

**Palmetto Elementary School Governance Council
Meeting Minutes**

Date: September 18, 2026

Time: 8:00 a.m.

Location: Cafeteria

Members Present

Jacqueline Bowens, Raschaa Howard, Marcie Lewis, Jacqueline Braemer, Catherine Brannon, Siedah Richardson, Joseph Wills, Renita Bridges, and Bernard Knox. Mrs. Siedah Richardson was welcomed and introduced as a returning council member.

Call to Order

Mrs. Brannon called the meeting to order at 8:00 a.m.

Action Item: Approve Agenda

The agenda was presented for review. A motion was made by Howard and seconded by Brannon to approve the agenda. The agenda was approved unanimously.

Action Item: Share August Meeting Minutes

Mrs. Howard shared the August meeting minutes with council members for review.

Action Item: Approve August Meeting Minutes

A motion was made by Knox and seconded by Lewis to approve the August meeting minutes. The minutes were approved unanimously.

Action Item: Approve Strategic Plan and School Initiatives

Mrs. Bowens reviewed the school's strategic plan and academic goals for the 2026-2027 school year. Key discussion points included:

- Palmetto Elementary is part of Zone 2 and feeds into Creekside High School.
- Creekside High School's 2024-2025 graduation rate was 89%.
- Overall GMAS proficiency for full academic year students was 46.8%.
- Fifth-grade Science proficiency declined slightly from the previous year.
- Academic goals for 2026-2027 include increasing GMAS proficiency by 5% and increasing i-Ready Reading and Math performance by 5%.
- No significant changes were made to the existing strategic plan.
- Additional strategic plan focus areas include school safety, ISS/OSS reduction, employee retention, charter dollars, community partnerships, attendance, and employee satisfaction.
- The school counselor and social worker will monitor student attendance and provide incentives to support improved attendance throughout the year.

Council members reviewed the plan and initiatives. The 2026-2027 Strategic Plan and School Initiatives were approved unanimously.

Discussion Item: Share Council Roster and Website

Mrs. Bowens shared the current council roster and discussed updates needed for the school's website. The following updates were identified:

- Add Mrs. Siedah Richardson to the council roster.
- Update council officer information.

- Post the 2026-2027 meeting dates.

Council members discussed the importance of maintaining accurate and current information on the website.

Discussion Item: Charter Dollars (\$40,000)

Mrs. Bowens facilitated discussion regarding the use of charter funds. Suggestions included:

- Field Day shirts for students
- School supplies
- Educational field trips
- Student headphones
- Technology purchases, including iPads
- Science-related instructional activities
- Student dances and enrichment activities
- Ponchos and umbrellas for staff assisting with car rider duty

It was noted that charter funds may be used for student-related items and activities, but not for staff shirts.

Mr. Knox requested additional information from Mrs. Brannon so that EMC could potentially assist in facilitating student activities.

Informational Item: Principal's School Updates

Mrs. Bowens shared several school updates, including:

- Construction of the new school building is expected to begin in 2027.
- The new facility will be modeled after Global Impact Academy.
- Palmetto Elementary will become the first K-8 STEM school in Fulton County Schools.
- Fall Break is scheduled for the following week; September 21-25, 2026.

2026-2027 Meeting Norms

Council members reviewed meeting norms and expectations for the 2026-2027 school year. Members agreed to maintain professionalism, collaboration, and active participation during meetings.

Adjournment

With no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 8:25.

Minutes Prepared By:

Raschaa Howard, Parliamentarian