

William M. Finch
Date: February 12, 2026
Time: 3:30 PM
Location: Zoom

- 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

Action Items

- a. **Approval of Agenda:** Motion made by: Ms. E. Gore Seconded by: Ms. R. LeCount
 Members Approving: Dr. T. Lester, Pastor Eric Thomas, Ms. T. McKnight, Ms. K. Caldwell, Ms. E. Lawrence, and Ms. T. Germain
 Members Opposing:
 Members Abstaining:
Motion Passes
- b. **Approval of Previous Minutes:** List amendments to the minutes:
 Motion made by: Ms. R. LeCount; Seconded by: Ms. E. Gore
 Members Approving: Dr. T. Lester, Pastor Eric Thomas, Ms. T. McKnight, Ms. K. Caldwell, Ms. E. Lawrence, and Ms. T. Germain
 Members Opposing:
 Members Abstaining:
Motion Passes

III. Discussion Items

Discussion Item 1:

Dr. Spencer presented the initial draft of the FY 2026–2027 school budget, providing an overview of the School Strategic Funding (SSF) allocation and additional funding sources.

Dr. Spencer explained that the purpose of the meeting was to allow GO Team members to review the proposed draft budget and provide feedback before the final vote in an upcoming meeting. The school is currently working through a significant financial challenge due to changes in district funding formulas and the reduction or elimination of several funding sources.

Dr. Spencer shared that Finch Elementary is projected to experience a budget shortfall of approximately \$350,000, requiring the difficult decisions to balance the budget while maintaining the core instructional program for students.

Key financial changes impacting the school budget include:

- Reduction and phase-out of Turnaround School funding, which had previously provided additional resources to support academic growth and school improvement efforts.
- Elimination of the Small School Supplement, which had historically helped offset operational costs for schools with lower enrollment.
- Adjustments in Title I funding allocations based on district formulas and student enrollment.

Dr. Spencer emphasized that protecting classroom instruction and maintaining teacher positions remains the school's top priority. As a result, classroom teachers will not be affected by the proposed budget reductions.

The FY27 Proposed Resources Recommendation includes the following positions:

- All Classroom Teachers
- Main STEM
- Full-Time School Counselor
- 0.5 Full-Time Social Worker (FTW)
- Turnaround Reading/Writing Teacher
- Instructional Coach

Dr. Spencer explained that the district follows a structured abolishment process that includes reviewing staff performance evaluations, seniority, and whether the position is

a singleton (a role held by only one person in the school). These factors help determine which positions may be impacted if reductions are required.

a. **Discussion Item 2:**

Dr. Spencer explained that GO Teams are responsible for reviewing, providing feedback on, and approving the final school budget before submission to the district. To meet district deadlines, Finch Elementary must finalize and approve the budget before March 13, 2026.

The timeline for the budgeting process includes:

- Initial budget presentation and discussion with the GO Team
- Feedback and adjustments based on GO Team input
- Additional review with district leadership
- Final GO Team vote on the proposed budget

GO Team members were reminded that completing district-required budget training is necessary to ensure members fully understand the school budgeting process and funding structures. This training helps members make informed decisions when voting on the final budget.

Members also discussed the importance of maintaining transparency with the school community while navigating the budgeting process

IV. Information Items

a. **Principal's Report**

- Ongoing academic and school climate initiatives aligned with the newly approved 2025–2030 Strategic Plan
- Continued efforts to improve attendance and academic performance in reading and math
- School community activities and celebrations connected to Black History Month
- Recognition of staff and students participating in school events and extracurricular programs

V. Announcements

- Winter Break Recess Feb 16-20 for students (18-20 for staff)
- Random Acts of Kindness Week Feb 9-13
- Budget Training to be eligible to vote on Budget at next meeting
- Declare your Candidacy for GO TEAM Feb 1-28
- Read Across America and College & Career Week March 2-6
- Next meeting March 12, 2026

VI. Adjournment

Motion made by: [Ms. E. Gore](#); Seconded by: [Ms. T. Mcknight](#)

Members Approving: Dr. T. Lester, Pastor Eric Thomas, Ms. R. LeCount, Ms. K. Caldwell, Ms. E. Lawrence, and Ms. T. Germain

Members Opposing:

Members Abstaining:

Motion Passes

ADJOURNED AT 4:12 PM

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

Position: [GO Team Secretary](#)

Date Approved: 3/12/26