Grady High School GO Team

Date: April 17, 2017

Location: Murray Auditorium, Grady High School

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

Guests: Leslie Grant, Alvah Hardy, Larry Hoskins, Travis Norvell, Dan Sims, Angela Smith, Atlanta Public Schools; Tekeshia Hollis, Instructional Coach; Community guests (see sign in sheet)

1. Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 4:08pm. The Go Team briefly introduced themselves due to the large number of guests.
2. Approval of Minutes: Minutes from the March 13, 2017 meeting were approved unanimously (Motion: Styles; 2nd: Brandhorst)
3. Chair’s Report: None
4. Principal’s Report: Dr. Bockman gave a brief update on testing but held the remainder of her report for the Facilities part of the agenda. Annual testing begins the week of April 24 and includes AP (1,313 tests will be administered), Georgia Milestones, and CAAS (9th and 10th graders in reading and math).
5. Committee Reports: None
6. Old Business
	1. Approval of Revised FY18 Budget – Due to removal of austerity cuts in the state budget, Grady High School received approximately $116,000 addition funds for the FY18 budget. The funds will be used for staffing and materials. Due to loss of Title I, Grady lost a support position which had already been included at .5 in the budget. The additional funds allow the school to bring that teacher back as a fulltime Grady staff member. She will co-teach science and math and continue to provide the critical student and family support. Supplies and materials include student desks and materials for AP classes, including updated textbooks for math. APS has only updated books through 11th grade. The revised budget was approved unanimously (Motion: Bray; 2nd: Brandhorst).
	2. Facilities Updates – The Go Team spent the majority of the meeting discussing ongoing facilities issues including current maintenance issues, classroom space, and expansion plans. The following are highlights of the discussions:
		1. Summer Academy – Dan Sims, Associate Superintendent for High Schools, indicated that Grady would not host summer school this year, as originally planned. Grady and Jackson high schools will attend Therrell. Transportation is currently working on the plan. This will allow APS to do some of the required building maintenance.
		2. Ongoing maintenance issues – Dr. Bockman distributed maintenance spreadsheet that was updated the morning of the meeting day. The following are particular areas addressed in the meeting:
			1. The school has repeatedly requested a bathroom unit at the Instructional Suites, as not having one causes issues with students moving to and from the main building. A hard-plumbed unit is not an option due to sewer connection issues. Mr. Hoskins indicated that APS would look into a workable solution, including a bathroom unit that does not need to be hard-plumbed. ACTION: Brewer will provide information she collected on bathroom portable options for consideration.
			2. The gym floor repairs are expected to be completed this week. During regular refinishing, water damage was found that has been fixed and floors should be refinished this week. There is other gym work that has been identified as a need and is on the maintenance list (windows, carpet, etc.).
			3. A group from APS has assessed the theatre and is preparing a proposal for the work that needs to be done. APS has agreed to forward fund those renovations (from the SPLOST-allocated $11 million renovation budget) with work to take place this summer.
			4. Broken water fountains will be addressed this summer – four will be fixed and four replaced. It is not expected that the water will be retested for lead after installation.
			5. Community member Alex Coffman asked whether school stakeholders could raise funds to do some painting in the building. Mr. Hardy indicated there was nothing to keep this from happening but that the school system had approved colors that would need to be used.
			6. Grady continues to have issues with malfunctioning fire alarms. They have been fixed several times but still do not work during fire drills.

The district as a whole has significant deferred maintenance that they are trying to manage with limited funds. APS will work with the school to address other Grady maintenance issues with a focus on those affected student safety the most.

1. Grady High School Renovation – There is $11 million budgeted for facility upgrades and maintenance. Member Bray asked if APS had considered demolishing the new gym and rebuilding it as part of the expansion, as renovation costs are large and it would allow flexibility in the design of the expansion. APS does not have enough information to answer now. Member Brandhorst brought up concerns about past sewer work performed under the Fine Arts wing and whether it was completed. Mr. Hardy will follow up regarding this.
2. Walton Athletic Complex Renovation – Mr. Hardy reviewed the attached site plan, which is in design work now. The complex will include the Home field for Grady’s baseball team, which will be convertible to a softball field; a practice field for sports like soccer and lacrosse; locker rooms and storage space; and a concession area. Comments from the Go Team and community included:
	1. Will the facility be specifically for Grady High School? Grady cluster? There is a great deal of concern regarding scheduling and access, both with schools in the cluster and outside. The space could be used for other APS schools, if necessary because it is an APS facility. However, it was built for the Grady cluster. This needs to be addressed with the APS Athletic Director. Cluster principals will need to address inter-cluster scheduling on the field.
	2. Is there adequate bus parking? Buses will need to look for offsite parking.
	3. Will there be adequate equipment storage and will it be secured? There are concerns that students will not have a secure location to keep bags and other items during practice times. Mr. Hoskins indicated that they will follow up with coaches to ensure adequate storage.
	4. Is there a design committee for this project, as is typical with school renovations? No, the site is small and the facilities being built are standard. There is concern that plans are not being communicated to the public and that key people at Grady are not involved (i.e. Athletic Director). A community meeting was requested to provide a review and give input.
	5. The issue of equity was raised by Board Member Leslie Grant, specifically in funding North Atlanta’s field renovations. Did their foundation fund any of those renovations? No. They have since funded cross country path upgrades. Can Grady’s foundation raise funds to upgrade the plan and how do they work with the district to make it happen? Yes, this is possible.
3. Grady High School Expansion – Mr. Hardy distributed and reviewed plans for the Grady High School expansion (see attached). Current budget for the expansion is $22 million. The design process is scheduled to start in May 2018. Highlights of the discussion include:
	1. The design committee will be seated in May 2018. It is their job to communicate out to constituents/stakeholders and bring information to the Project Manager, who will work with APS facilities and staff to address needs.
	2. Specific classroom spaces and needs will be addressed through the committee and design process. Nothing has been finalized yet.
	3. The school system has repeatedly refused to provide additional trailers to the school to give classrooms to floating teachers. Because the current trailers will need to be relocated during construction, can the school have them now to provide extra classroom space for at least the next couple of years? Dr. Bockman stressed that this has become an instructional issue, as floating teachers lose time and effectiveness in moving between buildings and classrooms. It is increasingly difficult to keep quality teachers without a space for them to teach. There will also be a large incoming freshman class that will provide extra stress on space. APS indicated that the conversations are ongoing, but additional portables are not expected for 2017-18 school year. APS is looking at different types of portables to minimize impact on the trees at the front of the school, where they will need to be placed.
	4. Tamara Jones, community member, made a statement concerning the district’s policy of not properly budgeting annually for maintenance and instead deferring it until it accumulates to the point of having to be pulled from SPLOST funds. This reduces the money available for capital improvements.
4. New Business
	1. The Go Team briefly discussed the change to the Advisement period for the upcoming school year, in order to execute the district’s initiative on social emotional learning (SEL). There is concern among parents because many students enjoyed the option of choosing a club or activity-based advisement. The Go Team was concerned that this was an additional program that was mandated, rather than something that was chosen because it aligned with Grady’s particular needs. Dr. Bockman indicated that the Advisement period currently causes many issues and does not work for many students. The counseling department is investigating a schedule that would allow 3 weeks of SEL followed by one Grady-specific advisement period, but there are concerns with logistics and scheduling. The Go Team requested further information regarding the change.
5. May Agenda Items – SEL discussion and review of the staff satisfaction survey results and next steps.
6. Public Comment – noted during discussions above. None given during formal period at the meeting end.
7. Announcements – None

The meeting adjourned at 5:59pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Janet Kinard

Go Team Secretary