

GO Team Meeting Minutes: Detailed Edition

Date: February 10, 2026

Location: Virtual Meeting

Attendees: Principal Grant, Ms. White (Chair), Ms. Rogers, Ms. Palmer, Ms. Terri, Ms. Ashley, and additional GO Team members.

1. Opening & Procedural Items

- **Quorum Check:** The meeting began with technical difficulties; Ms. White and Ms. Terry joined via phone/log-in while Principal Grant noted she could not use her video. A quorum was verified with five members after Ms. Terry successfully joined.
 - **Approvals:** The agenda and the minutes from the previous meeting were reviewed and approved without objection.
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2. Principal's Budget Report & Strategic Alignment

Principal Grant provided a "big caveat": the staffing conference has not yet occurred, meaning the budget is a working draft. However, the proposal is strictly aligned with the school's **Strategic Plan**.

Strategic Objective Rankings (Recap):

1. Implementing daily aggressive monitoring and small group instruction.
 2. Maintaining 90-minute PLC (Professional Learning Community) structures.
 3. Whole Child Support (SEL).
 4. Strengthening attendance strategies to improve the Average Daily Attendance (ADA).
 5. Analyzing assessment results in bi-monthly data meetings.
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3. Focus Area Details

A. "Sparking Student Curiosity" (Arts)

- **The Return of Art:** Based on student surveys (Grades 2–5), there is a high demand for Art. It will return as a **0.5 FTE** (half-time) position.
- **Shared Staffing:** To afford this, the Art teacher will be shared with **Hutchinson Elementary**. Art instruction will likely be concentrated on "long days" (Wednesdays and Thursdays).
- **Dance Continuity:** The full dance program (ballet, jazz, choreography) remains intact.

B. "Caring for Every Child" (Support Staff)

- **The "HEART" Acronym:** The school continues to use the HEART system for behavior modification:
 - **H:** Honoring the learning environment.
 - **E:** Expecting the best of ourselves.
 - **A:** (Noted as "Accountable" or similar attributes in discussion).
- **Staff Retention:** Despite a budget deficit, Principal Grant is prioritizing full-time positions for the **Counselor, MTSS Coordinator, and Social Worker**, citing their heavy impact on student well-being.

C. "Strengthening Instructional Core" (Co-Teaching Model)

- **Intentional Expert Deployment:** The school will move away from "on-call" coaching. Instead, experts (like Ms. Rix) will be scheduled for dedicated 90-minute blocks to work side-by-side with classroom teachers daily.

4. Enrollment & Class Size Projections

Enrollment has dropped drastically to a projected **320 students** for next year (down from historical highs of 600).

- **Breakdown by Grade:**
 - **Kindergarten:** 40 students
 - **1st Grade:** 49 students
 - **2nd/3rd Grade:** 58 students each
 - **4th Grade:** 61 students

- **5th Grade:** 54 students
 - **Ratio Goal:** The Principal aims for a **1:16 or 1:17 ratio**.
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5. Financial Status & "Trade-Offs"

- **The Deficit:** The budget is currently in the red by approximately **\$780,000**.
 - **Signature Program (IB) Removal:** * The school will move away from the **International Baccalaureate (IB)** program.
 - **Rationale:** Only two schools in the cluster remain IB; high school students are opting for **Dual Enrollment** (earning college credit at Georgia State) rather than IB diplomas.
 - The Principal emphasized: "*I'd rather hold on to people than a program.*"
 - **Reserves & Supplies:** * The school has **\$81,000** in reserves.
 - By not "backfilling" the retired Clerk position (previously held by Lawrence Parano) or the Art position mid-year, the school saved funds.
 - These savings will be used to bulk-buy paper and supplies *this year* to ease next year's budget.
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6. Closing & Motion to Approve

- **Feedback:** Ms. White praised the co-teaching/tag-teaming model for its potential impact on literacy data.
 - **Approval:** A motion was made to approve the budget draft. It was seconded and passed by all members present.
 - **Adjournment:** The meeting concluded with no further informational items.
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