# MINUTES

## Shakerag Elementary School Governance Council

***Date | time*** 09/09/2026 | 8:00 am | ***Location*** PLC Conference Room

### SGC Members

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|---|---|---|
| Brittany Burnett, Staff (appointed) | Craig Cunningham, Community Member (approved) | Chantel Dowling, Staff (appointed) |
| Keith Kreutzer, Community Member (approved) -A | Christine Lemerond, Principal | Rashi Manaktala, Staff (elected) - A |
| Tony McNary, Parent (elected) | NaTasha Pennywell, Teacher (elected) | Kathy Preuss, Parent (elected) |
| Megha Solanki, Parent (elected) - Absent | | |

**FY27 Norms:** Be focused and the voice of all stakeholders. ~ Be present, timely, and focused, and goal oriented.

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We will now begin our September 09, 2026, meeting of the School Governance Council of Shakerag Elementary School. The Council welcomes and encourages citizens to attend its meetings to become better acquainted with the school programs and the role of the School Governance Council. This meeting is open to the public but is not a public meeting. Citizens are welcome to attend the meeting but must refrain from interruption or distracting the council proceedings. If there are any questions or information that you have for the council, you may contact one of the council members after this meeting or plan to speak at one of the meetings that reserves time for public comment. You can find the council member contact information, meeting dates, and agenda on the School Governance page of the Shakerag Elementary School website.

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| Time | Item | Owner |
|---|---|---|
| 8:00am | **Action Item: Call to Order**<br>• Call to order: Craig Cunningham | Mrs. Burnett |
| 8:01am | **Action Item: Approve Agenda**<br>• Motion to approve: NaTasha Pennywell<br>• Second: Tony McNary | Mrs. Burnett |
| 8:02am | **Action Item: Approve August Meeting Minutes**<br>• Motion to approve: NaTasha Pennywell<br>• Second: Kathy Preuss | Mrs. Burnett |
| 8:03am | **Action Item: Finalize Committee Chair Positions**<br>**Budget and Finance**: Rashi Manaktala, Tony McNary, Craig Cunningham<br>**Outreach and Communication:** NaTasha Pennywell, Keith Kreutzer, Chantel Dowling<br>• Budget and Finance Chair: Craig Cunnigham<br>• Outreach and Communication: NaTasha Pennywell<br>• Motion to approve: Kathy Preuss<br>• Second: NaTasha Pennywell | Mrs. Burnett |
| 8:05am | **Information Item: Principal's Update**<br>• Assessments<br>  ○ Annual beginning of the year assessments were completed before Labor Day<br>  ○ We are ready to hit the ground running<br>• Calendar<br>  ○ We have encountered several scheduling conflicts this year. We hope to have all the changes needed finalized now.<br>  ○ BINGO Night was moved to October 16 as to not conflict with the opening of The Medley.<br>  ○ The chorus is going to sing the National Anthem again at the March 12 Gladiator's Game. This caused us to have to move the school dance to March 5.<br>  ○ Northview International Night is a huge community event. They had to move their date to February 11, which helped our Storybook Night conflict but now impacted the | Mrs. Lemerond |

Northview Cluster Chorus Concert. The Chorus Concert has now been moved to February 2.

- Month to month update:
  - Sept is packed with pictures, Worth it Wednesday, Teacher and Professional of the year luncheon (Congratulations Mrs. Fike and Mrs. Paul), Strong 4 Life Pep Rally on the 17th (partner with CHOA, pep squad to encourage healthy lifestyle, return in the Spring to assist in the Café and PE).
  - Conferences begin September 28th and finish by the end of October. Encourage parents to meet with teachers at least once.
  - October 3rd Hands on Shakerag, Oct. 12th No School, Oct. 14th next SGC meeting

8:15am **Action Item: Charter Dollar Expenditure** Mrs. Lemerond

- We always need additional staff to support our students
- We would like to ask for approval to use all of our Charter Dollars toward an instructional paraprofessional.
- Once approved, the request is made with the district to add the position. Once processed, we are then able to hire. The timeline depends on how quickly the district approves and how quickly we are able to find the right person for the position.
  - Motion to approve: Kathy Preuss
  - Second: NaTasha Pennywell
  - All in favor: No opposed

8:25am **Discussion Item: Strategic Plan Update** Mrs. Lemerond

- The Strategic Plan process is simplified this year as the district transitions back to a multi-year plan
- District goal is 80% of our students showing master across the board in Milestones and reading at or above grade level.
- We will carry over our current plan.
- We are looking forward to receiving our reading/ELA milestones data late fall as results are postponed due to new standards.
- Zone 6 will be focusing on our Special Education students this year. We continue to see gains in most of our special programs but are really working on our students receiving special education services.

8:30am **Discussion Item: Review 2026 Council Self-Assessment and Create Initiatives*** ** Mrs. Burnett

- Spring Event- Market
  - What can be done to bring the school and community together?
  - NaTasha would like more space for garden. Ms. Munson gave the idea of incorporating students' artwork in the event.
  - Craig suggested the Spring Market with vendors that will require only a small number of volunteers.
  - Involving students with arts and crafts.
  - Decisions: Include middle and high school, pick a date, this year or next year, the objective
  - Next meeting: decide if this can be done and what is the process to begin planning.
  - Suggested starting off small first and then expanding later.
- Council Self-Assessment: This year we will hold ourselves accountable.

8:45am **Discussion Item: SGC Council Development Opportunities** All Members

(SGC Essential Training in Canvas for new members, In Person Officer

Training and Cross Council) **

- October 14th North Learning Center 9-12. 1-2 reps to attend
    - Tony McNary agreed to attend for our council.
    - Any staff interested in attending should reach out to Christine.

8:50am **Discussion Item: Set Next Meeting Agenda for 10/14** Mrs. Burnett

- Public Comment
- School Counseling Update (10 min.)
- Follow-up on Spring Event

9.00am **Action Item: Meeting Adjournment** Mrs. Burnett

- Motion to adjourn meeting at 8:59 AM: Craig Cunningham
- Second: NaTasha Pennywell

## Notes from the Governance and Flexibility Team

**** SGC Council Development Opportunities:**

**SGC Essential Training**

Our comprehensive SGC training course is essential for understanding the vital roles and responsibilities within the School Governance Council. This training is designed to equip members with knowledge about the SGC's core structure and key processes for successful school governance.

Login Instructions for Canvas:

1. Open your browser and go to fultonschools.instructure.com.
2. Click "employee log in" and sign in with your Microsoft account.
3. Complete authentication and follow the prompts to reduce sign-in requests.
4. Once logged in, find the School Governance Essential Training listed under courses.

**2026 In Person Officer Training**

All SGC Officers (Council Chairs, Vice-Chairs, and Parliamentarians) are required to complete Officer Training (*unless completed in previous years*). Please note that this will be a more in depth, hands-on training for newly elected officers. This is different from the Officer Training Module found in the Canvas Training.

Click below to register to attend one of the sessions. 2026 Officer Training Sign Up Link

**Fall 2026 Cross Council Events**

The Governance & Flexibility Team is excited to invite all School Governance Councils to our Fall Cross Council events—two engaging mornings designed to connect, collaborate, and inspire.

These sessions are a unique opportunity for SGC members to learn from district leaders, the Governance & Flexibility Team, and each other. They bring together councils from across the district, creating space for collaboration within feeder patterns and across grade bands.

*Dates & Locations to be announced soon!*

*** **SY26-27 Council Initiatives:** Review Council Self-Assessment. As a reminder, these were sent in the July Newsletter. Begin discussions to determine the focus of the council's upcoming work. Lean on your school's Strategic Action Plan to ensure the work of the council is aligned with the goals and initiatives being targeted by the school leaders. Task the council with prioritizing 1 – 2 initiatives the SGC could lead or support throughout the year.

****VAF/Programmatic Updates**

All flexibility and programming submissions are due from schools by October 2nd and can be completed using the VAF/Programming Form located on the Charter System Website Flexibility page.

Schools should use the form to submit the following:

- New Value-Added Flexibility Requests – Use the form to request any new flexibilities for the 2027-2028 school year.
- Updates on Current Flexibilities – All schools approved for value-added flexibilities since 2021 must submit an implementation update. If your school has multiple approved flexibilities, you may select them from the dropdown in the form and submit a single update on overall progress. A separate update for each flexibility is not required.

- Magnet Program Updates/Requests – This includes requests for new magnet programs, updates on all current magnet programs, and notices of sunsetting or discontinuing magnet programs. All schools with magnet programs must submit an update for each program. Schools with multiple magnet programs will need to complete multiple forms.

All submissions require School Governance Council approval and a 30-day public comment period. Instructions for managing the public comment process are available on the *Charter System Website*.

Schools wishing to opt-in to one of the four district preapproved waivers should complete the short *Opt-In Notice of Adoption* form and follow the linked instructions.

Please contact the Governance & Flexibility Team with any questions or to request additional support.