



## R.N. FICKETT ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Date: **Tuesday, February 10, 2026**

Time: **4:30pm**

Location: **Virtually / ZOOM**

**Recording Link:** YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/@FickettBroadcasting>

- I. Call to order: **5:00pm**
- II. Roll Call: **Ms. White – Vice Chair**

Role	Name (or Vacant)	Present or Absent
Principal	Ms. Benita Grant	Present
Parent/Guardian	Ms. Ashley Helm	Present
Parent/Guardian	Ms. Angela Palmer	Present
Parent/Guardian	Ms. Crystal Jordan	Absent
Instructional Staff	Ms. Denise White	Present
Instructional Staff	Ms. Kenyatta Rogers	Present
Instructional Staff	Mrs. Tamika Rainwater	Absent
Community Member	Ms. Terri Hampton	Present
Community Member	Mr. Raphael Holloway	Absent
Swing Seat	Mr. Khari Crooms	Absent
Student (High Schools)	N/A	

**Quorum Established:** Yes- The meeting began with technical difficulties. However, a quorum was verified with 5 members.

- III. **Action Items: Approvals of agenda and minutes from previous meeting**
  - a. **Approval of Agenda:** Motion made by: **Members**; Seconded by: **Members**  
Members Approving: All Present Members (5)  
Members Opposing: None  
Members Abstaining: None  
**Motion: Passed**
  - b. **Approval of Previous Minutes: Yes, and Minutes are posted on the website**  
Motion made by: **Members**; Seconded by: **Members**  
Members Approving: All Present Members (5)  
Members Opposing: None  
Members Abstaining: None  
**Motion: Passed**

- c. **Action Item 1: Motion: A motion was made to approve the BUDGET DRAFT**  
**Motion made by: Members; Seconded by: Members**  
**Members Approving:** All Present Members  
**Members Opposing:** All Present Members  
**Members Abstaining:** None  
**Motion: Passed**
- d. **Action Item 2: Motion: N/A**  
**Motion made by: [Insert Name]; Seconded by: [Insert Name]**  
**Members Approving:**  
**Members Opposing:**  
**Members Abstaining:**  
**Motion [Passes/Fails]**

#### IV. **Discussion Items:**

##### V. **Discussion Items 1: 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 to a 0.5 FTE (half-time) position. 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. **"Caring for Every Child" (Support Staff)** – The **"HEART" Acronym**- The school continues to use the HEART system for behavior modifications: 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. **"Strengthening Instructional Core" (Co-Teaching Model)** – **Intentional Expert Deployment**- The school will move away from "on-call" coaching. Instead, experts like Ms. Ricks, will be scheduled for dedicated 90-minute blocks to work side by side with classroom teachers daily.

##### VI. **Discussion Items 2: Enrollment & Class Size Projections; Financial Status & "Tradeoffs"**

- a. **Enrollment** has dropped drastically to a projected **320 students** for next year (down from historical highs of 600) **Breakdown by Grade:** \*Kindergarten: 40 Students; \*1<sup>st</sup> Grade: 49 students; \*2<sup>nd</sup> / 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade: 58 students each; \*4<sup>th</sup> Grade: 61 students; \*5<sup>th</sup> Grade: 54 students; \*Ratio Goal: Principal Grant aims for a 1:16 or 1:17 ratio
- b. **Financial Status & "Trade-Offs"** – The deficit is currently in the red by approximately **\$780,000**. **Signature Program (IB) Removal:** The school will move away from the International Baccalaureate (IB) program. Only 2 schools in the

cluster remain IB; high school students are opting for Dual Enrollment (earning college credit at Georgia State rather than IB diplomas. \*Principal Grant 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 Perrino or the Art position mid-year, the school saved funds. These savings will be used to buy bulk paper and supplies this year to ease next year’s budget.

**VII. Information Items:**

- a. **Principal’s Report:** Principal Grant provided a “big caviar”: 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.
- b. **Cluster Advisory Team Report** [Add brief summary of the report and any resulting discussion]
- c. **Information Item 2: Strategic Objective Rankings (RECAP)**-
  - \*Implementing daily aggressive monitoring and small group instruction.
  - \*Maintaining 90-minute PLC (Progressive Learning Community) structures.
  - \*Whole Child Support (SEL)
  - \*Strengthening attendance strategies to improve the Average Daily Attendance (ADA).
  - \*Analyzing assessment results in bi-monthly data meetings.

**VIII. Announcements: Feedback**-Ms. White praised the co-teaching / tag-teaming model for its potential impact on literacy data.

**IX.**

**X. Adjournment:**

**Motion made by: Members; Seconded by: Members**

**Members Approving:** All Present Members

**Members Opposing:** None

**Members Abstaining:** None

**Motion: Passed**

**ADJOURNED AT: 6:00pm**

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**Minutes Taken By:** Ms. Benita Grant

**Position:** Principal

**Date Approved:** [Insert Date When Approved]