

Finch Elementary

Date: 10/02/2024

Time: 3:33 PM

Location: Zoom

I. Call to order: 3:31

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	Absent
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		
Swing Seat	Dr. Regana Hill	Present
Student (High Schools)		

Quorum Established: Yes

III. Action Items

- a. **Approval of Agenda:** Motion made by: Ms. Edwina Lawrence; Seconded by: Dr. Regana Hill

Members Approving: Ms. Kashon Caldwell, Ms. Tatyana McKnight, Ms. Erin Gore, Ms. Adriana Sola, Ms. Tesia Germain

Members Opposing: None

Members Abstaining: None

Motion Passes

- b. **Approval of Previous Minutes::**

Motion made by: Dr. Regana Hill Seconded by: Ms. Edwina Lawrence

Members Approving: Ms. Kashon Caldwell, Ms. Tatyana McKnight, Ms. Erin Gore, Ms. Adriana Sola, Ms. Tesia Germain

Members Opposing: None

Members Abstaining: None

Motion Passes

IV. Discussion Items

a. Discussion Item 1: Continuous Improvement Plan

- i. Dr. Spencer shared the continuous improvement goals. The overarching needs lie in literacy, numeracy, and whole child interventions. The goals are to increase student's performance on the ELA and math end of grades assessment, which is the Georgia Milestones; and to increase student's daily attendance. The goals are to increase by at least 3% in literacy and 25% in numeracy or math on the Georgia Milestones. Also, our goal is to increase by 21% in CCRPI attendance, which is basically how many days out of the school year students attend school. It is the goal to increase by 72%.
- ii. Dr. Spencer showed the numeracy SMART goals chart and explained the different tools that are in place to meet goals at the end of the year. There are very explicit ways that goals will be met. One of which is for literacy, the actions is that the instructional leadership team meaning Dr. Spencer, the assistant principal, and instructional coaches will make sure that they monitor the implementation of instructional practices specifically around those foundational reading skills, vocabulary acquisition, literary and informational text, and writing. Additionally, establish a solid writing plan and monitor the implementation and provide professional development to teachers to ensure that the writing plan is being implemented with fidelity. Also, there has been a swing of monitoring, coaching, and feedback cycles for teachers to ensure that they receive consistent feedback and make sure that they feel comfortable and solid in their execution of their instructional planning, and then their delivery of their lessons. Goals specifically for subgroups are to make sure that there is support for SWD teachers in that same vein by ensuring that they have feedback that's readily available to them in classroom visits, so that they can feel comfortable in their execution of grade level standards.
- iii. Dr. Spencer shared SMART goals for math. She stated that the instructional leadership team wants to make sure that they monitor the implementation of the new standards, the new curriculum, and make sure support is provided. Also, weekly data meetings and coaching sessions are conducted to give feedback and support to regular education and SWD teachers.
- iv. For the whole child intervention, the goal is to increase students' attendance. There is a family engagement team that contacts parents whose student has had excessive absences, and they have a caseload of students who they contact. In addition to that, we have a care/ student

attendance committee, which is now renamed the WCI team that meets and talk about wraparound services that may need to happen for students who have negative attendance so that the team can positively impact student outcomes. Dr. Spencer stated we make sure to monitor the SWD subgroup's behavior and discipline data just to make sure that restorative practices are being utilized to ensure that students remain in school, and that they are not disproportionately suspended or reprimanded for their behaviors.

b. Discussion Item 2: Data Discussion

- i. Dr. Spencer discussed the Georgia Milestones data for the 23-24 school year. Dr. Spencer showed the ELA, math, and science scores and states that the data is not new. However, the math data is new because there were new standards, and the data came out late. She also presented a beginner, developing, proficient, and distinguished chart on how students have been performing. Dr. Spencer stated that we are improving in ELA, on both ends of the spectrum growing kids in proficient and distinguished and moving kids from the beginning level to developing. She continued sharing that there was a lost in the percentage point in math. However, there was still an impact that moved about 4% of beginning learners into the developing level. She stated that while teachers are held responsible for the standards and implementation of a new curriculum, losing one percentage point is still something to smile about. So, although there was a slide a little bit, we did not slide much because we did have implementation of new standards. Additionally, we increased by 10% in science. However, there is more that needs to be done, for instance, get more beginning learners into the developing level.

ii. MAP

- i. Dr. Spencer shared that the MAP data shows where students are, shows the status of how learners are performing, and how students will meet the goals. She expressed that many of the actions from the two previous years since she's been principal has not changed. She described herself as a principal that gives consistent feedback, coaches teachers, and makes sure that teachers feel successful in their work. As a result, Finch's data has improved. Dr. Spencer shared that she knows that they're doing the right work and they will continue to do the work. Specifically,

in reading for MAP, which is the universal screener that gives us a thermometer of how the kids are performing. Our MAP data shows that 22% of kids are performing at the proficient level, and less than 50% of the kids are performing at the beginning level. And this just leads to the work that we've done here, at least in the last 3 years of moving the needle in creating our own narrative about what is done at Finch. She also spotlighted where we are in math. While the math scores are a bit lower, where there are fewer students performing at the proficient level. There are a lot fewer performing at the beginning level. So, many students are sitting in the developing level ready for access to grade level standard, and with the right support, they will be able to reach grade level standard. Dr. Spencer stated that all is needed is to put the correct things in place, and students will do the appropriate work to move to the proficient level.

- ii. Dr. Spencer asked the Go Team member if there are any questions, concerns, celebration. One member asked about clarity on the STEAM program's certification process. Dr. Spencer explains that the school is a STEAM school and the school is working to increase exposure in the core content classes, and making sure that we integrate STEAM into the daily fabric of the students learning. The school has had two professional learning opportunities to make sure that teachers feel comfortable with the implementation of STEAM integration inside of the core content classes. Dr. Spencer that in regard to certification that there is a timeline that has begun. We have begun to collect artifacts of what is needed to show that we are working towards certification. There are different things that need to happen. First, we have to come up with our vision, our mission and what it looks like for our school, and then we can put it into action steps in terms of what are the things we want to focus on. For example, this year our focus is entrepreneurship. So, we want to know how we can integrate STEAM into entrepreneurship and roll that out successfully, so it doesn't feel overwhelming. We feel that entrepreneurship is something that is effective and something that can live with kids past Finch Elementary School. Dr. Spencer shared that we are currently working on collecting artifacts so that we can submit our certification application for the 25-26 school year. Another GO Team Member states that we can continue to grow on goal setting.

- iii. Which ensures that students not only are intentional about goal setting, but they're referring back to their goals. And we're constantly having one on one conversations with students. As well as encouraging students to take risks and just providing them with those rigorous opportunities inside and outside of the classroom.
 - c. **Discussion Item 3: Enrollment Report**
 - i. Dr. Spencer stated that during September we look at our projected enrollment and talked through the current enrollment. Normally, what happens is, if a school grows, they get more money. If they don't meet their projection, then they lose money. Finch had two additional students than projected. We were able to have a difference of 2 kids, there was additional money to be able to use to support those 2 additional kids. In addition to the kids that already attend the school. So, with the budget impact, with those 2 additional kids, the school was able to earn almost \$11,000 to support the students. Additionally, in reserve if the the school didn't have those kids, the reserve would have been used to counter what the school would have lost, however it was not used. Dr. Spencer shared that the school was able to hang on to reserve money. In addition, Atlanta Public Schools has offered a grant for safety for \$45,000. That money would be used to hire a .5 instructional paraprofessional. Also, the money could be used for non-personnel changes such as to support instructional resources for teacher and student, to support over time for non-instructional staff, and teacher stipend for moments when they are asked to do things over and beyond their normal day. Dr. Spencer said that she is open to accepting suggestions to other ways to stay safe in the building. Dr. Spencer shared that she was able to create an office space for one of the Carver Cluster School Resource Officer who is a supervisor in the cluster. This action has helped with safety, he has been very instrumental in doing dismissal, and the presence of a police car has been effective.

V. Announcements [\[Add brief summary of the announcements\]](#)

- a. Community and Cluster with Superintendent Dr. Johnson- **10/3 at 6pm (Sylvan Hills Middle School)**
- b. Carver Cluster Football Game- **10/4 at 5:30pm (Lakewood Stadium)**
- c. Fall Break- **October 14-18 for students and October 15-18 for staff**
- d. Next meeting- **October 24, 2024, at 3:30pm**
- e. 2024 GO TEAM G3 Summit- TBA

VI. Adjournment

Motion made by: [Tatyana McKnight](#); Seconded by: Kashon Caldwell

Members Approving: Edwina Lawerance, Regana Hill, Erin Gore, Adriana Sola, Tesia Germain

Members Opposing: None

Members Abstaining: None

Motion: Passes

ADJOURNED AT 4: 10 PM

Minutes Taken By: [Tesia Germain](#)

Position: [Secretary](#)

Date Approved: 10/24/24