

## DT Howard Middle School

Date: **November 11, 2025**

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	A
Parent/Guardian	Deonne Malick El-Deiry <i>Chair &amp; 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 Langbehn	P
Community Member	Heena Patel <i>Secretary</i>	P
Community Member	Boyd Baker	P
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: Joshua Griggs  
 Members Approving: 8  
 Members Opposing: 0  
 Members Abstaining: 0  
**Motion Passes**
- b. **Approval of Previous Minutes:**  
 Motion made by: Jason Langbehn Seconded by: James Baker  
 Members Approving: 8  
 Members Opposing: 0  
 Members Abstaining: 0

## Motion Passes

- c. **Action Item 1:**  
Motion made by: ; Seconded by:  
Members Approving:  
Members Opposing:  
Members Abstaining:  
**Motion**

## IV. Discussion Items

- a. **Discussion Item 1: 2025-2030 Strategic Plan Development**

The team reviewed the draft strategic plan components and discussed alignment with district priorities.

### Mission and Vision Statement Review

- o **Tekeshia:** Presented the proposed mission statement: "We educate all students through authentic, rigorous, and relevant learning experiences grounded in our signature STEAM programming" and vision statement: "All David T Howard students become critically thinking, responsible citizens and empowered innovators ready to shape the future in a rapidly changing world."
- o **Team:** No objections were raised to the proposed mission and vision statements.

### 2025-2030 Strategic Goals

- o **Tekeshia:** Presented three proposed goals:
  1. By Spring 2030, increase ELA proficiency from 73% to 88% overall, with Black subgroup increasing from 36% to 56% and SWD from 24% to 44%.
  2. By Spring 2030, increase Math proficiency from 68% to 83% overall, with Black subgroup increasing from 30% to 50% and SWD from 26% to 46%.
  3. By Spring 2030, maintain CCRPI attendance rate at or above 90%, ensuring chronic absenteeism doesn't exceed 10%.
- o **Josh:** Supported the ambitious targets and appreciated that subgroup targets show faster progress to narrow achievement gaps.
- o **Jason:** Suggested spelling out acronyms like SWD (Students with Disabilities) for clarity.

- **Deonne:** Proposed defining acronyms in footnotes to maintain document readability.

## Strategic Objectives Alignment

- **Tekeshia:** Presented the current 10 strategic objectives reorganized under the district's new 6 focus areas.
- **Josh:** Questioned whether continuing the same objectives would be sufficient to achieve the ambitious 15% gains in proficiency.
- **Jason:** Advocated for refining existing practices rather than starting from scratch, noting the positive momentum under current leadership.
- **Sudie:** Agreed with focusing on big-impact items while using school strategies to address specific needs.
- **Team:** Unanimously agreed to keep the current strategic objectives with their existing language, moving "Create an environment that motivates and retains staff members" to the "Our Strength is Our Team" focus area.

## V. Information Items

### a. Principal's Report

#### Intervention Strategies

Principal Hollis provided a detailed overview of current intervention strategies.

- **Tekeshia:** Outlined four main intervention approaches:
  1. Math and Reading Support classes (capped at 18 students)
  2. Saturday School (targeting bottom 25th percentile using MAP data)
  3. Teacher tutorials (before school, after school, during lunch)
  4. Small group instruction in every classroom
- **Tekeshia:** Explained that reading/math support classes use MAP data for placement, with parent opt-out option (3-5 parents per grade level opt out).
- **Josh:** Asked how resources are allocated to support these interventions.
- **Tekeshia:** Explained that budget adjustments were made to fund reading/math support teachers, MTSS/504 specialist position, and maintaining smaller class sizes than state recommendations.

#### School Achievements and Updates

Principal Hollis shared recent school accomplishments and ongoing activities.

- **Tekeshia:** Reported current enrollment at 1,191 students with attendance rate maintaining above 90%.

- **Tekeshia:** Highlighted sports achievements including 3-time APS Middle School Softball Champions.
- **Tekeshia:** Described STEAM initiatives including garden project with UGA, Beltline partnership, school-wide Science Fair, and recycling collaboration with Hawks and Novellus.
- **Tekeshia:** Announced recognition as a Beating the Odds School, 2025 Literacy Leader School, 2024-2025 Math Leader School, and 5-Star Climate Rating School.

## b. APS Forward 2040 –Comprehensive Long-Range Facilities Plan Update

Updates on cluster-wide initiatives and long-range planning were provided.

- **Deonne:** Reported on the Cluster Advisory Team's first meeting and plans for a data dig in spring.
- **Deonne:** Shared updates on the APS Forward 2040 comprehensive facilities plan, including a proposed 300-capacity addition for the cluster dependent on East SPLOST approval.
- **Deonne:** Outlined timeline for East SPLOST discussions (January-March) with board vote in June and public vote in November.

## Action items

### • All GO Team members

- Review the draft strategic plan and submit any suggested revisions to Principal Hollis or Chair Malick before the January meeting.
- Consider how to rank the strategic objectives in preparation for the January meeting.

### • Tekeshia

- Add previous rankings to the strategic objectives document for reference.
- Create and distribute a survey for GO Team members to rank strategic objectives.
- Add footnotes defining acronyms in the strategic plan document.

### • GO Team

- Vote on the 2025-2030 Strategic Plan at the January meeting.
- Rank strategic objectives to guide budget allocation at the January meeting.
- Begin discussion of the 2026-2027 budget at the January meeting.

## VI. Adjournment

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

Members Approving: 7

Members Opposing: 0

Members Abstaining: 0

Motion Passes

**ADJOURNED AT 6:17pm**

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Minutes Taken By: Heena Patel

Position: Secretary

Date Approved: 11/21/2025