information Items *(add items as needed)*

a. **Principal's Report**

Dr. Spencer discussed the Continuing 2025-2030 School Strategic Plan Development Process.

b. **Cluster Advisory Team Report**

Dr. Spencer provided an update on the Cluster Advisory Team meeting and explained that the Cluster Advisory Team creates alignment between clusters and the district.

Dr. Spencer reported that budget discussions for FY27 have begun and shared that FINCH's projected enrollment for next year is 264 students.

Dr. Spencer noted that the small school supplement (approximately \$270,000) may be eliminated. Dr. Spencer mentioned that attendance, particularly chronic absenteeism, is a concern for the Carver Cluster, addressing chronic absenteeism remains a priority.

c. **APS Forward 2040 –Comprehensive Long-Range Facilities Plan Update**

Dr. Spencer provided information about the district's long-range facilities plan.

- Finch Elementary will merge with Parkinson Elementary and be housed in the Sylvan Building
- Sylvan Middle School students will be rezoned to H.J. Russell Middle School
- Feeder pattern will have students attending Washington High School, with options to apply for the 6-12 School of Arts or Carver Early College
- Visioning meetings for programming will take place on December 2nd. Team members were encouraged to attend visioning meetings.

VI. Announcements

Dr. Spencer shared recent achievements and upcoming events.

- The Soaring Eagle Pep Squad won first place in their first competition.
- Ruby Bridges Walk to School Day and 3rd-5th grade visit to the Center for Civil and Human Rights
- Dr. Terence Lester and the Parent Resource Room will be featured on the Kelly Clarkson Show
- Dr. Spencer listed upcoming events including MAP assessments, Amira Dyslexia Screener, school science fair, spelling bee, and holiday performance

-The next GO Team meeting will be on January 29, 2026

- a. November 24th-28th- Thanksgiving Break
- b. December 2nd- 12th- MAP Growth Assessment (K-5)
- c. December 8th- 19- Amira Dyslexia Screener (K-3)]
- d. December 4th- School Science Fair
- e. December 10th- Schoolwide Spelling Bee
- f. December 18th- Holiday Performance
- g. December 22nd- January 1st- Winter Holiday Break
- h. January 29, 2026- Next Go Team

VII. Adjournment

Motion made by: [Pastor Eric Thomas](#); Seconded by: [Dr. Terence Lester](#)

Members Approving: Ms. Tesia Germain, Ms. Rekina LeCount, Ms. Erin Gore, Ms. Tatyana McKnight, Ms. Edwina Lawrence, and Ms. Kashon Caldwell

Members Opposing: 0

Members Abstaining: 0

Motion [[Passes](#)/Fails]

ADJOURNED AT 4:20PM

Minutes Taken By: Ms. [Rekina LeCount](#)

Position: [Secretary](#)

Date Approved: [\[Insert Date When Approved\]](#)