



GO TEAM MEETING

WILLIAM M. FINCH ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

GO TEAM MEMBERS 2024-2025

Roll Call



NAME	ROLE
Dr. Tara Spencer	Principal
Kashon Caldwell	Parent
Edwina Lawrence	Parent
Xiomara Bailey	Parent
Erin Gore	Staff
Tesia Germain	Staff
Tatyana McKnight	Staff
Adriana Sola	Community Member
VACANT	Community Member
Dr. Regana Hill	Swing Seat

I. Call to order

II. Meeting Protocols

- a.** Roll Call
- b.** Establish Quorum

III. Action Items

- a.** Approval of Agenda
- b.** Fill Vacant Community Position
- c.** Approval of Previous Minutes: October 2nd, 2024

IV. Discussion Items

- a.** Strategic Plan and Priority Review
- b.** School Uniform Discussion
 - ★ Action Item: Move forward with maintaining or exploring establishing an optional school uniform.
 - ★ Discussion: School Uniform Advisory Committee (if team wishes to approve)
 - ★ Action Item: Resolution establishing the School Uniform Advisory

V. Informational Items:

- a.** Principals Report
- a.** Security Grant Update

VI. Announcements

- a.** Red Ribbon Week – October 28th – November 1st
- b.** Title I, APTT, STEAM Night- October 30th
- c.** Mock Election: October 31st
- d.** Picture Book Bowl Competition- November 1st
- e.** Election Day- November 5th (No School for Students)
- f.** Thanksgiving Feast Luncheon- November 13th
- g.** Next Meeting: November 21st

VI. Adjournment



Action Items



- ❑ Approval of Agenda
- ❑ Fill Vacant Community Seat
- ❑ Approval of Previous Minutes

TODAY'S TOPICS:

Strategic Plan and Priority Review

School Uniform Discussion

- ❑ Action Item: Move forward with maintaining or exploring establishing an optional school uniform.
 - ❑ Discussion: School Uniform Advisory Committee (if team wishes to approve)
 - ❑ ACTION ITEM: Resolution establishing the School Uniform Advisory Committee



STRATEGIC PLAN & PRIORITY REVIEW



FY 25

Overarching Needs & Continuous Improvement Goals

LITERACY

#1

Increase the % of grades 3-5 students scoring proficient or above in reading from 22% to 25%

NUMERACY

#2

Increase the % of grades 3-5 students scoring proficient or above in math 18% to 21%

WHOLE CHILD/STUDENT SUPPORT

#3

Increase the CCRPI Student Attendance Rate from 68% to 72%



William M. Finch Elementary

Mission: A community school where teachers plan intentionally, students embrace academic struggle, and the community's values align with the school's.

Vision: Together, we will provide meaningful, rigorous learning experiences and opportunities that enrich learning for students, staff, and the community in order to make college and career readiness a reality.

SMART Goals

Increase the % of grades 3-5 students scoring proficient or above in Reading from 19% to 25%

Increase the % of grades 3-5 students scoring proficient or above in Math from 14% to 20%

Increase the CCRPI Student Attendance Rate from 76.86 to 82

APS Strategic Priorities & Initiatives

Fostering Academic Excellence for All

Data
Curriculum & Instruction
Signature Program

Building a Culture of Student Support

Whole Child & Intervention
Personalized Learning

Equipping & Empowering Leaders & Staff

Strategic Staff Support
Equitable Resource Allocation

Creating a System of School Support

Collective Action, Engagement
& Empowerment

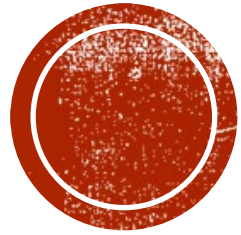
School Strategic Priorities

1. Focus on Reading & Math as a foundational skill
2. Ensure every student demonstrates content mastery
3. Ensure students are exposed to STEAM and work to obtain state certification by 2025.
4. Improve teacher efficacy and growth-mindedness
5. Improve leadership capacity and opportunities
6. Build systems and resources to support the school's priorities
7. Inform and engage the school's families and community
8. Create a safe, nurturing, and caring culture for all students

School Strategies

1. Implement rigorous, culturally relevant, and linguistically responsive Reading and Math curriculum with fidelity in all core content areas and instructional best practices in Tier 1 instruction
2. Integrate field experiences (in-person & virtually) for students with a focus on STE(A)M and life beyond K-12 matriculation.
3. Utilize flexible learning tools, technology integration, and targeted instruction to personalize learning for all students
4. Implement a Whole-Child system of supports that integrates social-emotional learning, behavior, wellness, and comprehensive academic intervention plans
5. Direct training and support for building leadership
6. Identify and increase teacher leader roles and differentiate development opportunities
7. Develop a budget that supports the school's priorities
8. Establish core business partnerships
9. Increase parent engagement, awareness, and knowledge-base as valued stakeholders through fluid communication and active participation of the school's Parent Liaison
10. Implementation of a school-wide Positive Behavior Intervention Support system developed around SEL principles





DISCUSSION: OPTIONAL SCHOOL UNIFORM

OPTIONAL SCHOOL UNIFORM

In the 2023-2024 school year, the APS Board of Education updated the district's dress code policy. As part of the update, starting with the 2025-2026 school year if a school wishes to **maintain or explore implementing** an optional school uniform, it **must** go through an engagement process and have a vote as outlined below:



ELEMENTARY

A school uniform is adopted upon the agreement of the principal and a majority vote of the School Governance Team (GO Team).



MIDDLE

School uniforms are adopted upon the agreement of the principal, GO Team and the elected student government. If the school does not have an elected student government, then a majority vote must be secured from the student body to adopt a school uniform.



HIGH

School uniforms are adopted upon the agreement of the principal, GO Team and the elected student government. If the school does not have an elected student government, then a majority vote must be secured from the student body to adopt a school uniform.

If your school currently has a school uniform and wishes to continue it, you must go through this process!

ABOE POLICY JCDB STUDENT DRESS CODE

(Last Revised, 06/03/2024)

<http://tinyAPS.com/?APSDressCodePolicy>

Requirements

1. A top of non-see through fabric
2. A bottom of non-see through fabric
3. Shoes
4. Undergarments that are not visible

RESTRICTIONS

1. No words or symbols that are gang-related, sexually suggestive, obscene or promote illegal behavior
2. Nothing associated with alcohol, illegal drugs or tobacco
3. No flip-flops, athletic slides or footwear that doesn't support the front and back of the foot

SCHOOL-SPECIFIC DRESS CODES

We have one districtwide student dress code adopted
by the Atlanta Board of Education.

School-specific dress codes may not contradict Board policy.

Examples of problematic school specific dress-code provisions

“dress in good
taste”

“no baggy
pants”

“no sweatpants”

“no activewear”

“no short shorts
or skirts”

“no spaghetti
straps”

“no tube tops”

“no dresses”

“no
tight/revealing
clothing”

“no leggings”

“no joggers”

“no ‘extreme’
hairstyles or
colors”

“no Crocs”

“all shirts must
be tucked in”

“no
hoodies/hooded
jackets”

“hair should be
clean and neatly
groomed”

“no shirts which
expose
cleavage”

“students dressed
in uniform are
better perceived
by teachers and
peers”



SCHOOL UNIFORMS

- Schools may choose to adopt an *optional* school uniform.
- **Effective immediately, at no time** will students have their instructional time interrupted or be barred from school or class for declining to wear the optional school uniform.

ESTABLISH AN OPTIONAL SCHOOL UNIFORM

TAKE ACTION

- The GO Team needs to **TAKE ACTION (vote)** on **maintaining or exploring implementing an optional school uniform.**
- After the motion and a second, the GO Team may have additional discussion. Once discussion is concluded, the GO Team will vote.
- If the GO Team votes to move forward, then the team should proceed to discuss the School Uniform Advisory Committee.



DISCUSSION

Only needed if the GO Team voted YES to maintaining or exploring establishing an optional school uniform.

The GO Team will now discuss if they wish to move forward with establishing a School Uniform Advisory Committee.

The School Uniform Advisory Committee will be responsible for:

1. Develop a stakeholder engagement plan to receive feedback on implementing a uniform and its components, if adopted. Must include a minimum 20-day public comment period on any proposed uniform
2. Recommending the optional school uniform components.
3. Establishing the student voting timeline and process (*if necessary*).
4. Determine the length of time the uniform will be in use before reconsideration
5. Developing a communication plan to inform the school community about the optional school uniform, if the uniform is adopted
6. Other objectives as defined by the GO Team.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Only needed if the GO Team voted YES to maintaining or exploring establishing an optional school uniform.

The GO Team will also need to determine who will be on the committee:

1. The GO Team Chair will name the Committee Chair.
2. No more than 2 additional GO Team members may be on the committee (a maximum of 3 GO Team Members).
3. Committee must have **at least 3 students** as outlined below:
4. Other committee members may be added, as determined by the GO Team.



ELEMENTARY

Elementary School with Ambassadors Recommend inclusion of at least 3 student ambassadors

Elementary School without Ambassadors

Recommend inclusion of at least 3 students selected by the principal with GO Team input



MIDDLE

Middle School with Student Ambassadors

At least 3 student ambassadors

Middle School without Student Ambassadors

At least 3 students selected by the principal with GO Team input



HIGH

High School with Elected Student Government

At least 3 students as selected by the SGA

High School without Elected Student Government

At least 3 students as selected by the principal with GO Team input

ESTABLISH THE COMMITTEE

**TAKE
ACTION**

- The GO Team needs to **TAKE ACTION (vote)** on establishing its **School Uniform Advisory Committee** based on the previous discussion.
- After the motion and a second, the GO Team may have additional discussion.
- Once discussion is concluded, the GO Team will vote.
- If the GO Team votes in the affirmative (yes) for moving forward, then the Chair will need to fill out a committee resolution form (see *example on next slide*) and send to the GO Team Office.

Only needed if the GO Team voted YES to maintaining or exploring establishing an optional school uniform.



BLANK COMMITTEE RESOLUTION



Committee Establishment Resolution

The _____ GO Team shall have a School Uniform Committee. Advisory Committee, consisting of the principal or his/her designee, designated chair, and additional members appointed by the GO Team (*see back for list of members*).

The committee chair shall attend all meetings of the committee. The Advisory Committee shall serve in an advisory capacity, offering assistance and making recommendations to the GO Team for action. The Advisory Committee shall not have the authority to act on behalf of the GO Team.

Meetings of the Advisory Committee shall be scheduled and publicly noticed by the committee chair. A written report of committee discussions shall be presented by the committee chair to the GO Team at the next scheduled GO Team meeting.

The proposed Advisory Committee has the following goals/objectives (*add objectives, if necessary*):

- Develop a stakeholder engagement plan to receive feedback on implementing a uniform and its components, if adopted. Must include a minimum 20-day public comment period on any proposed uniform
- Recommend the optional school uniform components
- Establish the student voting timeline and process (if necessary)
- Determine the length of time the uniform will be in use before reconsideration
- Create a communication plan to inform the school community about the optional school uniform, if the uniform is adopted

The proposed Advisory Committee will operate as an **AD HOC COMMITTEE**.

Expected Committee Time Frame: _____
(*must be completed by last GO Team meeting of SY 24-25*)

Principal _____	Date _____	GO Team Chair _____	Date _____
Advisory Committee Chair _____	Date _____	Date Submitted to GO Team Office: _____	



School Uniform Committee Membership

You may have no more than 3 GO Team members (committee chair and 2 others) on the committee. For middle and high schools, there must be at least 3 student representatives.

For all other members, list the members of the committee below as voted on by the GO Team. Other than GO Team members, names can be provided as individuals are identified. For example, if the GO Team voted for the Committee to have 2 individuals with medical background, and a faith leader, list under Role: Medical, Medical, and Faith Leader.

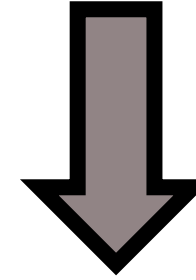
Role	Name	Email Address
Chair		

(*add additional rows, if needed*)



TIMELINE FOR GO TEAMS

You are **HERE**



1

Fall 2021

GO Team Developed
2021-2025 Strategic Plan

2

Summer

School Leadership
completed Needs
Assessment and defined
overarching needs

3

August

School Leadership
completed Continuous
Improvement Plan

4

Sept. – Dec.

Utilizing current data,
the **GO Team** will
review & possibly
update the school
strategic priorities and
plan

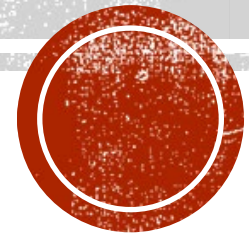
5

Before Winter Break

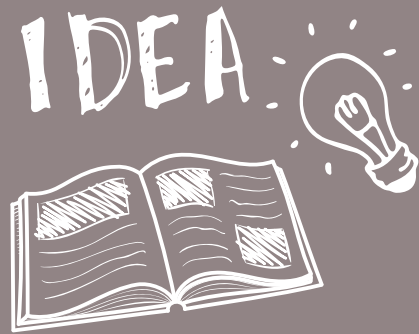
GO Team will take
action (vote) on the rank
of the strategic plan
priorities for SY25-26 in
preparation for budget
discussions.



INFORMATIONAL ITEMS



Security Grant Update



- a. Red Ribbon Week – October 28th – November 1st**
- b. Title I, APTT, STEAM Night- October 30th**
- c. Mock Election: October 31st**
- d. Picture Book Bowl Competition- November 1st**
- e. Election Day- November 5th (No School for Students)**
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ADJOURNMENT

