**Peyton Forest Elementary**

**Date: February 17th, 2021**

**Time: 2:30-3:30pm**

**Location:** **Virtual Zoom Meeting**

**<https://atlantapublicschools-us.zoom.us/j/87173040306?pwd=SmVRSDZ4NFAwKzZxYm9ySE00Ymp3QT09#success>**

1. **Call to order**
2. **Roll Call; Establish Quorum**
3. **Opening Items:**
	1. GO Team Legislation Meeting Notes can be found on 2nd Page of the Agenda
	2. Striving for 100% Completion of Governance Budget Assessment
	3. Declarations for the 2021 GO Team elections are now open. Spread the Word!
		1. Parents/Guardians Declaring Candidacy can fill out the following form (Teachers do not have to fill out form) <https://form.jotform.com/electionbuddy/2021GOTeamDeclaration>
4. **Action Items**
	1. **Approval of Agenda:**
	2. **Approval of Previous Minutes:**
	3. **(To be Presented after Discussion Section) Action Item 1:** Approval of the 2020-2021 Budget if the Budget stands as presented and there are no suggestions/edits/corrections presented at today’s meeting.
	4. **Action Item 2:**
5. **Discussion Items**
	1. **Discussion Item 1**: Explanation of Budget was presented by Principal Gunner at the January GO Team Meeting. At today’s February GO Team meeting, suggestions, additions and edits can be proposed. Is there any member with a proposal that would like to voice it now to be added to the Action Items for the March GO Team Meeting? If there are no changes The Action item to approve the budget can occur today at the February Meeting.
	2. **Discussion Item 2**:
6. **Information Items** *(add items as needed)*
	1. **Principal’s Report** *(New/Updated Principal’s Report if available, not required)*
	2. **Information Item 2**
7. **Announcements**
8. **Public Comment** *(as of 10:043am Wed. Feb 17th 2021, no public sign-ups are present on sign-up genius)*
9. **Adjournment**

**Voucher Legislation in the Georgia General Assembly has Harmful Implications for Public Schools and Public School Students**

SB 47, the Georgia Special Needs Scholarship Act, expands eligibility for the Georgia Special Needs Scholarship voucher to include students with a Section 504 plan.

* This bill expands the list of qualifying health conditions for the voucher from 11 to 21.
* The process for identifying students for Section 504 plans lacks the structure of the Individualized Education Plan (IEP). Making the Special Needs Scholarship voucher available to students with Section 504 plans significantly broadens eligibility for this voucher.
* The lack of structure for making Section 504 plans, combined with the confusing language of this legislation, would open up vouchers to any student and family who is able to take advantage of legislative uncertainty and secure a diagnosis that qualifies them for a voucher.
* Students in receipt of SB 47 vouchers would give up their rights to reasonable accommodation, provided under federal law, to attend private schools that are not held accountable for the meeting the special needs of students.
* Shifting public school funding to private schools that are not subject to financial audits by the state is an inappropriate use of limited public education resources.
* Parents who choose to take the voucher and their students to a private school give up access to the academic measures of student achievement that are provided by public schools.
* Parental school choice should not come at the expense of accountability for schools and protection for students.
* In SY19-20, Atlanta Public Schools had 2,380 students with Section 504 plans. Providing vouchers to this group of students would have a significant financial impact on APS and public schools across our state.

HB 60, the Georgia Educational Scholarship Act, provides educational scholarships/vouchers to a broad class of students, including: students with family incomes below 200% of the federal poverty level; adopted foster children; children of active duty military members; students with disabilities and an IEP; students with documented cases of bullying; and, students who spent the prior school year enrolled in a public school which is currently not offering an option for 100% in-person instruction.

* This is a broad, general voucher bill that would make costly private school vouchers available to nearly every K-12 student in Georgia.
* Shifting public school funding to private schools, especially in the midst of the COVID-1 pandemic, is an inappropriate use of limited public education resources.
* The Legislature should work in alignment with the FY22 budget proposal, which restores 60% of austerity cuts to QBE funding in support of public schools.
* Private schools have access to federal funding and loans as a result of the pandemic. They do not need extra funding in the form of general vouchers.
* Parents who choose to take the voucher and their students to a private school give up access to the academic measures of student achievement that are provided by public schools.
* Parental school choice should not come at the expense of accountability for schools and protections for students.