

**Finch Elementary**

**Date: 01/30/2025**

**Time: 3:30**

**Location: Zoom**

**I. Call to order: 3:35 PM**

**II. Roll Call**

Role	Name (or Vacant)	Present or Absent
Principal	Dr. Tara Spencer	Present
Parent/Guardian	Ms. Edwina Lawrence	Present
Parent/Guardian	Ms. Kashon Caldwell	Present
Parent/Guardian	Ms. Xiomara Bailey	Present
Instructional Staff	Ms. Tatyana Mcknight	Present
Instructional Staff	Ms. Erin Gore	Present
Instructional Staff	Ms. Tesia Germain	Present
Community Member	Ms. Adriana Sola	Present
Community Member	Mr. Eric Thomas	Absent
Swing Seat	Dr.Regana Hill	Present
Student (High Schools)		

**Quorum Established: Yes**

**III. Action Items (add items as needed)**

- a. **Approval of Agenda:** Motion made by: **Dr. Regana Hill**; Seconded by: **Ms. Tesia Germain**
- b. **Members Approving:** Ms. Xiomara Bailey, Ms. Kashon Caldwell, Ms. Tatyana McKnight, Ms. Adriana Sola, Ms. Erin Gore  
**Members Opposing:** None  
**Members Abstaining:** None  
**Motion Pass**
- c. **Approval of Previous Minutes:** *List amendments to the minutes:*  
 Motion made by: **Dr. Regana Hill** Seconded by: **Ms. Kashon Caldwell**  
**Members Approving:** Ms. Edwina Lawrence, Ms. Xiomara Bailey, Ms. Tesia Germain, Ms. Tatyana Mcknight, Ms. Adriana Sola, Ms. Erin Gore  
**Members Opposing:** None  
**Members Abstaining:** None  
**Motion Pass**

## **IV. Discussion Items**

### **a. School Budget and Prioritization Discussion**

- Dr. Spencer discussed the school's budget and its allocation for the upcoming school year. She emphasized the importance of focusing on positions rather than the people in them and understanding the school's priorities. Dr. Spencer also mentioned that the proposed budget for the general operation of the school is \$6,484,513, and that her projection for the current year is down by 5 students. She explained that the budget for the following school year will be based on the current year's allocations, and that Finch Elementary School will receive more money per pupil. Dr. Spencer stressed the need to consider the school's priorities and the best interests of the students when making decisions.

### **b. Budget Discrepancies and Program Funding**

- Dr. Spencer discussed the discrepancies in her budget allocation for various programs at her school. She pointed out that while her earnings had increased, certain funds for signature programming, turnaround, and title one was missing from her budget. Dr. Spencer also explained the allocation of funds for different positions, such as kindergarten teachers, and how she had to adjust staffing levels due to enrollment and class size. She also highlighted the underfunding for art, music, PE, world language, and the gifted program, which she had to supplement to meet the standards of service for her students.

### **c. Staffing and Funding Allocations Discussed**

- Dr. Spencer discussed the staffing and funding allocations for her school, emphasizing the need for specific positions due to the school's focus on special education. She clarified that the funding and staffing levels were not indicative of individual teacher salaries, but rather the average cost of a teacher in Atlanta Public Schools. Dr. Spencer also highlighted the importance of certain positions, such as a counselor and social worker, despite them not being fully funded. She further explained that certain positions, like the social worker lead, were not paid by her school but were part of the Carver Cluster. Dr. Spencer also mentioned that special revenue funds like Pre-k do not come out of her budget.

**d. School Budget Allocation Request**

- Dr. Spencer discussed the school's budget allocation, explaining the concept of reserve funds and the district's recommendations for allocations. She noted that the school was currently unbalanced and unable to allocate extra funds to certain areas. Dr. Spencer also introduced the concept of '0-based budgeting', where she must specifically request funds for her needs rather than receiving them automatically. She highlighted her requests for a STEM lab teacher and an instructional coach and expressed concern about the impact of being removed from the CSI list on the school's funding.

**e. Budget Process and School Uniform Update**

- Dr. Spencer explained the budget process, which includes her making changes and seeking feedback from the team. She also mentioned that the budget will be approved on March 13th. Dr. Spencer further discussed the school uniform update, which was delayed due to snow days and the committee's inability to meet. She also mentioned that the Go Team Declaration of Candidacy is open until February 28th. One member of the TEAM asked about the process for Go Team members who are currently on the team, and Dr. Spencer promised to get back to her with the information. The conversation ended with Erin making a motion to adjourn the meeting.

**V. Public Comment**

- a. No public comment due to issue with public inappropriateness

**VI. Announcement**

- a. GO Team Declaration of Candidacy-Open Now- February 28<sup>th</sup>  
b. Random Acts of Kindness Week-February 10<sup>th</sup>-14<sup>th</sup>  
c. Next Meeting- February 13<sup>th</sup>  
d. Winter Break- February 17<sup>th</sup>-21<sup>st</sup> (Students)  
e. Winter Break- February 18<sup>th</sup>-21<sup>st</sup> (Staff)  
f. Complete Budget Training before next week

## VII. Adjournment

Motion made by: [Dr. Regana Hill](#) Seconded by: [Ms. Edwina Lawrence](#)

**Members Approving:** Ms. Kashon Caldwell, Ms. Xiomara Bailey, Ms. Erin Gore, Ms. Tesia Germain, Ms. Adriana Sola, Ms. Tatyana Mcknight

**Members Opposing:** None

**Members Abstaining:** None

**Motion Passes**

**ADJOURNED AT 4:18 PM**

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**Minutes Taken By:** [Ms. Tesia Germain](#)

**Position:** [Secretary](#)

**Date Approved:** [2/17/25](#)