

BEST Academy (6-12)

Date: **November 12, 2020** Time:
5:30pm

Location: <https://atlantapublicschools->

us.zoom.us/j/87634999729?pwd=dnhzU3lCOGNFV0tQUUtyWkl3TUdDdz09

I. Call to Order: Dr. Timothy Jones @ 5:31pm 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	Present
Community Member	Mr. Randy Fling	Present
Swing Seat	Mr. Robert Williams	Present
Student (High Schools)	Mr. Robbie Colbert Jr.	Present

Guest

Marlon Alfaro (STEM Coordinator)

Present

Quorum Established: Yes III. Action Items

- A. **Approval of Agenda:** Motion made by: Mr. Glover ; Seconded by: Dr. Smart
Members Approving:
Members Opposing: N/A
Members Abstaining: N/A
Motion Passes
- B. **Approval of Previous Minutes:**
Motion made by: Mr. Glover; Seconded by: Mr. Williams Members Approving:
Members Opposing: N/A
Members Abstaining: N/A
Motion Passes

- C. **SEL Activity:** Mrs. Epps-Primas facilitated an exercise to gauge on members feelings

IV. Discussion Items

A. Discussion Item 1: Parent / Student Surveys

- Dr. Jones spoke candidly about BEST Academy's Parent/student survey's, stating that our families are still not comfortable with sending their child(ren) back in the building, and semi same with some students not ready to make the transition.
- Faculty/Staff Perception survey results:
 1. Have you been supported instructionally to ensure your effectiveness **(57.6% strongly agreed)**
 2. Have you been supported emotionally to ensure you effectiveness **(48.5% strongly agreed)**
 3. In your opinion, what are the biggest challenges for teaching and learning related to COVID-19? The top challenges were: Student Engagement, Internet Access, Technology Access and Technology Apathy
 4. Time spent preparing engaging lessons (comparison between) traditional to online teaching **(Medium Difference)**
 5. Student engagement (comparison between traditional to online teaching **(Medium Difference)**
 6. Teaching wellness (comparison between traditional to online teaching **(Medium Difference)**
 7. Your ability to use programs or platforms ((comparison between traditional to online teaching **(Medium Difference)**
 8. Time spent teaching (comparison between traditional to online teaching **(Small Difference)**

B. Discussion Item 2: CTAE Pathways

- Mr. Alfaro stated:
- Last year, the school was nationally STEM certified. This school year we are working towards the state certification, which would make us the first high school do so in APS. In order to meet state certification, we are focusing on implementing engineering journal in all content area, AP STEM courses, and community project. The engineering journals will showcase the STEM PBL that students complete throughout the year.
- This school year we started offering AP Computer Science and Calculus to meet the requirement of state certification with a rigorous curriculum. Our community project is tackling the challenges of affordable housing by designing

and building tiny homes. Also, we are growing our partnership with STEM elementary schools to provide parents with an option for their child to continue their STEM education.

Engineering Program Progress:

- Last year, the program won its first engineering state competition. Also, the program was selected as the APS Flagship in engineering. Upcoming goal is to become Industry certified. In order to meet certification, we are focusing on increasing summer programs for all engineering students, participate in more national competitions, and expand recruitment efforts.
- Dr. Williams gave a briefing on what the AVTF Pathway (AVTF1, AVTF2, AVTF3 and Broadcast Communication for Middle School Students) students are doing. They are working diligently on: editing, camera movements/angles, interviewing, identifying fake news and talking about current news events.
- Three students (Trezdan Couch, Amani Bedwa and D'Meko McGee) were selected to attend the SkillsUSA Fall Leadership Conference via zoom on Friday, November 13th.

C. Discussion Item 3: Committees

- Several committees
 1. Mr. Strickland indicated that the public relations committee would cover multiple sub-committees (recruitment, student voice, and parent engagement)
 2. Volunteers still to be decided

V. Information Items

A. Principal's Report – APS Entry Plan

Dr. Jones spoke of Phase II Re-Opening

- 1 All Wednesdays beginning December 2nd thru May will be Asynchronous. Asynchronous is a day to allow teachers to remediate with students, one-on one instruction, and conferences, etc.
- 2 Faculty/Staff first official in-person report day is January 19th, but will continue to teach from school site.
- 3 All Wednesdays are set aside (Deep Cleaning) Asynchronous for teachers/students

B. Communication Plan

Dr. Jones discussed partnership with Teachers in Touch to communicate with parents as well as Chris 180 to help families within the community.

VI. Announcements

A. Grade Level Meetings

- Mrs. Epps-Primas spoke on the upcoming 8th Grade level parent meeting via zoom
- Dr. Smart spoke on the upcoming 7th grade level parent meeting, via zoom

VII. Public Comment: N/A

VIII. Adjournment

Motion made by: Dr. Jones; Seconded by: Mr. Strickland Members

Approving:

Members Opposing: N/A

Members Abstaining: N/A

Motion Passes ADJOURNED AT: 6:55pm

Minutes Taken By: Dr. B. Williams

Position: Secretary

Date Approved: November 13, 2020