

DT Howard Middle School

Date: MARCH 11, 2025

Time: 4:45 - 6:00 PM

Recording: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1C83RqaweLM&t=4s>

- I. Call to order: 4:55pm
- II. Roll Call: Quorum Established: YES

Role	Name (or Vacant)	Present or Absent
Principal	Tekeshia Hollis	Present
Parent/Guardian	Doug Brooks	Present, via zoom
Parent/Guardian	Deonne Malick El-Deiry	Present
Parent/Guardian	Shalanda Miller	Present
Instructional Staff	Regina Bryant	Present
Instructional Staff	Sudie Nolan	Present
Instructional Staff	Marquita Moore	Present
Community Member	Heena Patel	Absent
Community Member	Boyd Baker	Present
Swing Seat	Andrew Anglin	Present

III. Action Items

- A. **Approval of Agenda:** Motion made by: Moore; Seconded by: Bryant
Members Approving: 8
Members Opposing: 0
Members Abstaining: 0
Motion passes
- B. **Approval of February 11, 2025 Minutes:** Motion made by: Anglin; Seconded by: Nolan
Members Approving: 8

Members Opposing: 0

Members Abstaining: 0

Motion Passes

C. **Budget Approval:** Motion made by: **Moore**; Seconded by: **Baker**

Members Approving: 8

Members Opposing: 0

Members Abstaining: 0

Motion Passes

IV. Discussion Items

A. **Discussion Item 1:** Presentation of the final budget

- i. Principal Hollis presented final budget updates, see presentation: https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/e/2PACX-1vR2xLCB-XINdTocnZ62gQV-T6bx3QX26Uc-XsNGPDyfFbc_H71rV2LFP3aaoS5OkQ/pub?start=true&loop=true&delayms=3000&slide=id.p3
- ii. Update: Principal Hollis requested use of \$43,912 of the “reserves” and was granted the request. These are not additional funds given. This is access to funds already allocated that were previously placed in reserves. These funds will be used for an in person substitute that can start as early as August 2025.
- iii. 82% of funds are allocated to “Instruction”, direct touch points to the children in the classroom
- iv. Foundation & PTO funds are essential to support non personnel items such as software.
- v. Malick requested clarification around Special Education staffing and units. Currently nineteen “Special Ed” and eleven “Paraprofessionals” are earned for special education services and regional units. Principal Hollis reviewed the regional units at Howard: one MOID (Moderately Intellectually Disabled) Units, two Autism Units, one EBD (Emotional Behavior Disorder Unit) and one ETS (Emotional Therapeutic Support).
- vi. Malick asked how staffing of ISS only Tuesday and Thursday impacts discipline. Hollis confirmed that if a child gets in trouble Thursday would wait until Tuesday to serve their ISS. She stated this is how we have provided ISS for the last 2 years. She reiterated this currently serves our needs.
- vii. Malick asked for clarification around the “Gifted” student count. We were allocated 410 for SY25 but our actual number is 558, is additional funding provided throughout the school year when the number increases? Principal Hollis informed GO Team the “Gifted” student count is a lag data

point and based on previous school year, that is why our SY26 number is 550; it is based on the October 2024 count of “Gifted”. Hollis confirmed no additional funds are given if this number is increased throughout the year. She additionally informed us that they do not use incoming 6th graders to project these numbers, it is solely based on previous year 6-8th count.

- viii. Malick asked again for clarification around the Master Teacher Leader (MTL) role and their new roles in the Parent Key Contact Chart. Principal Hollis confirmed one additional MTL was being added in budget SY26, for a total of two MTL. Principal Hollis confirmed Master Teacher Leaders will have ½ student instruction and ½ supporting teacher role. Hollis confirmed Master Teacher Leaders do not evaluate staff. Hollis explained how they will be used as key contacts for parents.
- ix. Miller updated us on conversation she had with district staff regarding the Signature Program including \$100/student + instructional coach. We do not receive funds for fees. Signature Programming reduced across the district. She stated monies will be held in reserves and may be accessible during the year.
- x. Principal Hollis confirmed that we will have 4.5 FTE for Fine Performing Arts. This is a reduction by 0.5 FTE.
- xi. Principal Hollis reported on Homestead Exemptions and Commercial Taxes and impact to districts. Miller added information on the recent 2024 election for Homestead Exemptions and confirmed the district is choosing to opt out of this. Malick stated that although APS states they have not increased mileage rate, our home values have increased thus as taxpayers we are filling an increase. Additionally Malick added taxpayers are seeing the largest taxable digest and wondering why APS is having financial challenges. Malick stated APS leaders are making financial cuts at APS Central Office, after years of significant increases at Central Office. In addition APS is stating that they are starting to discuss the financial impact of small schools, consolidating and redistricting etc. Malick shared that APS is also messaging that next year's budget cycle will/may “be tough” as well as decisions with facility master plan will follow in subsequent years.
- xii. Malick suggested Erica Long, Chief of Policy, district contact on policy and hold an engagement session with our community in areas our community has expressed interest including cell phones and taxes.

V. Information Items

A. Principal's Update (starts on slide 13)

- i. Registration (slide 14)

1. <https://sites.google.com/apsk12.org/osar/enrollment-registration>
2. Students currently enrolled in APS, registration is open for SY26
3. Student not currently enrolled in APS, registration opens June 1, 2025
- ii. Advance Content updates (slide 15, start timer 34:05)
 1. Math: accelerated math will continue for 6 and 7
 2. Science: random selection process will occur if not enough seats in the class for those who qualify and want to take the course. This is pending as the tests have not been taken.
 3. Connection: new computer course will have a random selection process due to demand for the course
 4. Social Studies: no advance content next year
 5. World Languages: random selection process will occur secondary to not enough seats
 6. Malick requested that if there is qualifying student data for courses that this be shared on the Howard website.
- iii. School data (slide 17, start timer 42:45): Updated data regarding enrollment, absenteeism, discipline was shared.
 1. Principal Hollis informed GO Team how level one infractions are handled and implementation of LOVE notices as part of the discipline structure.
 2. Principal Hollis stated that when the profile of a principal was created for Howard it included a request for discipline issues to decrease and noted that discipline data has decreased since her arrival.
- iv. MAP & Milestone testing and timeline was provided (slide 18, start timer 47:00)
- v. Climate Survey update and link shared, closes March 14:
https://survey.gadoe.org/fm?sid=438D0509&fbclid=IwY2xjawJFPqpleHRuA2FlbQlXMAABHctsB9NrLRCLEao6OnSOh6NEpx0oBoBBCjdEFy4PBHv4qmlY8RqDHfIW-w_aem_iBSAQ3AzWAWOgYIKGSyH1w
- vi. Engagement
 1. Malick gave an update on CAT role in cluster level engagement regarding test and assessment and safety. Malick encouraged Principal Hollis /Howard to continue to have school level conversations regarding updates on safety, tests and assessments as well as math standards and curriculum.
 2. Malick also gave an update APS reported cuts/changes at APS central office and recent publicly shared APS Human Resources reports from APS BOE meetings that show abolishment and

creations of appointments in various departments including Academics / Teaching and Learning which could potentially impact decisions and rollouts of curriculum, instruction, teaching and testing.

3. Principal Hollis shared she currently sits on the district test and assessment task force and expects they will share information soon and will share. Malick shared that Midtown CAT did share the cluster engagement on tests and assessments with district staff including Dr Butler and Crystal Serracin from Engagement.
- vii. Contact List updates were shared
- viii. Parent Corner was launched, these frequently used quick links for parents and families
- ix. Congratulations (slide 25, start timer 1:03:27)
 1. MathCounts Competition: 3 members advancing to Georgia State competition
 2. Science Fair awards: Howard students and faculty received numerous awards including Science Department & Science Sponsor with most winning science projects in District Fair compared to both private and public schools.
 3. Three projects advance to National History Day Competition awards
 4. LGPE orchestra, band, chorus at end of month.
- x. New ELA Standards (slide 16, start timer 40:40)

B. CAT Representative's Report (slide 26, start timer 1:04:48)

- i. February 24, 2025 was the second meeting for SY25.
 1. See CAT website for recording and presentations:
<https://www.atlantapublicschools.us/domain/9280>
- ii. Midtown CAT Strategic Priorities SY 25 include (1) engagement and (2) STEAM.
 1. Engagement Committee to host engagement on: testing/assessment, data dig and safety
 2. Principal Hollis will give us an update on STEAM at a future meeting. She briefly updated us on the STEAM certification process and documentation of STEAM events/PL at Howard.
- iii. Facilities Update provided by district
 1. CAT Meeting: APS gave a facilities update during the CAT meeting and CAT members provided feedback.
 2. APS BOE Meeting: Based on CAT members feedback during the 2/24/25 CAT meeting updates were presented at the subsequent APS BOE 3/3/2025 meeting, see links below. We expect another

update from the district in May 2025 per APS BOE presentation, the district is stating changes could come as soon as August 2026.

3. APS BOE facilities presentation start on page 55:
[https://simbli.eboardsolutions.com/meetings/TempFolder/Meetings/March%202025%20Board%20Presentation_Strategic%20Funding%20Priorities%20\(4\)_1758225ebqhrrrenwm0gzmk35foyokk.pdf](https://simbli.eboardsolutions.com/meetings/TempFolder/Meetings/March%202025%20Board%20Presentation_Strategic%20Funding%20Priorities%20(4)_1758225ebqhrrrenwm0gzmk35foyokk.pdf)
4. APS BOE meeting Facilities Update Start Timer 2:13:40:
<https://www.youtube.com/live/Ds1wHOBn6Wg?si=2mTI5FgAQSoIkev5>

VI. Announcements

A. GO Team Meeting Schedule

- i. **April 22, 2025: All meetings will be held at 4:45 p.m. in the Media Center and on the school's YouTube channel. There will be public comment available at all remaining meetings**

VII. Adjournment

Motion made by: **Nolan**; Seconded by: **Bryant**

Members Approving: 8

Members Opposing: 0

Members Abstaining: 0

Motion **Passes**

ADJOURNED AT 6:08pm

Minutes Taken By: **Deonne Malick El-Deiry**

Position: **Secretary**

Date Approved: **4/22/25**