



Kathy Cox, State Superintendent of Schools

**ATLANTA AREA SCHOOL FOR THE DEAF
SCHOOL COUNCIL MEETING Minutes**

**Thursday, September 3, 2009
6:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.**

Attendance: Debbie Metzler – Chairperson/Parent, Kenney Moore – School Director, Samia Mohammed – Parent, Sheryl Nelson – Parent, Amanda Chilver – AASD State Testing Coordinator, Brenda Flanagan – Teacher, Nneka Alston – Parent and Recreation Director, Becky Sills – Community Member, Reggie – Athletic Director, Evan Ferguson – Student Council, Faith Powell – AASD staff interpreter
Vanessa Robisch-Principal.

Welcomed New School Council Members: Nneka Alston and Sheryl Nelson

Kenney Moore Reviewed School Council Protocols

- Discussed Role of the School Council
- Discussed Quorum (proposed addition of State Testing Coordinator Position / approved by council)
- Two teachers terms are ending and nominations are needed for their replacements.
- One community member relocated out of state (Tom Galey/GACHI); need nominations for replacement
- Mentioned Officer Nominations to be voted at next meeting
 - Chairperson, Vice Chairperson, and Secretary

Student Council: Evan Ferguson reviewed the items discussed in the Student Council meeting and asked for our help in ensuring that food and milk served in the lunchroom are fresh, meals are ready on time, and asked why high school students aren't allowed to use microwaves. Kenney will follow up on lunchroom item then notified Evan that new microwaves have been ordered and that students are allowed to use them. Evan also asked about school uniforms. Samia is going to attend an upcoming student council meeting to discuss uniforms and show them some options & she will get in touch with Nneka to discuss touring schools like Meriwether County to see their uniforms. In a previous vote, students selected a uniform that is not practical for the school and for most students: style not what the school is looking for and items are hard to find.

Instruction

- AYP Update for 2008-2009/NI-5 Status: Vanessa Robisch reviewed/explained in detail.
- SI Plan: Kenney Moore gave a thorough update and explained the role of the school's leadership team
- SES - Title I: Update from Kenney

Budget

- Kenney Moore gave an update on 2009 and discussed the 2010 budget and where the 3% reduction should be taken. Council approved recommendations and showed their appreciation for the outstanding management of our schools budget.
- FY 09 Close-out
 - Furlough Days –completed during pre-planning days.
 - FY 10 3% Budget Reduction

- FY 10 Budget Approval

Personnel

- Staffing: Vanessa gave an update: most positions are filled, though there is an opening for a parapro and 2 custodial positions. Substitutes are also needed.

Policies and Procedures

- Dr. Cynthia Ashby, LMS Review: Dr. Ashby has begun reviewing critical policies that need to be aligned with the LMS model. Policies completed so far will be presented at the next school council meeting.

Other Items

- Debbie Metzler asked about what happened to the Yearbook for 2008-2009. Kenney and Vanessa explained the problems with lack of one specific editor for last year and assured the council that there will be oversight for the next yearbook (Current Committees/PMF). The council agreed that the right decision was definitely made regarding last year's yearbooks.
- H1N1: Faith Powell gave an update on the schools emergency response plans, how H1N1 is incorporated, procedures & unique challenges for emergency evacuation (due to the number of counties & distances serviced by AASD), immunization availability which is not yet known. Faith recently heard that GA and AL are the states hardest hit by the virus in the US.
- AASD Website – Great work on the website, more information being added. KUDOS to Zoom – great job!
- Kenney notified the council that Management Team and Leadership Team Minutes will now be E-mailed to School Council. The Leadership Team minutes will also be posted to the AASD website for stakeholders to review, and the Management Team minutes will be posted the AASD Portal for staff to review.
- Smarter Than a Fifth Grader Money – In the hands of a judge now. The money has been moved to under the judges' control.
- Booster Club: Reggie explained to the council what he has learned about starting a Booster Club, how it can work hand in hand with the PTA, and the need to solicit donations to start up. He reviewed in detail the costs of sports uniforms, referees, etc. Becky suggested that we contact Jamal Anderson of the Atlanta Falcons to see if he'll help us with this since we are his adopted school. Other suggestions included trying to find a corporate sponsor or reaching out to the community via the Kiwanis Club.
- Parental Involvement – Kenney reviewed last years' progress (a great success) and plans for this year.
- Enrollment now stands at 191 with 7 referrals pending.

Questions & Other items:

Debbie asked the group how we, as a council, can find out about local events that can impact the school, such as the rallies and protests held regarding the "Are you smarter than a 5th grader" money? Sign up for epeachynews.com to find news about most upcoming events that effect the deaf community.

Debbie mentioned her discussion with Deloris Banks (DOE) and her suggestion to post council minutes on the school's web page. The same suggestion was made by the GAPS accreditation team last year.

Samia was able to get a Teacher Appreciation Day set up at Old Navy. She left coupons with staff and will also send an email for distribution.



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The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday night, October 20th in the large conference room.