Meeting Minutes

William M Finch ES
Date: March 12, 2026
Time: 3:30 PM
Location: ZOOM

I. **Call to order:** 3:37PM
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

III. **Action Items**

a. **Approval of Agenda:** Motion made by: Ms. Erin Gore; Seconded by: Pastor Eric Thomas
Members Approving: Ms. Edwina Lawrence, Ms. Kashon Caldwell, Ms. Tesia Germain, Ms. Tatyana McKnight, Dr. Terence Lester, and Ms. Rekina LeCount
Members Opposing: 0
Members Abstaining: 0
Motion Passes

b. **Approval of Previous Minutes:** *List amendments to the minutes:*
Motion made by: Ms. Edwina Lawrence; Seconded by: Ms. Rekina LeCount
Members Approving: Ms. Kashon Caldwell, Ms. Tesia Germain, Ms. Tatyana McKnight, Pastor Eric Thomas, Dr. Terence Lester, and Ms. Erin Gore
Members Opposing: 0
Members Abstaining: 0
Motion Passes

c. **Action Item 1: Motion: FY27 Budget Finalization**
Motion made by: Ms. Kashon Caldwell Seconded by: Ms. Edwina Lawrence
Members Approving: Ms. Erin Gore, Ms. Kashon Caldwell, Ms. Tesia Germain, Ms. Tatyana McKnight, Dr. Terence Lester, Pastor Eric Thomas, and Ms. Rekina LeCount
Members Opposing: 0
Members Abstaining:0
Motion Passes

IV. Discussion Items

a. **Discussion Item 1**: **FY27 Budget Finalization**
Dr. Tara Spencer presented the final budget with specific staffing reductions to address the deficit. Dr. Spencer explained the budget process from the strategic plan development through final approval, noting no changes since February feedback meeting. It was explained that a balancing budget deficit of $318,000 required difficult staffing reductions including instructional positions. Detailed staffing reductions including 1.0 Instructional Coach, 1.0 Intervention Specialist, 1.0 Signature Paraprofessional, and clerk days reduced from 231 to 211. Dr. Spencer also presented budget allocation showing over 80% focus on instruction and student services. FY27 budget was approved unanimously by GO Team.

V. Information Items

a. **Principal's Report**
School Activities and Updates
Dr. Spencer shared recent school events and accomplishments.
Finch highlighted Read Across America Week with special guest Ms. Floyd, great-great-granddaughter of William M. Finch. Dr. Spencer also reported that 200 students with perfect attendance earned a field trip to the College Hall of Fame. The basketball team has been doing great, losing by one point to the undefeated team on senior night! Dr. Spencer also described College and Career Day with representatives from Morehouse and Spelman and acknowledged community partnerships including Cathedral of Faith.

b. **Information Item: Math Textbook Adoption**
The school selected HMH (Into Math) over Eureka Math for the upcoming school year. The district presented two options - Eureka Math (Common Core aligned) and HMH Into Math (Georgia standards aligned). HMH offers built-in differentiation, personalized learning, and a familiar digital platform already used for ELA. Teachers reviewed materials at different sites and received

preview from the instructional coach. HMH (Into Math) was selected for better alignment with Georgia Milestones and teacher familiarity with platform

c. **Information Item: E-SPLOST 2027 Information**
Dr. Spencer provided detailed information about the upcoming E-SPLOST vote and its implications for the school. Dr. Spencer explained E-SPLOST and noted E-SPLOST funds would support the Finch-Perkerson merger into the Sylvan building. The timeline includes community engagement February-May 2026, Board proposal March-April 2026, Board adoption June 2026, and referendum vote November 3, 2026. The GO Team is encouraged to attend CAP meetings and Accelerate APS series to provide input. If passed, collections begin July 1, 2027.

VI. Public Comment (No visitors attended this meeting)

VII. Announcements

- PTA meeting date changed from March 12, new date to be communicated
- GO Team candidacy declarations due March 13th
- Early release day Monday, March 16th at 11:15am
- MAP Assessment for K-2 begins March 16th
- APTT and Parent-Teacher Conferences March 18th at 4pm with free dinner
- Amira testing for K-3 foundational literacy opens March 23rd
- Teacher of the Year and Support Person of the Year celebration April 3rd
- Spring Break April 6-10
- Georgia Milestones Assessment Night April 21st
- Teacher Appreciation Week May 4-8
- Milestones testing begins April 28, 2026, with 26 instructional days remaining
- Next GO Team meeting May 14, 2026 at 3:30pm

C. Adjournment

Motion made by: Ms. Erin Gore; Seconded by: Ms. Kashon Caldwell
Members Approving: Ms. Edwina Lawrence, Pastor Eric Thomas, Ms. Tesia Germain, Ms. Tatyana McKnight, Dr. Terence Lester, and Ms. Rekina LeCount
Members Opposing: 0
Members Abstaining: 0
Motion Passes

ADJOURNED AT 4:02 PM

Minutes Taken By: Rekina C. LeCount
Position: Secretary, GO Team Member

Date Approved: May 14, 2026