

# Preparing for FY27 Budget Development

FINCH ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

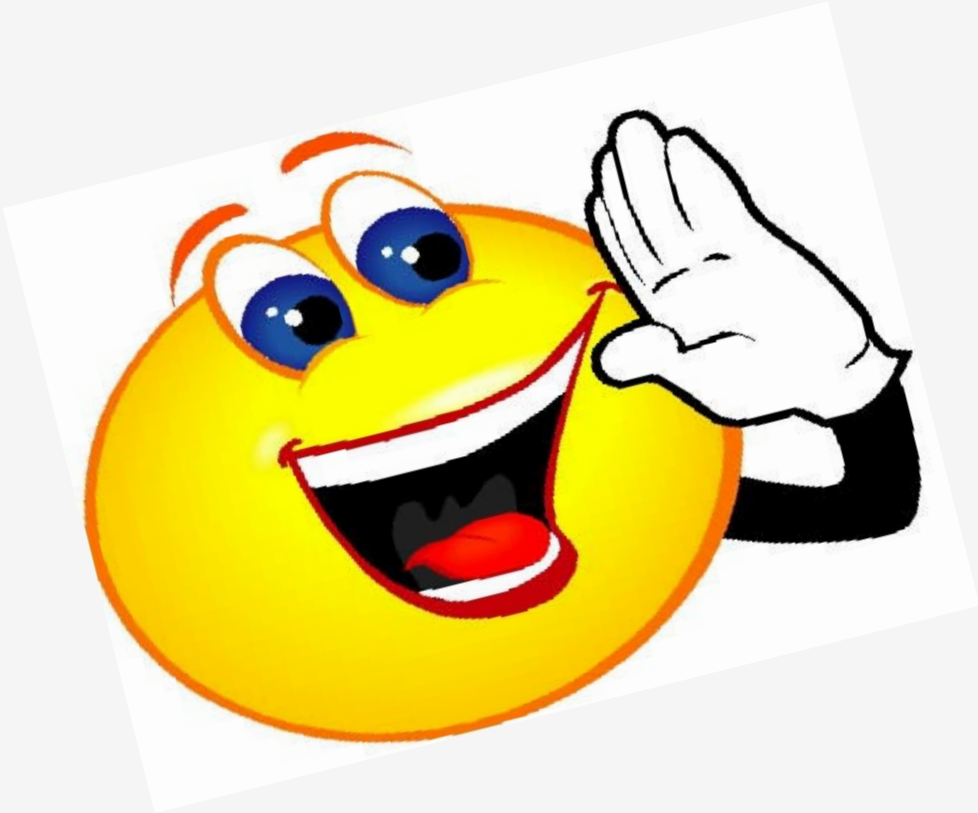
GO Team Business Meeting

January 29, 2026



# GO TEAM MEMBERS 2025-2026

## Roll Call



<b>NAME</b>	<b>ROLE</b>
Dr. Tara Spencer	Principal
Kashon Caldwell	Parent
Edwina Lawrence	Parent
Jasmina King	Parent
Erin Gore	Staff
Tesia Germain	Staff
Tatyana McKnight	Staff
Eric Thomas	Community Member
Dr. Terence Lester	Community Member
Rekina LeCount	Swing Seat

# Agenda

- I. Call to Order**
- II. Roll Call; Establish Quorum**
- III. Action Items**
  - a. Approval of Agenda
  - b. Approval of Previous Minutes for November 20, 2025
  - c. Review and Approval of the Strategic Plan
- IV. Discussion Items**
  - a. Review Budget Upcoming Meetings
  - b. Initial Budget Presentation (Review of SSF and Allocation of other Funds)
  - c. Next GO TEAM to allow feedback and approval
- V. Information Items**
  - a. Principal's Report
- VI. Announcements**
  - a. **Next Meeting: February 12, 2026**
  - b. **Winter Break Recess- February 18-20 (Staff)**
  - c. **Winter Break Recess- February 16-20 (No School for Students)**
  - d. **Random Acts of Kindness Week- February 9-13**
  - e. **Complete Budget Training before next meeting**
- VII. Public Comment**
- VIII. Adjournment**

# Action Items



APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA



APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS  
MINUTES



2025-2030 STRATEGIC  
PLAN (*AFTER DISCUSSION*)

Discussion  
Items



Finalize the 2025-2030 Strategic  
**Plan**



2026-2027 Budget  
Discussion



Finalizing the  
2025-2030  
School Strategic  
Plan

# In Our Last Meeting We...

1

## Reviewed Our School Data

**KPI Summary**  
William Finch Elementary School

Select District, School, or Cluster:  
School > Carver > Finch

ATLANTA PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Focus Area	Category	Metric	Current KPI	2030 Goal Change	2030 Goal	Current District Performance	2030 Goal
District Goal	Literacy	% of 3rd grade students scoring proficient or above in ELA	9.6%	+ 25.4 pp	35.0%	9.6%	
We Are Strengthening Our Instructional Core	Kindergarten ELA	% of students scoring 'Demonstrating' or 'Exceeding' on all ELA domains in Spring GKIDS 2.0	24.2%	+ 21.0 pp	45.2%	24.2%	
	Subgroup Proficiency: Black students	% of Black students scoring proficient and above on End of Grade Milestones Exams	19.8%	+ 26.0 pp	45.8%	19.8%	
	Subgroup Proficiency: Students with Disabilities	% of Students with Disabilities scoring proficient and above on End of Grade Milestones Exams	2.0%	+ 10.0 pp	12.0%	2.0%	
	Subgroup Proficiency: Economically Disadvantaged students	% of Economically Disadvantaged students scoring proficient and above on End of Grade Milestones Ex...	20.2%	+ 26.0 pp	46.2%	20.2%	
	Subgroup Growth: Black students	% of Black students with a Typical or High End of Grade Milestones Student Growth Percentile	58.5%	+ 10.7 pp	69.2%	58.5%	
	Subgroup Growth: Students with Disabilities	% of Students with Disabilities students with a Typical/High EOG Milestones Student Growth Perce...	50.0%	+ 10.7 pp	60.7%	50.0%	
We Are Caring For Every Child	Subgroup Growth: Economically Disadvantaged students	% of Economically Disadvantaged students with a Typical/High EOG Milestones Student Growth Perce...	57.1%	+ 10.7 pp	67.8%	57.1%	
	Attendance	% of students who are not chronically absent	65.9%	+ 15.0 pp	80.9%	65.9%	
	Discipline: All Students	% of students with no Out-of-School suspensions	94.0%	+ 4.5 pp	98.5%	94.0%	
	Discipline: Black Students	% of Black students with no Out-of-School suspensions	93.8%	+ 4.7 pp	98.5%	93.8%	
	Discipline: Students with Disabilities	% of Students with Disabilities with no Out-of-School suspensions	96.6%	+ 1.9 pp	98.5%	96.6%	
	Student-Staff Relationships	% of students feeling comfortable going to most or all of the adults in the school for help	69.7%	+ 14.3 pp	84.0%	69.7%	
School Climate*	School climate star rating out of 5	3 ★	+ 1 ★	4 ★	3 ★		

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## Aligned Our Mission and Vision

### OPTIONS

Our mission is to create a culture that intentionally embraces and develops compassionate and resilient learners who are kind, accept responsibility, and become productive citizens.

**We are committed to intentionally nurturing accountable, proactive, and compassionate citizens through student focused learning, collaboration, and equity-empowering every child to reach their greatest potential with integrity and commitment.**

3

## Confirmed Our 2030 Goals

**William M. Finch Elementary**

*Mission: A community school where teachers plan intentionally, students embrace academic struggle, and the community's values align with the school's.*

*Vision: Together, we will provide meaningful, rigorous learning experiences and opportunities that enrich learning for students, staff, and the community in order to make college and career readiness a reality.*

**SMART Goals**

- Increase the % of grades 3-5 students scoring proficient or above in Reading to 35% by May 2030.
- Increase the % of grades 3-5 students scoring proficient or above in Math to 35% by May 2030.
- Increase the CCRPI Student Attendance Rate to 76.86% by May 2030

**APS Strategic Priorities & Initiatives**

- Fostering Academic Excellence for All**
  - Data
  - Curriculum & Instruction
  - Signature Program
- Building a Culture of Student Support**
  - Whole Child & Intervention
  - Personalized Learning
- Equipping & Empowering Leaders & Staff**
  - Strategic Staff Support
  - Equitable Resource Allocation
- Creating a System of School Support**
  - Collective Action, Engagement & Empowerment

**School Strategic Priorities**

1. Focus on Reading & Math as a foundational skill
2. Ensure every student demonstrates content mastery
3. Ensure students are College & Career Ready
4. Create a safe, nurturing, and caring culture for all students
5. Improve teacher efficacy and growth-mindedness
6. Improve leadership capacity and opportunities
7. Build systems and resources to support the school's priorities
8. Inform and engage the school's families and community

**School Strategies**

1. Implement rigorous, culturally relevant, and linguistically responsive Reading and Math curriculum with fidelity in all core content areas and instructional best practices in Tier 1 instruction
2. Integrate field experiences (in-person & virtual) for students with a focus on college and career awareness and STEAM.
3. Utilize flexible learning tools, technology integration, and targeted instruction to personalize learning for all students
4. Implement a Whole-Child system of supports that integrates social-emotional learning, behavior, wellness, and comprehensive academic intervention plans
5. Direct training and support for building leadership
6. Identify and increase teacher leader roles and differentiate development opportunities
7. Develop a budget that supports the school's priorities
8. Establish core business partnerships
9. Increase parent engagement, awareness, and knowledge-base as valued stakeholders through fluid communication and active participation of the school's Parent Liaison
10. Implementation of a school-wide Positive Behavior Intervention Support system developed around SEL principles

# Finch Elementary School

## Proposed Goals for the 2025-2030 Strategic Plan:



### William M. Finch Elementary

**Mission:** A community school where teachers plan intentionally, students embrace academic struggle, and the community's values align with the school's.

**Vision:** Together, we will provide meaningful, rigorous learning experiences and opportunities that enrich learning for students, staff, and the community in order to make college and career readiness a reality.

#### SMART Goals

Increase the % of grades 3-5 students scoring proficient or above in Reading to 35% by May 2030.

Increase the % of grades 3-5 students scoring proficient or above in Math to 35% by May 2030.

Increase the CCRPI Student Attendance Rate to 76.86% by May 2030

#### APS Strategic Priorities & Initiatives

**Fostering Academic Excellence for All**  
Data  
Curriculum & Instruction  
Signature Program

**Building a Culture of Student Support**  
Whole Child & Intervention  
Personalized Learning

**Equipping & Empowering Leaders & Staff**  
Strategic Staff Support  
Equitable Resource Allocation

**Creating a System of School Support**  
Collective Action, Engagement  
& Empowerment

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# Today We Will...:

## School Strategic Planning Process: Step 5

**1** Review Data

**2** Align Mission/Vision/Purpose

**3** Confirm 2030 Goals

- Create CIP Goals to 2030
- Identify Additional Goals

**4** Identify 2025-2030 Strategic Objectives

- Reflect on 2020-2025 Strategic Plan
- Review and Discuss Additional Objectives Going Forward

**5** Approve Your Strategic Plan & Rank Your Strategic Objectives for FY27

### *Sample GO Team Business Meeting Cadence*

#### **Business Meeting 1:**

- ✓ Review Data (*MAP, GMAS, Graduation Rate, CCRPI, etc.*)

#### **Business Meeting 2:**

- ✓ Review Data (School KPIs)
- Align Mission/Vision/ Purpose
- Confirm 2030 Goals

#### **Business Meeting 3:**

- ✓ Identify 2025-2030 Strategic Objectives

#### **Business Meeting 4 :**

- Approve Your Strategic Plan



# Mission

*Finch Elementary is committed to nurturing accountable, proactive, and compassionate citizens through student focused learning, collaboration, and equity-empowering every child to reach their greatest potential with integrity and commitment.*

# Finch Elementary School

## Strategic Plan 2025-2030

# Vision

*A community school where teachers plan intentionally, students embrace academic struggle, and the community's values align with the school's.*

### Goal #1

Increase the % of students in grades 3-5 scoring in proficient or above in Reading to 35% by May 2030.

### Goal #2

Increase the % of students in grades 3-5 scoring in proficient or above in Math to 35% by May 2030.

### Goal #3

Increase the CCPRI Student Attendance Rate to 76.86% by May 2030.

## “Getting Back to Basics”

### We Are Strengthening Our Instructional Core

- Ensure that every classroom delivers high-quality Tier 1 reading and math instruction daily by establishing and implementing non-negotiable instructional practices such as standards-aligned learning targets, explicit modeling, guided practice, checks for understanding, student discourse and daily writing.
- Foster college and career readiness by cultivating strong academic habits, critical thinking, and student ownership of learning through evidence-based literacy practices and integrated STEAM instruction that prepare students to apply knowledge across disciplines.

### We Are Caring For Every Child

- Consistently provide a proactive Tier 1 behavior program that teaches, models, and reinforces positive behavior expectations for all students.
- Address attendance as a relationship and support issue, not just compliance, by identifying barriers early and responding with targeted supports.
- Ensure a coordinated system of Social Emotional Learning that confirms every student is known, supported, and connected to at least one caring adult in the building.

### We Are Sparking Student Curiosity

- Design instruction around inquiry, real-world problems, and student voice, ensuring learning is relevant, rigorous, and connected to students’ lived experiences and community context.
- Ensure a school culture where teachers and leaders feel valued, supported, and developed, mirroring the engagement and curiosity we expect from students through job embedded professional development and by further establishing teacher-leader pathways.

## “Community of Believers”

### Our Strength is Our Team

- Ensure intentional, inclusive leadership opportunities that allow staff to co-lead school improvement, ensuring decisions are informed by those closest to the work.
- Ensure schoolwide systems that care for adults as whole people, recognizing that staff well-being is foundational to student success.
- Use collaboration time intentionally to build and continuously foster shared accountability, trust, and continuous improvement.

### Our Responsibility Is Shared

- Leverage community resources and partnerships to remove barriers and support whole-child needs.
- Design family engagement systems that honor families as co-educators and decision-makers, to continually build trust and encourage voice.

### Our School Is Efficient & Effective

- Ensure all budget decisions are data driven, transparent, and clearly tied to student achievement, well-being, and family access.
- Extend resources through strategic partnerships and grant funding to increase student achievement, wrap-around supports, and family engagement.

# Action on the 2025-2030 Strategic Plan

The GO Team needs to **TAKE ACTION** (vote) on its new 2025-2030 Strategic Plan.

After the motion and a second, the GO Team may have additional discussion. Once discussion is concluded, the GO Team will vote.

# Discussion

## Strategic Plan Objectives Ranking

The GO Team ranked its Strategic Plan Objectives in preparation for the 2026-2027 Budget Development Process (January–March 2026).

The ranked objectives will serve as budget parameters during FY27 budget discussions.

### *School Strategic Priorities*

- 1. Focus on Reading & Math as a foundational skill**
- 2. Ensure every student demonstrates content mastery**
- 3. Ensure students are College & Career Ready**
- 4. Create a safe, nurturing, and caring culture for all students**
- 5. Improve teacher efficacy and growth-mindedness**
- 6. Improve leadership capacity and opportunities**
- 7. Build systems and resources to support the school's priorities**
- 8. Inform and engage the school's families and community**



## Action on the Strategic Plan Objectives Ranking

The GO Team needs to **TAKE ACTION** (vote) on its ranked Strategic Plan Objectives. After the motion and a second, the GO Team may have additional discussion. Once discussion is concluded, the GO Team will vote.

## Discussion Items



Finalize the 2025-2030 Strategic  
**Plan**



2026-2027 Budget  
Discussion

# FY 27 GO Team Budget Development Process Timeline



**GO Teams are encouraged to have ongoing conversations**

\* GO Teams will need to take **ACTION** on the budget at these meetings.

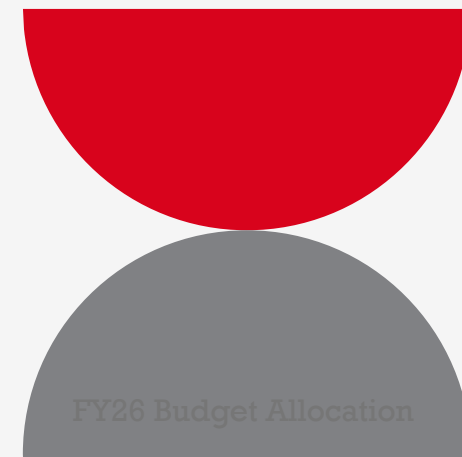
# Budget Allocation Meeting

## What

During the this GO Team meeting the principal will provide an overview of the school's budget.

## Why

This meeting provides an opportunity for the principal and GO Team to ensure alignment on the school's key strategic priorities, gain a deeper understanding of the budget and position allocations, and gather input to drive the development of the draft budget.



**FY2027 Budget Allocation**

FY2027 TOTAL SCHOOL ALLOCATIONS	
School	Finch Elementary
Location	0105
Level	ES
FY2027 Projected Enrollment	264
Total Earned	\$6,938,535
Per Pupil	\$26,282

FY2026 TOTAL SCHOOL ALLOCATIONS	
School	Finch Elementary
Location	0105
Level	ES
FY2026 Projected Enrollment	259
Total Earned	\$7,083,946
Per Pupil	\$27,351

Change	
School	Finch Elementary
Location	0105
Level	ES
Change	5
Total Earned	-\$145,411
Per Pupil	-\$1,069

SSF Category	Count	Weight	Allocation
Base Per Pupil	264	\$5,964	\$1,574,474
<b>Grade Level</b>			
Kindergarten	37	0.60	\$132,399
1st	41	0.50	\$122,260
2nd	45	0.50	\$134,188
3rd	55	0.50	\$164,008
4th	31	0.45	\$83,197
5th	55	0.45	\$147,607
6th	0	0.25	\$0
7th	0	-	\$0
8th	0	-	\$0
9th	0	0.05	\$0
10th	0	-	\$0
11th	0	-	\$0
12th	0	-	\$0
Poverty	242	0.35	\$505,144
EIP/REP	96	1.00	\$572,536
Special Education	43	0.05	\$12,822
Gifted	17	0.75	\$76,040
Gifted Supplement	0	0.75	\$0
ELL	1	0.20	\$1,193
Small School Supplement	186	0.10	\$110,929
Baseline Supplement	No		\$0
Transition Policy Supplement	No		\$0
New School	No		\$0
Capacity	No	0.40	\$0
<b>Total SSF Allocation</b>			<b>\$3,636,797</b>
<b>Additional Earnings</b>			
Innovative Programming Allotment (Previously called Signature)			\$189,224
Turnaround			\$0
Title I			\$200,250
Title I Holdback			\$0
Title I Family Engagement			\$6,675
Security Grant			\$0
Field Trip Transportation			\$0
Dual Campus Supplement			\$0
District Funded Stipends (Academics and Fine Arts)			\$20,500
AVA Holdback			\$0
Phoenix Holdback			\$0
SSF Holdback			\$0
Flex			\$0
Total FTE Allotments	27.60		\$2,885,089
<b>Total Additional Earnings</b>			<b>\$3,301,738</b>
<b>Total Allocation</b>			<b>\$6,938,535</b>

SSF Category	Count	Weight	Allocation
Base Per Pupil	259	\$5,962	\$1,544,043
<b>Grade Level</b>			
Kindergarten	48	0.60	\$171,693
1st	32	0.50	\$95,385
2nd	42	0.45	\$112,673
3rd	35	0.45	\$93,895
4th	57	0.40	\$135,923
5th	45	0.40	\$107,308
6th	0	0.25	\$0
7th	0	-	\$0
8th	0	-	\$0
9th	0	0.05	\$0
10th	0	-	\$0
11th	0	-	\$0
12th	0	-	\$0
Poverty	236	0.35	\$492,425
EIP/REP	105	1.00	\$625,963
Special Education	34	0.05	\$10,135
Gifted	13	0.75	\$58,125
Gifted Supplement	0	0.75	\$2,200
ELL	1	0.20	\$1,192
Small School Supplement	191	0.20	\$227,731
Baseline Supplement	No		\$0
Transition Policy Supplement	No		\$0
New School	No		\$0
Capacity	No	0.25	\$0
<b>Total SSF Allocation</b>			<b>\$3,678,692</b>
<b>Additional Earnings</b>			
Innovative Programming Allotment (Previously called Signature)			\$187,832
Turnaround			\$156,932
Title I			\$197,250
Title I Holdback			-\$19,725
Title I Family Engagement			\$6,575
Security Grant			\$45,000
Field Trip Transportation			\$9,619
Dual Campus Supplement			\$0
District Funded Stipends (Including Athletics)			\$19,500
AVA Holdback			\$0
Phoenix Holdback			\$0
SSF Holdback			\$0
Flex			\$0
Total FTE Allotments	27.70		\$2,802,271
<b>Total Additional Earnings</b>			<b>\$3,405,254</b>
<b>Total Allocation</b>			<b>\$7,083,946</b>

SSF Category	Count	Weight	Allocation
Base Per Pupil	5	\$2	\$30,432
<b>Grade Level</b>			
Kindergarten	-11	-	-\$39,294
1st	9	-	\$26,875
2nd	3	0.05	\$21,515
3rd	20	0.05	\$70,113
4th	-26	0.05	-\$52,727
5th	10	0.05	\$40,299
6th	0	-	\$0
7th	0	-	\$0
8th	0	-	\$0
9th	0	-	\$0
10th	0	-	\$0
11th	0	-	\$0
12th	0	-	\$0
Poverty	6	-	\$12,719
EIP/REP	-9	-	-\$53,427
Special Education	9	-	\$2,688
Gifted	4	-	\$17,915
Gifted Supplement	0	-	-\$2,200
ELL	0	-	\$0
Small School Supplement	-5	(0.10)	-\$116,803
Baseline Supplement		-	\$0
Transition Policy Supplement		-	\$0
New School			\$0
Capacity		0.15	\$0
<b>Total SSF Allocation</b>			<b>-\$41,894</b>
<b>Additional Earnings</b>			
Innovative Programming Allotment (Previously called Signature)			\$1,392
Turnaround			-\$156,932
Title I			\$3,000
Title I Holdback			\$19,725
Title I Family Engagement			\$100
Security Grant			-\$45,000
Field Trip Transportation			-\$9,619
Dual Campus Supplement			\$0
District Funded Stipends			\$1,000
AVA Holdback			\$0
Phoenix Holdback			\$0
SSF Holdback			\$0
Flex			\$0
Total FTE Allotments	(0.10)		\$82,817
<b>Total Additional Earnings</b>			<b>-\$103,517</b>
<b>Total Allocation</b>			<b>-\$145,411</b>

<b>School</b>		Finch Elementary
<b>Location</b>		0105
<b>Level</b>		ES
<b>Principal</b>		Tara Spencer
<b>Projected Enrollment</b>		264
<b>Total Budget</b>	\$	6,938,535
<b>Unallocated Balance</b>	\$	(349,150)

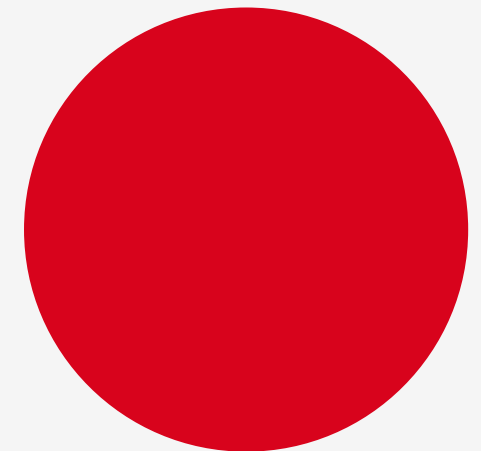
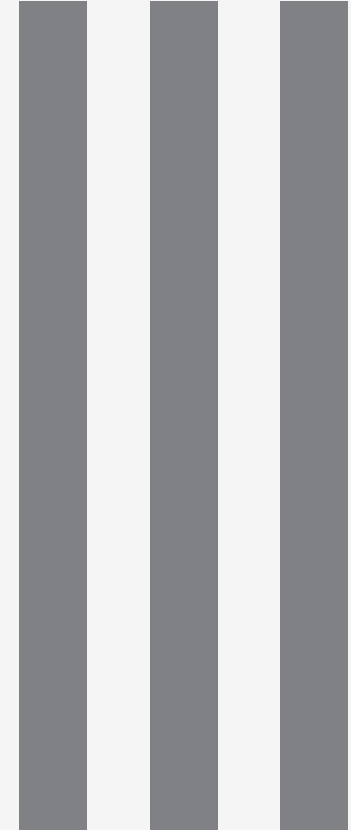
# What's Next?

- **February**

- GO Team Feedback Meeting(s) February
  - **GO Team Takes Action (votes)** on draft budget **before** the principal's staffing conference
- Associate Superintendent Review
- HR Staffing Conferences (February 23– February 27)

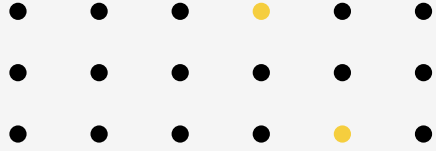
- **March**

- Final GO Team Approval Meeting- **AFTER** your school's Staffing Conference and **BEFORE** Friday, March 13
  - **GO Team Takes Action (votes)** on final budget recommendation **before** March 13



Questions?





# Principal Update





Celebrated 100 Days of school.



Reading Bowl Participants



4<sup>th</sup> Graders were given school supplies from a foreign exchange student.

Sylvan's Royal Court read to our K-2 students.



All PreK- 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade students were gifted dolls for Christmas!



Finch's Basketball Team is on FIRE!



# **Announcements**

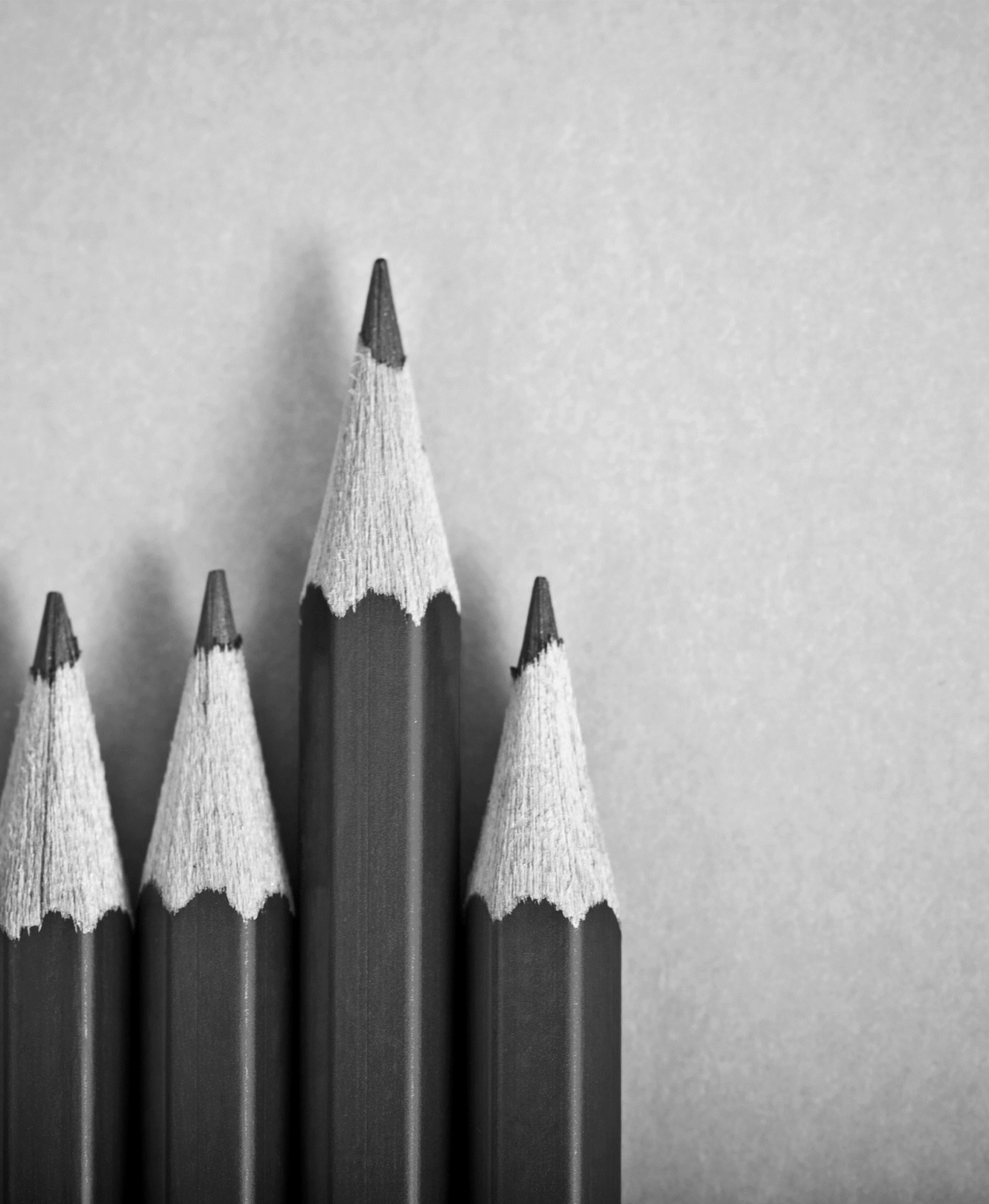
- **Next Meeting: February 12<sup>th</sup>, 2026**
- **Winter Break:**
  - February 18-20 (Staff)
  - February 16-20 (Students)
- **Black History Month Celebration- February 2026**
- **School Counselors Week: February 2-6, 2026**
- **Random Acts of Kindness Week: February 9-13, 2026**
- **Complete Budget Training before next meeting.**



## Public Comment

Opportunities for public comment are available for Finch Elementary School GO TEAM to hear from members of the community.

- If the meeting is held virtually, stakeholders wishing to provide comments during GO TEAM meetings should join the link at least 10 minutes before the meeting begins and sign in.
- If the meeting is held face to face, stakeholders wishing to provide comments during GO TEAM meetings should arrive at the Finch Elementary Media Center at least ten (10) minutes before the meeting begins and sign in. Stakeholders' comments will be heard in the order in which individuals signed in.
- Twenty (20) minutes of time during the GO TEAM meeting will be offered to the public to make comments. Everyone is asked to please plan to speak no more than two (2) minutes.
- GO TEAM members will not provide a response or engage in direct conversation during meetings.



# Adjournment

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