Budget Finalization Meeting Minutes

Sarah Smith Elementary
Date: March 12, 2026
Time: 3:00 pm
Location: Intermediate Campus Conference Room
Recording Link: https://www.youtube.com/@sarahsmithgoteam8171

I. **Call to order: 3:04 pm**
II. **Roll Call**

Role	Name *(or Vacant)*	Present or Absent
Principal	Stacey Perot	Present
Parent/Guardian	Cimona Hinton Dirickson	Present
Parent/Guardian	Elizabeth Zielinski	Present
Parent/Guardian	Ann Mintman	Present
Instructional Staff	Chiesa Carter	Present
Instructional Staff	Prissy Stewart	Present
Instructional Staff	Jennifer Moore	Present
Community Member	Kelsey Bunker	Present
Community Member	Laquisha Smith	Present
Swing Seat	Javier Irizzary	Present
Student *(High Schools)*		
Student *(High Schools)*		

Guests Present: none
Quorum Established: Yes

III. **Action Items**

A. **Approval of Agenda:** Motion made by: Ann Mintman ; Seconded by: Chiesa Carter
Members Approving: All
Members Opposing: None
Members Abstaining: None
Motion Passes

B. **Approval of Previous Minutes:**
Motion made by: Prissy Stewart; Seconded by: Ann Mintman
Members Approving: All
Members Opposing: None
Members Abstaining: None
Motion Passes

C. **Approval of the Final Budget Recommendation** *(after final presentation/review)*:
Motion made by: Elizabeth Zielinski; Seconded by: Ann Mintman
Members Approving: All
Members Opposing: None
Members Abstaining: None
Motion Passes

IV. Discussion Items

A. **Discussion Item 1**: Final budget recommendation

Ms. Perot presented the final budget. There were no changes from the last discussion. Majority of final budget is allotted for Instruction. Ms. Moore asked about GATE teacher allotment and whether there can be changes in the Fall. Mrs. Perot shared proposed plans for reserve funds and suggested that we allow for flexibility for reserve plans programmatically, ie: homeroom teachers, GATE configuration.
Odd number of homerooms next year will be divided into DLI duo, duo, and trio classes.
Budget proposal has been shared with SILT Team and Leadership Team. It has not been shared with complete staff.

V. Information Items

A. **Principal's Report**

- Academic & Social Events through May - sending out through Parent Square, Ms. Henson will send out a calendar for specific dates for PC performances.
- Student led conferences - Mrs. Perot will explain in Parent Square. They are a part of IB PYP. Additional staff members will be in classes to support students.
- Mrs. Perot shared Milestones Resources from a presentation at the Caffeine Chat.
- Mrs. Perot answered a question about conditions of transfer students with requirements from APS. Monitored by the Whole Child Care Team. Employee Admin transfers fall under different conditions.
- 91 parents have completed the 2026 School Climate Survey, which is open until March 31st.
- Demographics have stayed consistent through the year.
- GATE eligibility will hopefully be by the end of April, but looking at 1st week in May. Streamlined process this year. Parents can review data with GATE teachers after eligibility reports are sent to parents.
- Mrs. Perot shared 2025 data results of Family Survey. 2025 sample = 27 parents; 2026 sample = 91 parents, so far
- New attendance incentives in place. Grade level - grade level shows improvement = prizes, classroom level = March Madness, individual level - targeting less than 20 students who have chronic absenteeism by looking at data

on individual students. Families are getting reminders from Everyday lab. Social worker is working hard on this. Attendance looks at excused/unexcused absences. Communicate with parents on the 11:15 and 1:45 deadline.

- Math Adoption - Eureka Math 2.0 and HMH Into Math - teachers have observed each package and chose HMH Into Math - scaffolding, Georgia aligned. Will still use Gadot lessons. Question about grouping across grade level for math ability - Mrs. Perot said students are working in small groups within the classrooms. Looking at building in math element to GATE. HMH has testing, but waiting to see when and what district will roll them out to schools.
- IB ambassadors have asked that restrooms be cleaned regularly.
- Custodians now must be hired to APS, not through a service.

B. **CAT Meeting Report Out** Reviewed plan of Road to ESPLOST 2027. North Atlanta cluster looked at specific cluster program areas. Top 3 - Safety and Security, Facilities, and Transportation.

VI. Announcements

GO Team voting will be soon.

Robert Sarkissian, former SRS parent and community member, passed away recently. PTO will send a memorial gift.

VII. Adjournment

Motion made by: Elizabeth Zielinski; Seconded by: Cimona Hinton Dirickson
Members Approving: All
Members Opposing: None
Members Abstaining: None
Motion Passes

ADJOURNED AT 4:15 pm

Minutes Taken By: Prissy Stewart
Position: Instructional Staff
Date Approved: April 23, 2026