

Meeting Minutes

Finch Elementary

Date: 05/09/2024

Time: 4:00pm

Location: Zoom

I. Call to order: 4:06pm

II. Roll Call

Role	Name (or Vacant)	Present or Absent
Principal	Dr. Tara Spencer	Present
Parent/Guardian	Ms. Edwina Lawrence	Absent
Parent/Guardian	Ms. Shaneka Parks	Present
Parent/Guardian	Ms. Xiomara Bailey	Absent
Instructional Staff	Mrs. Seggee Davis	Present
Instructional Staff	Ms. Tesia Germain	Present
Instructional Staff	Ms. Erin Gore	Present
Community Member	Ms. Terry Lee	Present
Community Member	Ms. Adriana Sola	Present
Swing Seat	Dr. Regana Hill	Absent
Student (High Schools)		

Guests Present: Wykeisha Howe (Community Champion)

Quorum Established: Yes

III. Action Items

a. Approval of Agenda:

Motion made by: Mr. Terry Lee Seconded by: Ms. Erin Gore

Members Approving: Ms. Seggee Davis, Ms. Tesia Germain, Ms. Adriana Sola, Ms. Shaneka Parks

Members Opposing: None

Members Abstaining: None

Motion Passes

b. Approval of Previous Minutes: March 14, 2024 :

Motion made by Ms. Terry Lee Seconded by: Ms. Adriana Sola

Members Approving: Ms. Erin Gore, Ms. Tesia Germain, Ms. Shaneka Parks

Members Opposing: None

Members Abstaining: None

Motion Passes

IV. Discussion Items

a. Principal's Report

A. Spring Map Data

I. MAPs 2-5 grade

- a. Dr. Spencer discussed the Map Assessments that were taken by grades two through five. She noted how the students progressed from fall to spring. The first bar represents how students performed in the Fall. 56% percent of our students performed at the beginning level; 30% of our students performed at the developing level; 11% at proficient and 3% at distinguished. So, in the fall, we began with 14% of our students at proficient and distinguished. Dr. Spencer shared that in the spring more students joined the Finch family. From the increase of students, we decreased the beginning level of learners by 3% and we added another 4% to our distinguished going from 14% to 20%. As a result, we had a huge jump in the spring. Dr. Spencer shared how students performed on MAP Math Assessment for grades two through five from fall through spring. In the fall students were at 50% for beginning level, 40% for developing, 9% for proficient and 1% for distinguished. Dr. Spencer continued discussing that in the spring the beginning level decreased by 1%, proficient level increased by 11%, and distinguished level increased by 1%. Dr. Spencer also shared that we received a new set of math standards this year and we have been working diligently to make sure that our teachers are very well prepared to deliver math instruction so that our students can grasp the concepts. Though it has been a challenge for Finch Elementary School and other schools in the district, we will continue to work to deepen our learning of our new standards and provide quality and rigorous instruction for students.

II. MAP Fluency and MAP Growth

- a. Dr. Spencer discussed with the TEAM that MAP fluency is taken by grades K-3. She shared some struggles in MAP

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fluency in terms of the beginning levels. She stated that 42% of our students were flag for reading in the fall and 46% of our students were flag for reading in the spring. She explained the flag for reading means students are reading a passage to the computer and the computer is trying to determine how fluent of a reader our students are. However, this has presented a challenge for us because the data sometimes is not reflective of what our kids can do specifically because of the students' dialect, tone, the way that they speak, and the words that they use. Sometimes when students don't use standard English it is sometimes flag for reading, meaning that the computer doesn't understand what they're saying. For example, if the computer says "that" but the child says "dat." It is going to flag it because they're not saying the word correctly but in fact it is just some of our students' dialect.

Dr. Spencer also showed us where the students were with oral reading and foundational skills. She stated that some of the teachers said that students would perform much stronger here but again sometimes the dialect is often reflected in the data, and it doesn't really show the capability of our students in kindergarten through second grade. Dr. Spencer continued to explain and displayed some information about how students in kindergarten through third grade performed in MAP. She shared that she wanted to separate the data because those are foundational grades and those are the most impressionable grades that set the foundation for what our third, fourth, and fifth grade teachers will receive for milestone testing. Dr. Spencer also discussed the greatest challenge that Finch faces which is in the second grade where there's a lot of frustration with reading. However, she shared her appreciation for the new position of readers are leaders' instructional coaches that the district has put in place who will specifically train on the science of reading to help coach teachers to become stronger reading teachers. Dr. Spencer shared that they are working

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on a way to address the challenges, but she understands that this will be a problem for third grade teachers.

III. Questions:

- a. Go Team member asked, “Has the district had an opportunity to look at how we can improve the negative impact in schools with children’s dialect who have different cultures and upbringing?” Dr. Spencer responded by stating that she doesn’t think there is a resolve, but she brought it up when the district asked for feedback from school principals and leaders in the district. She continued to share that it is not a challenge for just Finch but schools in the district. She is not sure what direction the district will be going, but they are aware of the challenge.
- b. Go team member asked, “If the data from MAPs is and overall score or a cumulative overall average score?” Dr. Spencer stated that the chart is how students perform in the Spring.
- c. Go Team members asked, “Are special education students averages included in the data chart?” Dr. Spencer replied saying yes, their scores are included in the data. And if the member wanted to discuss that score specifically, they could meet with her. Dr. Spencer stated that she is very proud of the special education team because they have performed strong this year.
- d. Dr. Spencer shared data showing the areas of strengths and weakness of our students. With the Readers are Leaders Coach and the implementation of foundations that are in the lower grade levels, she anticipates seeing some improvement.

B. GA Milestones Assessment (April 29th- May 13th)

- I. Dr. Spencer shared that the school is in the process of taking Georgia Milestones which started April 29th and the testing window for testing will end on May 15th. Fourth graders are currently testing but third and fifth graders have finished testing. Make up testing has started and will go on until May 15. Dr. Spencer shared how she is confident that the scores will come out amazing because of the hard work that has been done throughout

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this school year. The teachers have been working diligently to meet the needs of each students and provide quality and rigorous instruction.

C. Summer Academic Recovery Academy

- I. Dr. Spencer stated that Finch will be hosting the Academic Recovery Academy this summer. Students were invited during February and March, and they are now registered. Currently, there are about 90 to 100 students that are registered for the summer Academy Recovery Academy (ARA). While in ARA, students will be working on remediation skills for reading and math. The aim is to get students stronger academically and to wrap up the foundational skills that may have been lost during Covid. The summer program is eight hours as regular school. However, a portion of the summer program will consist of enrichment activities.

D. Highlights from the Year

- I. Dr. Spencer highlighted some of the different activities of the year. For example, the STEAM truck came out, K-2nd graders visited Chattanooga, Tennessee, parents participated in our ice cream social, our grandparents came to read with our students, and we had Mr. and Mrs. Sylvan come and read to some of our students and so much more. Dr. Spencer stated she is so proud of our students, our teachers, and our community.

V. Public Comment

A. None

VI. Announcements

- a. **a. Teachers and Nurses Appreciation Week (May 6-10)**
- b. **b. K-2 End of Year Field Trip May 9th and 3rd-5th End of Year Field Trip May 15th-17th**
- c. **Field Day at Orange Park 9am-12noon- May 17th (PreK- 2) May 20th (3-5)**
- d. **Awards Day- May 21st (PreK at 8am and 5th at 9:00am) May 22nd (K- 2 at 8:30 and 3rd-4 th at 10:30am)**
- e. **Last day of School May 24, 2024**
- f. **f. GO TEAM members whose term will expire in June**
- g. **Next Meeting- Fall 2024**

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VII. Adjournment

Motion made by: Mr. Terry Lee Seconded by: Ms. Erin Gore

Members Approving: Ms. Tesia Germain, Ms. Adriana Sola, Ms. Seggee Davis, Ms. Shaneka Parks

Members Opposing: None

Members Abstaining: None

Motion Passes

ADJOURNED AT: 4:45 PM

Minutes Taken By: Ms. Tesia Germain

Position: Secretary

Date Approved: 8/29/24