GO TEAMS
STRONG SCHOOLS START WITH ME!

Meeting Minutes

Willis A. Sutton Middle School
Date: March 10th, 2026
Time: 5:33
Recording:

I. **Call to order: A. Williams**
II. Roll Call

Role	Name *(or Vacant)*	Present or Absent (P or A)
Principal	**Dr. Dominique Merriweather**	**A**
Parent/Guardian	**Stephanie Houghton (aw)**	**P**
Parent/Guardian	**Annette Sullivan**	**P**
Parent/Guardian	**Ashley Scott**	**P**
Instructional Staff	**De'Markious Lamar**	**A**
Instructional Staff	**Adrianne Williams**	**P**
Instructional Staff	**Matthew Bryant**	**P**
Community Member	**Joel Iverson**	**P**
Community Member	**Marissa Rosenbloom**	**P**
Swing Seat	**Robert Bailey**	**P**

Action Items

III. Approval of Agenda

- Motion:
  i. Made By: A. Williams
  ii. Seconded By: Bailey
  iii. Members Approving: all approved
  iv. Members Opposing: n/a
  v. Members Abstaining: none
  vi. Motion: Passed

IV. Approval of Previous Minutes

- Motion:
  i. Made By: Rosenbloom
  ii. Seconded By: Bailey
  iii. Members Approving: all approved
  iv. Members Opposing: n/a
  v. Members Abstaining: none
  vi. Motion: Passed

V. Discussion Items

Discussion Item #1: Final Budget Recommendation	**<u>Budget Updates – Key Points</u>** ● The ESOL Coordinator position was abolished, and the school will instead have an ESOL Instructional Coach to provide more direct instructional support for teachers and multilingual learners. ● The school received three additional teacher allocations, but one teaching position was removed, resulting in a net adjustment to staffing. ● The school also added a school-funded custodian to support campus operations and maintain the learning environment. ● These staffing and operational adjustments were made to align with Sutton Middle School's mission and vision, ensuring resources are directed toward instructional support and effective school operations. **<u>Motion Approved by all members of GO TEAM</u>**

Discussion Item #2: Mastery Connect	**Mastery Connect Overview – Key Points** ● Mastery Connect is the assessment platform currently used in Atlanta

	Public Schools (APS) during the 2025–2026 school year to administer district-created assessments aligned to standards. ● During the session, Mr. Curtis Douglass and Ms. A. Payne provided additional insight into how Mastery Connect functions and how it supports instructional planning. ● Alignment to Standards: Mastery Connect assessments are directly connected to the Georgia Standards of Excellence (GSE), allowing teachers to monitor and track student mastery of specific standards. ● Item Banks: The platform includes two item banks: ○ A district item bank used for APS-developed assessments. ○ A teacher item bank that educators can use to create their own standards-aligned questions and assessments. ● Instructional Impact: Teachers are encouraged to use the Backward Design model, meaning instruction is planned with the standards and assessments in mind to ensure alignment between teaching and evaluation. ● Unit Assessments: Unit assessments administered through Mastery Connect are currently being graded in alignment with practices across the North

	Atlanta Cluster. These assessments contribute to students' grades while also providing data on mastery of standards. ● Teacher Preparation for Assessments: The Curriculum and Instruction Team will have teachers take the assessments prior to students taking them for the remainder of the semester. This process is intended to ensure teachers understand the rigor, standards alignment, and expectations of each assessment before administering it to students. ● Data & Student Perspective: Discussions focused on whether Mastery Connect data indicates improvement in student achievement and how the results reflect student learning progress from a student perspective. ● End-of-Year Checkpoint: Mastery Connect is currently used for End-of-Year (EOY) checkpoints to measure student mastery of standards. ● Parent Access: Parents are not able to view the assessments themselves within the platform. ● We want students to productive struggle: Productive struggle occurs when students engage in challenging academic tasks that require effort and persistence while receiving strategic support from the teacher to deepen understanding without removing the cognitive demand of the task.

	• Future Considerations: There is currently uncertainty about how Mastery Connect will be used in the 2026–2027 school year, as APS continues evaluating the platform.

VI. Information Items

Principal's Report	***Elementary Schools - Math Choice***

CAT Meeting Report	***ESPLOST 2027 – Key Points***
	• *ESPLOST 2027 will be placed on the ballot for voters to consider. ESPLOST (Education Special Purpose Local Option Sales Tax) is used to fund capital improvements and major investments in schools across the district.*
	• *The proposed priority areas for ESPLOST 2027 include:*
	  ○ *Facilities and Infrastructure – Improvements, renovations, and maintenance of school buildings and campus infrastructure.*
	  ○ *Technology – Upgrades to instructional technology, devices, and digital learning systems.*

	○ *Safety and Security – Enhancements to school safety systems, security infrastructure, and emergency preparedness.* ○ *Nutrition – Improvements to school cafeterias, kitchen equipment, and food service facilities.* ○ *Transportation – Investments in school buses, transportation equipment, and related infrastructure.* ● *These priorities are intended to support safe, modern, and effective learning environments for students and staff across the district.* ***Strategic Plan Updates – Key Points*** ● *A continued focus on cross-collaboration across departments and grade levels to strengthen instructional practices and improve student outcomes.* ● *Emphasis on vertical alignment with North Atlanta High School, ensuring curriculum, expectations, and instructional practices are aligned so students are well prepared for the transition from Sutton Middle School to high school.* ● *This collaboration supports consistent academic expectations, smoother*

	student progression, and stronger alignment of standards and instruction across the North Atlanta Cluster.

Committee Reports	**none**

VI. Announcements

Announcements	***NONE***

VII. Public Comment

- none

VIII. Adjournment

- Motion made by: Rosenbloom
- Seconded by: Bailey

Members Approving: all members
Members Opposing: none
Members Abstaining:
Motion:

ADJOURNED AT: 6:33PM

Minutes Taken By: Matthew Bryant
Position: Secretary
Date Approved: