Palmetto Elementary School Governance Council
Meeting Minutes

Date: October 30, 2026
Time: 8:00 a.m.
Location: Cafeteria
Meeting Called to Order: 8:03 a.m.

Members Present
Jacqueline Bowens, Principal; Raschaa Howard, Parliamentarian; Marcie Lewis, MTSS; Jacqualine Braemer, Vice President; Catherine Brannon, President; Shelley Leonta, Parent; Joseph Wills, Parent; Renita Bridges, Community Member; and Bernard Knox, Community Member.

Approval of Agenda
A motion to approve the agenda was made by Marcie Lewis and seconded by Bernard Knox. The motion carried.

Approval of September Meeting Minutes
Raschaa Howard presented the September meeting minutes for review. A motion to approve the September meeting minutes was made by Bernard Knox and seconded by Catherine Brannon. The motion carried.

Discussion Item: Fall Council Meeting Report
Mrs. Brannon and Mrs. Braemer attended the Fall Council Meeting and shared information and updates from the district training.
Key topics included:

- Strategies for supporting families through school-based resources such as food pantries and clothing closets.
- Clarification regarding allowable uses of charter dollars.
- Examples of approved expenditures including educational field trips, academic supplies, guest speakers, student incentives, professional learning opportunities, family engagement events, book vending machines, and staff wellness spaces.
- Discussion of expenditures that are not permitted, including food, gift cards, and funding permanent positions.
- Information about how other schools utilize charter dollars and the possibility of providing councils with examples of approved expenditures across the district.
- Presentations from other schools regarding successful STEM programs and fundraising initiatives, including Color Run events and large-scale STEM Days.
- Introduction to an interactive digital playground system that integrates physical activity with academic content across multiple subjects.
- Small group discussions focused on increasing awareness and participation in School Governance Councils. Members discussed incorporating SGC information into curriculum nights and other school events to improve parent engagement.

Council members agreed that increasing visibility and awareness of the SGC could lead to greater parent and teacher participation.

Action Item: Additional Usage of SGC Funds
Principal Bowens presented several proposed expenditures for School Governance Council funding.

Mrs. Bowens proposed funding a STEM field trip to the Gateway Center Arena, home of the College Park Skyhawks. The program uses basketball to teach students science and mathematics concepts.

Proposed costs included:

- Student admission: $4,520
- Transportation (five buses): $2,250

Additional Funding Requests

Mrs. Bowens also requested consideration for:

- K-Cups for teacher coffee machines
- Copy paper for the school Xerox machine
- Pre-K instructional books
- Renewal of the Generation Genius instructional platform
- Copies of *Leave Love in Every Room* by Joseph Lovehall
- Additional instructional workbooks and online learning resources

A motion was made by Mrs. Leonta and seconded by Mr. Knox to approve the proposed expenditures from available SGC funds. The motion carried.

PTA Trunk-or-Treat Update

The PTA shared plans for the school's Trunk-or-Treat event.
Event highlights include:

- Twelve registered trunks
- Games and outdoor activities
- Soccer balls, hula hoops, jump ropes, and sidewalk chalk
- Music, costumes, candy, and a bubble machine

The event will be held in the rear field area of the school to provide a safe space for students and families.

Member Updates

Instructional Resources

Members discussed potential instructional resources that may support teachers, including supplemental workbooks and online learning programs aligned to Georgia Standards of Excellence.

MTSS Report

No significant MTSS concerns were reported.

Community Partnerships and Teacher Appreciation

Bernard Knox reported securing community support for teacher appreciation efforts, including:

- A potential $1,000 donation from a local banking partner.
- Additional donations from community members and businesses.
- Future opportunities for teacher grants and classroom funding.

Mr. Knox also shared information regarding:

- Community support for the future school construction project.
- Potential donations of software and educational resources from business partners.
- Opportunities for teacher tours, partnerships, and classroom grants.

PTA Fundraiser
The PTA announced a fundraiser at Oz Pizza in Fairburn on **November 10, 2026, from 5:00 p.m. until 9:00 p.m.**

Recognition of New SGC Members
Mrs. Bowens read a message from district SGC leadership thanking members for their dedication and service to their schools and communities.
New School Governance Council members were recognized and welcomed.

Adjournment
With no further business to discuss, a motion to adjourn was made and approved.

Meeting adjourned at 8:41 a.m.