

BEST Academy (6-12)

Date: February 11, 2021

Time: 5:30pm

Location: <https://atlantapublicschools->

[us.zoom.us/j/87634999729?pwd=dnhzU3lCOGNFV0tQUUtyWkl3TUdDdz09](https://atlantapublicschools-us.zoom.us/j/87634999729?pwd=dnhzU3lCOGNFV0tQUUtyWkl3TUdDdz09)

I. Call to Order: Mr. Williams @ 5:39pm

II. Roll Call; Establish Quorum

Role	Name (or Vacant)	Present or Absent
Principal	Dr. Timothy Jones	Present
Parent/Guardian	Mr. Eric Glover	Present
Parent/Guardian	Dr. Kenya Gilliard	Present
Parent/Guardian	Ms. Latonia Kurtz	Present
Instructional Staff	Ms. Ruquanda Epps-Primas	Present
Instructional Staff	Dr. Vernon Smart	Present
Instructional Staff	Dr. Bruce Williams	Present
Community Member	Mr. Keith Strickland	Absent
Community Member	Mr. Randy Fling	Absent
Swing Seat	Mr. Robert Williams	Present
Student (High Schools)	Mr. Robbie Colbert Jr.	Absent

Guest Carolyn Barnett (APS GO Team Representative) Present

Quorum Established: Yes

III. Action Items

- A. **Approval of Agenda:** Motion made by: Mr. Williams; Seconded by: Dr. Williams
Members Approving: All
Members Opposing: N/A
Members Abstaining: N/A
Motion: Passes
- B. **Approval of Previous Minutes:**
Motion made by: Mr. Williams; Seconded by: Dr. Gilliard
Members Approving: All
Members Opposing: N/A
Members Abstaining: N/A
Motion: Passes
- C. SEL Activity - Mrs. Epps-Primas facilitated two activities: 1. Growing people how are you at this moment: (Mad, Brave Sad and calm) and 2. Black history trivia

IV. Discussion Items

A. Discussion Item 1: 2021 – 2022 School Budget

- BEST current enrollment for 20-21 SY is 276 students, APS projected enrollment for 21-22 SY is 250 students. If BEST has 300 students, additional funds will be allocated through a per student fund
- Total budget allocated for SY 21-22: \$4,939,728
- FTE 53.75 – 19,759
- BEST does not accrue a cost for satellite HUB busing services for students
- Ms. Kurtz: Asked what funds are allocated for students with Special Needs.
*Funds for special needs are through (Instruction co-teacher(s), per pupil services for paras, and one-on-one)

B. Discussion Item 2: Committee Updates

Recruitment - Mr. Williams will meet with families of the Charter Network to present BEST as an alternative option.

2. Meeting with Dr. Edwards on upcoming in a week as it relates to student placement to ask for an extension on recruitment.
3. Setting up meetings with STEM principals' school-wide to make presentation, and to request parent emails of 5th graders
4. Submit a parent survey in 2-weeks parents in Douglass High School cluster
5. BEST faculty and staff made a collage of videos to be presented to perspective parents
6. Note: BEST may only recruit 30 students from the Douglass cluster, however, may recruitment outside of the cluster, 150 from middle and high school.
7. Dr. Gilliard suggested our recruitment Motto should be: **"We want to be your first choice, and your second option"**. We don't have restrictions here at BEST.
8. Other activities or suggestions should include videos by students

Student Voice - Capturing what BEST mean to our students through these challenging times ("their BEST Stories")

1. Pallet to make families feel at home--- SEL connecting and reconnecting (Mrs. Epps-Primas will create
2. BEST Academy Student Perception Survey: Students were surveyed in their ELA Classes (ninety-four students participated in the 14-question survey)
 - **Biggest challenge:** 41% working from home
 - **Tired of technology:** 38.3%
 - **Student engagement:** 37.2%
 - **Student wellness:** 20.2%

+ Ms. Kurtz raised a point on rather **ALL** students were given the opportunity to participate in the survey (her son did not)

+ Ms. Kurtz suggested of having students eat lunch with their teacher (SEL)

Parent Engagement – Ms. Kurtz stated her goal is to get the PTA up and running again (provide parent voice, collaboration, information sessions, fund raising and other opportunities)

+ Mrs. Stanley-Turner, Parent-Liaison is working on starting up BEST Facebook group

V. Public Comments – N/A

VI. Information Items

A. Principal's Report – APS Entry Plan

1. Return on February 16th - 8:05am-330pm
2. BEST students returning: 66
3. Additional students will be able to opt-in for 4th quarter starting in March

VII. Announcements

A. Atlanta College and Career Academy

- Students may take additional pathways not at BEST (transportation provided by APS)
- ACCA 1 year to complete pathway of interest
- BEST awarded the Verizon Grant – ALL students will receive a new laptop in August (laptop will come with Wi-Fi)
- There is a shortage of Wi-Fi devices throughout the world

B. Charter Network Meeting upcoming meeting

C. Technology Education and Literacy in Schools (TEALS) - program with Microsoft sponsored coding program for students in Computer Science (sponsor by Pharrell).

D. We will amend our Strategic Plan to reflect recommendations by the committee to include:

- Added information at 7D
- 4G added
- Next meeting scheduled for March 11th at 5:30pm via Zoom

Adjournment: 6:31pm by Mr. Williams

Minutes Taken By: Dr. B. Williams

Position: Secretary

Date Approved: February 15, 2020

Last revised on 2/12/2021