# Grady High School GO Team

**Date:** February 13, 2017

**Location:** Parent Center, Grady High School

Attendees: Blankenship, Bockman, Brandhorst, Bray, Brewer, Damiani, Herrera, Kinard, Pilson, Styles.

Guests: Jason Esteves; Leslie Grant; Tekeshia Hollis, Instructional Coach; Dan Sims, Associate Superintendent for High Schools

1. **Call to Order:** The meeting was called to order at 4:05pm.

The meeting started with a quick introduction of Dan Sims, Associate Superintendent for High Schools with Atlanta Public Schools.

1. **Approval of Minutes:** Minutes from the January 39, 2017 Budget Approval meeting were approved unanimously (Motion: Brandhorst; 2nd: Herrera).
2. **Chair’s Report -** Chair Regina Brewer gave an update from the Principal Selection Process. The Go Team participated in Tier 3 interviews on Thursday, February 9 and gave their three, unranked recommendations to the Superintendent. Tier 4 interviews will be Wednesday, February 15. The final recommendation is expected to be approved by the board at their March meeting.
3. **Principal’s Report**
   1. **Freshman Transition:** 
      1. Grady is currently reviewing information for incoming freshman to start planning and scheduling for next school year. Incoming freshman include 27 students qualifying for special education, so the school is identifying any remediation needs.
      2. A new component has been added to the Transition-In Program. Thirty-two Grady students will attend Inman Middle advisory classes to talk with 8th graders about the high school experience.
      3. The administration will be holding a meeting on February 22 at Blueprint Church to continue the 9th grade transition-in program through neighborhood outreach with the goal of getting families engaged early. Support for the program is appreciated.
   2. **Operations Updates – Staff transitions –** There have been some expected and unexpected staff transitions. One of the Special Education teachers will be leaving soon; the school is actively seeking a replacement. A coach received a head coaching position; it is expected that Grady will use a substitute through the end of the school year. One teacher went out on maternity leave early; the plan in place was implemented early to accommodate.
   3. **Academic Updates:**
      1. Testing schedule – Benchmark testing begins March 1st. CAAS testing has not been scheduled yet; the administration is seeking permission to not test seniors. Advanced Placement (AP) Exams are scheduled for May 4-12 and End-of-Course (EOC) tests are scheduled for April 24 – May 9. There was concern from the Go Team regarding the overlap of AP and EOC testing, especially because more students are likely to be taking the exams this year because the cost is covered by APS. The school has been working to ensure that there is as little overlap as possible; currently no students should be affected by the overlap in schedule.
      2. Grady started further math and science remediation during the advisement period on Wednesdays. Students were identified based on Milestones from 8th grade and other factors. Teachers and students are participating on a rotating schedule with a maximum of 20 students per period. The format is not lecturing but using flexible grouping and various support systems to provide the necessary supports. This program is a direct result of suggestions from the Go Team, particularly student member Bailey Damiani.
      3. Grady HS will move to teaching only Physics in the 11th grade and will no longer offer Physical Science. The school understands the implications of this and will provide supports for the students that need it. The administration is working to provide teachers the necessary professional development to support this transition.
      4. Three teachers participated in professional development in new strategies for teaching science; the science standards will be changing and this provides support for that transition.
4. **Facilities Update and Discussion**
   1. Chair Brewer gave a quick update from the recent Cluster Town Hall regarding the cluster-wide facilities plan and Grady’s portion of it. This plan is contingent on SPLOST dollars, which come in increments, affecting the overall rollout of any plan.
      1. Dr. Carstarphen recognizes that Grady needs more trailers but there are few places to put them because of site constraints including a large, existing sewer line. The trailers could be put in front of the building, but then there is concern about where existing ones go when construction starts in their current area and whether trees will be an issue.
      2. The Go Team briefly discussed the design team and its makeup; the committee will include school and community representatives. Board member, Leslie Grant, reiterated the need for the committee to have every final design agreement put into writing to ensure transparency and delivery on expectations. No architect has been chosen and the timeline indicates the process will start in April 2018.
   2. The Go Team held a discussion about the current state of Grady facilities and the need to address certain issues immediately, particularly when safety is of concern which include but are not limited to:
      1. There are several interior and exterior doors that do not close properly. A work order has been submitted but no work has been done.
      2. There are leaks in the roof of the Black Box Theatre and sewer issues in the Music Wing.
      3. A classroom has a floor area that seems to be sinking and is located next to a room that had the floor collapse last year. Current plans are to fix this in the summer.
      4. **ACTION**: Dr. Bockman will provide the 150-item punch list that the administration has created to Dr. Sims. It is expected that APS facilities representatives will be at the March meeting to provide an update on these issues.
   3. The Go Team continued by discussing the efficient use of funds and possible recommendations and solutions based on current needs, long-term needs, and use of SPLOST funding. Discussion included:
      1. Theatre renovations – the foundation has currently raised about $35,000. Can this be combined with APS funds to upgrade the lighting and sound system now with something that could be portable and used after the major theatre renovation?
      2. Can the school system look at what can be done now to get them off the list of the big renovation? What can be addressed through regular facilities maintenance versus waiting until the major renovation?
      3. Can the school system look at repair versus replace costs for some of the areas in order to create a better plan for the school in the long run? For example, the new gym needs about $5.5million in repairs but replacement would be $7.9million. This would allow for more flexibility in the final plan and give the school a place for a full school gathering.
   4. The Go Team discussed how to request the school system accelerate the timeline of the renovations by starting programming and planning earlier than currently scheduled. There was also discussion about how to push the Facilities Department to be more innovative and open during the planning to ensure the best possible plan for Grady. The Go Team would like APS to:
      1. Review the demographic information to ensure a solid enrollment projection.
      2. Provide a better, more nuanced calculation of building capacities that matches the curriculum and educational model at Grady HS.
         1. Dr. Bockman will support this investigation by providing a master schedule with student numbers.
         2. Dr. Sims indicated that the floating teacher situation seems to be a unique high school level issue with Grady, because it is the only school where this has risen to his attention.
         3. School capacity numbers are based on a formula of 90% efficiency in building use, but with a 4X8 schedule, efficiency is typically more around 75%. Can the district use this efficiency when calculating capacities for Grady?
         4. There are currently issues with small group accommodations for students in Special Education, particularly when taking tests.
      3. The Go Team is concerned that the programming complications at Grady, particularly the wide range of student needs, will lengthen the design process for the renovation and expansion. The Go Team would like to have the process start as soon as possible. Board member Grant indicated that the process of designing Grady could be used to establish best practices and become a framework for the district because of the unique approach the school needs.
   5. The Go Team decided to request the following of the school system (via Dr. Sims):
      1. To accelerate the process as much as possible and move into the planning phase now to ensure everything is properly vetted.
      2. Address building safety concerns and issues immediately.
      3. Address any enhancements that can be made now with currently available funding, for example, the theatre lighting.
      4. Provide ten additional trailers and a restroom facility to meet school instructional needs.
5. **Agenda Items for March** – Facilities update from APS, Update on AP class scheduling and a possible deeper dig into offerings
6. **Public Comment** - There was no Public Comment.
7. **Announcements** – Mr. Herrera made a request to hold on a Staff Meeting to address concerns until after the Principal Selection.
8. The meeting was adjourned at 5:50pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Janet Kinard

Go Team Secretary