School Governance Council
Meeting Minutes

February 18, 2026, 6:00 PM | Location: Virtual Meeting

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Chair John Young. Mr. Young welcomed members and confirmed quorum requirements.

Approval of Agenda

A motion was made to approve the agenda with noted corrections to the meeting date and previous minutes reference.

• Motion: Joshua Franklin
• Second: Karissa Reid
• Vote: Approved unanimously

Approval of Previous Minutes and Action Summary

The council reviewed the previously distributed January meeting minutes and action summary.

• Motion: Joshua Franklin
• Second: Karissa Reid
• Vote: Approved unanimously

Elections Update

Ms. Canty provided an update regarding SGC elections.

Key points included:

• One parent candidate has submitted for the open parent seat
• No teacher candidate had officially submitted at the time of the meeting
• Election outreach efforts remain ongoing

Book Vending Machine Discussion

Ms. Canty provided follow-up information regarding the proposed Book Nook vending machine initiative, which originated during the January meeting.

Discussion highlights included:

• Multiple principals across Fulton County highly recommended the program
• Preliminary pricing included approximately:

- $5,000 for the machine
- $2,500 for initial book inventory
  • Books can be customized to reflect Cliftondale student needs and interests
  • The machine wrap can be customized with Cliftondale branding
  • Additional discussion focused on long-term sustainability, maintenance, restocking procedures, and operational support from the vendor

The council expressed strong support for moving forward with the initiative pending final vendor review and district purchasing procedures.

• Motion: Karissa Reid moved to proceed with the Book Nook vending machine initiative
• Second: Joaquin Knight
• Vote: Approved unanimously

Principal's Budget Presentation – Ms. Arnisha Canty

Strategic Plan Alignment

Ms. Canty reviewed the school's strategic priorities and explained how all budget decisions align directly with district and school improvement goals.

Areas highlighted included:

• Academic performance
• Safety and operational efficiency
• Workforce engagement
• Community partnerships
• Effective use of resources

FY27 Budget Overview

Ms. Canty presented the preliminary FY27 budget projections.

Budget Highlights

• FY26 Budget: $8,997,680
• FY27 Preliminary Budget: $9,682,887
• Increased Title I funding allocation projected
• Per-pupil allocation reduced from $130 to $120 districtwide

Enrollment Projections

• Projected FY27 enrollment: 727 students
• Continued enrollment growth noted across Cliftondale and South Fulton schools

Staffing Allocations

Projected staffing additions included:

• Additional Kindergarten teacher
• Additional 3rd Grade teacher
• Additional IRR Special Education teacher
• Additional KSE classroom allocation
• Increased adaptive services support

Ms. Canty noted that classroom utilization and space constraints remain under review as staffing allocations increase.

Budget Purchases & Resource Allocations

Ms. Canty reviewed proposed expenditures including:

• Instructional coaches (Math and Literacy)
• Parent liaison position
• EIP support staffing
• Classroom instructional supplies
• Transportation for field trips
• Staff development
• Custodial and operational services
• Safety and traffic support

Discussion emphasized maintaining strong instructional support systems despite budget constraints.

Extended Learning & Academic Program Support

Ms. Canty informed the council that Fulton County Schools will discontinue district funding for Extended Learning tutorials beginning FY27.

Potential future SGC-supported items discussed included:

• Reading A-Z
• Vocabulary A-Z
• Nearpod
• Extended Learning / Growing Beyond tutorials

Mr. Young provided historical context regarding prior SGC support for academic resources before district funding changes.

Council members expressed strong support for continuing instructional software and intervention programs.

Adoption of FY27 Preliminary Budget

The council reviewed and discussed the proposed FY27 budget.

• Motion: Alicia Clemmons
• Second: Fawn Bell-Palmer
• Vote: Approved unanimously

The budget will now proceed to the Zone Superintendent and Budget Services for final district approval.

School Announcements

Ms. Canty shared upcoming school events including:

• Black History Program
• Father-Daughter Dance
• Continued community engagement activities

Volunteers and support from council members were welcomed.

Math Bee Funding Request

Ms. Alicia Clemmons and Ms. Karissa Reid presented a proposal supporting Cliftondale’s Math Bee initiative.

Requested items included:

• Student swag bags with math games and learning tools
• Math Bee participant T-shirts
• Commemorative school trophy

Total request: $1,126.56

The council discussed the academic value of the Math Bee and its role in strengthening student confidence and math fluency.

• Motion: Joaquin Knight moved to approve Math Bee funding
• Second: Mercede Hightower
• Vote: Approved unanimously

GMAS Incentives & Testing Support

Mr. Young proposed continuing SGC support for GMAS testing incentives and student morale initiatives.

Approved testing supports included:

• Friday testing snacks and juice
• Classroom peppermints during testing
• Exploration of student incentive prizes for high achievement

Discussion included possible Nintendo Switch incentives and criteria development for student recognition.

The leadership team will further develop recommendations prior to final implementation.

Spring Fundraiser Update

Mr. Young shared updates regarding the upcoming spring fundraiser.

Key points included:

• Fundraiser kickoff scheduled prior to Spring Break
• Fundraiser to continue through Spring Break
• Delivery anticipated April 20
• Funds support school-wide priorities and operational needs

Adjournment

A motion was made to adjourn the meeting.

• Motion: Joaquin Knight
• Second: Alicia Clemmons
• Vote: Approved unanimously

The meeting was adjourned.