**North Atlanta High School Local School Council**

**January 7, 2016 Minutes**

**Board Members Present:**

Eleanor Brookins, Curtis Douglass, Millie Dunn, Mike Everly, Chip Fife, Lisa Jern, Joleen Neel

**Board Members Not Present:** Stephen Lawrence

**Guests/Non-Members:**

Dawnitra Quigley (PTSA Co-President)

**Called to Order**

4:22 p.m. by Ms. Dunn, Chairperson

**OLD BUSINESS**

1. **Approval of Minutes from December 3, 2015 (Lisa Jern)**
Motion by Ms. Dunn to approve minutes; second by Mr. Fife; approved unanimously.
2. **LSGT/GO Team Update (Mike Everly)**GO Team elections have been postponed in order for APS to address school consolidation prior to voting. Mr. Douglass confirmed that the new deadline for submitting candidate registrations has been extended to February 15, 2016. Ms. Jern confirmed that the charter provides that all elections (including “asks” by the GO Teams) must be completed by the end of March 2016.

All agreed that our NAHS GO Team would benefit by “targeted asks” of individuals whose talents would be valued on the GO Team. It was further agreed that we should encourage someone who is engaged and from the Hispanic community to participate on the GO Team. Mr. Douglass also reiterated that including someone from outside our school community with knowledge of Georgia education law or IB (*i.e.*, something on the “education front”) would be particularly helpful.
3. **APS Charter/Impact on Teachers (Lisa Jern)**One of the actions items from December’s LSC meeting was to determine the impact of the new charter on teacher tenure. In response, Ms. Jern reviewed the charter and spoke with Rebecca Kaye. The charter does not expressly address teacher tenure or teacher terminations. It does refer to the HR department being “reorganized” and new policies being written. Otherwise, however, it speaks almost exclusively in terms of hiring and retaining the most qualified teachers.

Ms. Jern communicated to the LSC that Ms. Kaye had indicated that the district is thinking through how it might use flexibility with regard to issues like tenure, but no conclusions have been reached yet. Ms. Kaye also confirmed that the district will retain the ability to make tenure and related decisions; those are not decisions that the GO Teams will be able to decide.
4. **Study Hall (Curtis Douglass)**Mr. Douglass is seeking approval from APS for a Study Skills course to be offered at NAHS. He stated that, after exploring various options, he views the components/structure of this course as most similar to the concept of “study hall.” For full explanation, see Principal’s Report (Exh. A, p.2).

The fact that a study skills course would be state funded is significant because it is unlikely that the District would pay for such a course otherwise. It would be funded through the Georgia DOE and we can determine/create the curriculum to some extent.

There appears to have been some confusion in sorting out whether we could offer a study skills course because the course previously had been offered only as a special education course. There was general discussion among the LSC members of the optics of a “study skills” course appearing on high school transcripts, particularly for students seeking admission at highly competitive colleges. Ms. Quigley noted that the course could replace an elective (e.g., PE), not an academic course (e.g., AP Physics). Members speculated whether comparable public and private schools have similar courses on their transcript – *i.e.¸* college administrators are accustomed to seeing the course on strong academic transcripts. Ms. Jern offered to follow up with Ms. Dingman on this point.

Mr. Douglass has also drafted a letter to students regarding a Minimum Day program (Draft Letter Re: Minimum Day program [Exh. B]), for which he is seeking approval from the District.

Ms. Neel also asked whether NAHS still has a class for writing the IB paper, which would be a Theory of Knowledge (TOK) course that would be, in effect, a second year of TOK. (Ms. Brookins later confirmed that this does exist.)

**ACTION ITEM:** Mr. Douglass is following up with the District regarding approval for a Study Skills course. The LSC should also continue to look at whether TOK 2 could be used as a study hall, of sorts, for IB students. Ms. Jern will follow up with Ms. Dingman, who brought the issue of study hall to the LSC’s attention.
5. **Milestones EOC Data Analysis Committee Charter (Mike Everly)**As a follow up to the discussion in our December meeting about the need for the EOC Data Analysis Committee, Mr. Everly cited NAHS students’ under-performance in math over a three-year period as an example of an issue to be addressed. The purpose of the committee would be to look at (and “get on paper”) the barriers to improving academic achievement at NAHS and to develop strategies for addressing those barriers. As a committee, we would have to recognize that some factors are outside our control, but some are certainly within it and are impacting school performance. Mr. Douglass said that a teacher survey would be an important starting point in analyzing these issues.

The LSC reviewed the proposed charter. See Committee Charter for: Milestone EOC Data Analysis Committee (Exh. C). Ms. Jern proposed a language change and, subject to that change, moved for adoption of the committee charter. Ms. Dunn seconded the motion. Subject to the change in language noted in Exhibit C, the committee charter passed unanimously.

**ACTION ITEM:** Mr. Everly, Ms. Jern, Mr. Fife, Ms. Neel, and Ms. Quigley agreed to serve on the EOC DAC committee. Ms. Brookins will attend, as needed, to offer a “teacher angle.” Mr. Everly will circulate an email to coordinate time for a meeting later this week in order to develop a teacher survey, following which it was agreed that we should meet with department chairs and/or circulate survey among the 8 department heads at the Leadership meeting (3rd Thursday, monthly).
6. **School Website (Chip Fife)**Mr. Fife shared with the committee that there continue to be “presentation” issues with the photos. Felicia Stewart (who has access to the website) is too busy to address these issues and Lindsay Jordan has not returned phone calls/e-mails. Others on the council expressed similar frustrations.

**ACTION ITEM:** Jeremy Stamp is the “new IT guy.” Ms. Brookins will get his e-mail address for Mr. Fife
7. **AdvancEd/Accreditation (Curtis Douglass)**See Principal’s Report (Exh. A, p.2) for full report. Additionally, Mr. Douglass indicated that he will ask during or at the start of the registration meeting for surveys to be completed. Regarding SACS (Mar. 15-16), one of the focuses is on use by students of technology and on “equal access,” *i.e.*, are *all* of the kids engaged?
8. **CCRPI Key Indicators (Curtis Douglass)**See CCRPI, Summary by Mr. Douglass (Exh. D).

The way CCRPI is calculated has changed slightly.

We are trying to create an environment where students begin to think about the EOC test; we’re asking EOC questions every Friday during advisement. The school is also “decorated” with “test questions.” Regarding standards and objectives, those have to be taught and measurable. Mr. Douglass stated that we need to look at *what* standard is being taught. We are also going to use “primary evaluators” who know the standards in the specific subject.

The LSC discussed how to close the achievement gap – including the school learning “climate”; how we discipline and alternatives to ISS; chronic tardiness and the reasons for it.
9. **Principal Report (Curtis Douglass)**Mr. Douglass reviewed the following topics from his Principal Report (Exh. A) and noted that the “Student Dashboard” is significant to CCRPI.  9.1 HR Information

 9.2 Discipline

 9.3 Student Attendance

 9.4 Before and After School Loitering

 Mr. Douglass indicated that a letter is going home with students to remind parents that students cannot be unsupervised in the building before or after the start of the school day. Before we take additional action against these students, we need to ensure that parents/guardians are aware, particularly in light of the fact that some of these students may be loitering because they don’t have anywhere to go, or don’t have a way to get there.

 9.5 Additional Information

**MEETING ADJOURNED: 6:15 PM**