

DT Howard Middle School

Date: **January 27, 2026**

Time: **4:45pm**

Location: **Virtual/YouTube:**

<https://www.youtube.com/@DavidTHowardMiddle/streams>

- I. Call to order: 4:49pm
- II. Roll Call

Role	Name (or Vacant)	Present or Absent
Principal	Tekeshia Hollis	P
Parent/Guardian	Doug Brooks	P
Parent/Guardian	Deonne Malick El-Deiry <i>Chair & Cluster Advisory Team (CAT) Representative</i>	P
Parent/Guardian	Joshua Griggs	P
Instructional Staff	Regina Bryant	P
Instructional Staff	Sudie Nolan-Cassimas <i>Vice Chair</i>	P
Instructional Staff	Jason Langbhen	P
Community Member	Heena Patel <i>Secretary</i>	P
Community Member	Boyd Baker	A
Swing Seat	Jenny Reiner	P
Student (High Schools)		

Quorum Established: **YES**

III. Action Items

- a. **Approval of Agenda:** Motion made by: Sudie Nolan-Cassimas Seconded by: Jason Langbhen
 - Members Approving: 9
 - Members Opposing: 0
 - Members Abstaining: 0
 - Motion **Passes**
- b. **Approval of Previous Minutes:**
 Motion made by: Joshua Griggs Seconded by: Sudie Nolan-Cassimas
 - Members Approving: 9
 - Members Opposing: 0
 - Members Abstaining: 0

Motion Passes

IV. Discussion Items

a. Discussion Item 1: Program Updates

- Tekeshia: Confirmed no program changes for the upcoming year, maintaining all connections classes and advanced coursework including 6th grade high school science, 8th grade high school science, and accelerated math pathways.
- Deonne: Asked if the same number of sections would be maintained.
- Tekeshia: Confirmed the goal is to keep the same number of sections, with potential for random selection for second-look candidates if seats are available.
- Deonne: Asked about expansion possibilities for growing programs.
- Tekeshia: Explained that math is the only area they traditionally expand, particularly for 6th grade families during second look.
- All current programs will be maintained for the upcoming school year.
- Math sections may be expanded based on need, particularly for 6th grade.

b. Discussion Item 2: 2025-2030 Strategic Plan Development

- Tekeshia: Presented the strategic plan that had been available for review since November.
- Deonne: Asked about inclusion of ELL (English Language Learners) in the plan.
- Tekeshia: Explained hesitation due to changing numbers in that subgroup and testing requirements.
- Deonne: Suggested getting a presentation from the ESOL department and finding a spot to report out.
- Josh: Moved to approve the 2025-2030 strategic plan.
- Jason: Seconded the motion.

- The 2025-2030 Strategic Plan was approved unanimously.
- The team agreed to invite someone from the ESOL department to present access data at a future meeting (likely March).

c. Discussion Item 3: Strategic Plan Objectives Ranking

- Tekeshia: Presented data from 6 respondents who had ranked the objectives.
- Deonne: Suggested moving the communication objective (originally #6) higher in priority.
- Jason Langbehn: Agreed with moving it up, noting culture as a key driver.
- Josh: Expressed support for keeping objectives 1, 2, and 3 as the top priorities.
- Jenny: Agreed with the consensus on rankings.
- The team agreed to move objective #6 (two-way communication) up to position #4.

- Final ranking order: 1) Student academic mastery, 2) Data-driven instruction, 3) School culture, 4) Two-way communication, 5) Staff retention.
- Sudie motioned to approve the ranking, and the motion was seconded and approved unanimously.

d. Discussion Item 4: Budget Allocation

- Tekeshia: Explained the budget process timeline, including feedback meetings in February and final approval before March 13.
- Tekeshia: Noted the proposed budget for general operations is \$16,429,170.
- Jason Langbehn: Expressed concern about the projected incoming 6th grade class being smaller than expected.
- Tekeshia: Explained that there are fewer students in the cohort overall.
- Deonne: Noted that current enrollment is around 1,190 students, with projections adding 30 students for next year.
- The budget allocation process will continue with feedback meetings in February.
- The school is projected to have 1,221 students next year, an increase of 30 students.

e. Discussion Item 5: CCRPI Results

- Tekeshia: Presented CCRPI data showing increases in all content mastery areas.
- Tekeshia: Highlighted achievement of 100+ for weighted average in ELA and math.
- Tekeshia: Noted that closing gaps score went down because targets increased from last year.
- Tekeshia: Reported progress score increases and improvements in readiness scores.
- Josh: Asked for clarification on how the 100 score for ELA Content Mastery is calculated.
- Tekeshia: Explained it's a weighted average where developing students earn half a point, proficient students earn a full point, and distinguished students earn 1.5 points.
- The school achieved a 92.8 overall CCRPI score, showing improvement from previous years.
- The school ranked approximately 17th in the state for middle grades in Content Mastery.

V. Information Items

a. Principal's Report

- Tekeshia: Reported on the science fair, with top 20 projects advancing to the District Science Fair and next 10 to the District Technology Fair.
- Tekeshia: Discussed MAP testing window in March and WriteScore testing for 6th and 7th grades.
- Tekeshia: Explained that the school paid for a third administration of WriteScore to prepare students for the peer-reviewed assessment format.
- Tekeshia: Shared that 6th and 7th grade students performed at proficient levels on WriteScore.
- Tekeshia: Described STEAM PBLs (Project-Based Learning) including gardening projects across grade levels and food truck math projects.
- Tekeshia: Announced that boys basketball team went undefeated and both boys and girls teams are advancing to playoffs.
- Students are performing well on assessments and participating in various STEAM activities.
- The school is preparing students for upcoming assessments with additional practice opportunities.

Security and Funding Concerns

- Deonne: Raised concerns from the Cluster Advisory Team meeting about fees being charged for after-school events.
- Tekeshia: Explained that the \$45,000 security grant from the state was being used to pay overtime fees for SROs.
- Tekeshia: Noted that the security grant funding will not be available next year.
- Deonne: Mentioned that athletic stipends have also been pulled back from middle and high schools.
- Tekeshia: Discussed challenges with security arrangements, including moving metal detectors to the vestibule area.
- The school will need to find alternative funding for security and after-school events next year.
- The loss of the \$45,000 security grant will impact how the school handles security arrangements.

Field Trip Funding

- Deonne: Asked about changes to field trip funding.
- Tekeshia: Confirmed that field trip transportation funding is being held at the district level.

- Tekeshia: Explained how current funds were used to decrease parent costs for field trips and increase STEAM field trip opportunities.
- Tekeshia: Described various field trips aligned with standards, including civil war sites, Old Fourth Ward civil sites, and Piedmont Park.
- Field trip transportation funding is changing, with funds being held at the district level.
- The school has been intentional about aligning field trips with academic standards.

Challenges

- Loss of \$45,000 security grant funding for the next school year will impact security arrangements and after-school event staffing.
- Changes to field trip transportation funding may affect the school's ability to offer affordable field trips.
- Athletic stipends have been pulled back from middle schools and will be submitted through a new process.
- New security requirements for the vestibule area are not funded, creating staffing challenges.
- Fees for after-school events (SROs, custodial overtime) are creating budget pressures without additional funding.

Action items

- **Tekeshia (Principal Hollis)**
 - Invite someone from the ESOL department to present access data at the March meeting.
 - Prepare draft budget allocation based on ranked strategic objectives for February meeting.
 - Rethink security arrangements for next year without security grant funding.
- **GO Team**
 - Review draft budget allocation at February meeting.
 - Provide feedback on budget priorities before staffing conferences.
 - Vote on final budget recommendation before March 13.
- **Deonne**
 - Share Cluster Advisory Team meeting notes with GO Team members.

VI. Adjournment

Motion made by: Josh Briggs; Seconded by: Regina Bryant

Members Approving: 9

Members Opposing: 0

Members Abstaining: 0

Motion Passes

ADJOURNED AT 6:17pm

Minutes Taken By: [Heena Patel](#)

Position: [Secretary](#)

Date Approved: 1/31/2026