

ATLANTA PUBLIC SCHOOLS
School Council Minutes

Warren T. Jackson School Council – September 8, 2009

The **Warren T. Jackson** School Council met in regular session on September 8, 2009 at 12:00pm. The meeting was conducted in the PTA Conference Room at the main campus at 1325 Mount Paran Road.

School Council Members Present: Lorraine Reich, Lynn Handley, Robin King, Liz Lauer, Matthew Meshad, Nancy Okeson, Reid Onley

Seven Council members (7) were present, representing a quorum.

1. Call to Order

Chairperson Liz Lauer called the meeting to order at 12:00pm.

Liz welcomed new members to the council: Lori Dewberry, faculty representative, Lynn Handley, faculty representative, Robin King, parent representative, Missy Ramsey, faculty representative.

Liz stated the mission of the council: School Councils were established by law in 2001 to bring communities and schools closer together in the spirit of cooperation, to provide support for teachers and administrators, and to bring parents into the school-based decision-making process. School councils are to share ideas for school improvement, represent the community of parents and businesses, and work with APS and the board of education on issues that affect Jackson and our broader school community.

2. Report of Principal

Chairperson Liz Lauer called upon Dr. Reich who stated that the year was off to a great start at both Jackson campuses. Dr. Reich confirmed that enrollment of 825 students is down from last year's enrollment of 920 students primarily due to redistricting to Morris Brandon. Fifth grade classes are the largest with an average of 25 students per class (other grades have an average of 18-20 students per class).

This is the first year Dr. Reich did not hire new teachers as she was able to handle staffing through attrition.

The Jackson Primary campus construction has been delayed from October 1st to mid-November. Teachers are expected to move into the new classrooms during the winter holidays.

Every classroom is now equipped with a Promethean board (2 exceptions noted were one 2nd grade classroom and one 5th grade classroom, both of which are not being used this year) due to the fundraising efforts of the Jackson Foundation and APS. The Jackson main campus will have an iMac computer lab with 20 new computers. The 5th grade is now using 26 macbooks.

3. Old Business

Liz Lauer discussed our continued goal to protect our technology investment through strengthened training and support and our continuing challenge with inadequate technical support. Jackson needs a dedicated technical support employee to address technical problems with the computers and to train our teachers. Dr. Reich admitted it is difficult to find an affordable employee that can meet both needs. Additionally, the learning curve starts over each time the technical support employee resigns and a new technical support employee is hired. Robin King suggested we contact Tech Bridge, a company that works with nonprofit organizations to help with technical support. Liz Lauer suggested Leap Frog. Lynn Handley stressed that the main difficulty in consulting with an outside organization is the inability to gain access to APS codes, passwords, etc., when servicing the computers. Dr. Reich suggested we research these providers as well as whether Georgia Tech has a program that may be useful to us. Council needs to include in our current technology plan specific needs for servicing. Once we identify these needs, we should research the cost with these technological support organizations.

Liz Lauer suggested we research other schools' technology programs – what are their needs, how do they meet those needs, what are their technical problems and how do they solve them? Liz Lauer agreed to contact Inman Middle School, Nancy Okeson agreed to contact The Lovett School and Reid Onley agreed to contact Sutton Middle School.

4. New Business

Liz Lauer indicated she invited Nancy Meister, candidate for the open Atlanta School Board District 4 seat (the Buckhead / Northside District), to attend our next council meeting.

5. No Executive Session was held.

6. Adjournment

With no further business to come before the school council the meeting was adjourned at 1:30 pm. MOTION: Liz Lauer; SECOND: Nancy Okeson; VOTE: Unanimous 7:0.

ATLANTA PUBLIC SCHOOLS
School Council Minutes

Warren T. Jackson School Council – October 6, 2009

The **Warren T. Jackson** School Council met in regular session on October 6, 2009 at 12:00pm. The meeting was conducted in the Media Center at the main campus at 1325 Mount Paran Road.

School Council Members Present: Lorraine Reich, Lori Dewberry, Lynn Handley, Robin King, Liz Lauer, Matthew Meshad, Nancy Okeson.

Guests Present: Nancy Meister, Candidate APS School Board and Nancy Patterson, 2008-2009 Jackson PTA Co-President.

Seven Council members (7) were present, representing a quorum.

1. Call to Order

Chairperson Liz Lauer called the meeting to order at 12:00pm.

Liz introduced our guest, Nancy Meister, candidate for APS School Board District 4 (North Atlanta High School, Sutton Middle School, Warren T. Jackson Elementary School, Morris Brandon Elementary School, Sara Smith Elementary School, Garden Hills Elementary School, E. Rivers Elementary School).

2. Report of Principal

Dr. Reich gave her report following the new business discussion with Nancy Meister.

3. Old Business

There was no old business discussed.

4. New Business

Chairperson Liz Lauer asked Nancy Meister to describe the issues that are most important to our district and how she plans to address these issues if elected. Nancy stated that our greatest issue is capacity at Sutton Middle School and North Atlanta High School. Both schools are crowded and need additional space. Nancy believes APS needs to lease space for another middle school or for a 6th grade annex until a new middle school can be built. Nancy believes it is difficult to retain students leaving APS elementary schools for private middle schools when we don't know how the overcrowding issue will be addressed.

Another issue facing our district is furthering the well respected reputation of the International Baccalaureate. This program is so strong and beneficial to APS students and is well received at the college and university level. Nancy believes APS needs to continue to educate the public about the International Baccalaureate program.

Nancy also discussed safety and field space issues for athletics at the middle school and high school levels. Nancy believes APS needs to address athletic equipment needs to ensure our athletes' safety and address field space needs to encourage and broaden the sports in which our students can participate.

If elected, Nancy plans to hold quarterly meetings with stakeholders in the community to discuss the state of our schools and any issues or questions they may have. She plans to meet with Georgia Tech and other schools to provide resources that can't be provided by APS due to budget cuts.

The council thanked Nancy for visiting. Nancy excused herself from the meeting.

Dr. Reich notified the council that APS CIO Richard Prather resigned his position and that his replacement is expected to begin later in the fall. She stated interim CIO will be Ken Thompson. APS will fund a dedicated technical support employee for Jackson in conjunction with Jackson PTA contributing \$20,000 toward that salary. Jackson has 2 new promethean boards for our special education classrooms.

5. No Executive Session was held.

6. Adjournment

With no further business to come before the school council the meeting was adjourned at 1:15 pm. MOTION: Liz Lauer; SECOND: Nancy Okeson; VOTE: Unanimous 7:0.

ATLANTA PUBLIC SCHOOLS
School Council Minutes

Warren T. Jackson School Council – February 9, 2010

The **Warren T. Jackson** School Council met in regular session on February 9, 2010 at 12:00pm. The meeting was conducted in the Media Center at the main campus at 1325 Mount Paran Road.

School Council Members Present: Lorraine Reich, Lynn Handley, Liz Lauer, Matthew Meshad, Nancy Okeson, Reid Onley, Missy Ramsey.

Guests Present: Marianna Pressgrove, Warren T. Jackson PTA Co-President and Jennifer Wray, Warren T. Jackson PTA Co-President.

Six Council members (6) were present, representing a quorum.

1. Call to Order

Chairperson Liz Lauer called the meeting to order at 12:00pm.

2. Report of Principal

Dr. Reich stated all classrooms have promethean boards and, once the 3 remaining rooms are equipped, every room in the school will have the boards. Dr. Reich does not know the staffing yet for next year. Current staffing is 1 teacher per 17 students (the state mandates 1 teacher per 21 students for K – 3rd and 1 teacher per 26 students for 4th and 5th grade). Kindergarten classes are assigned a paraprofessional when the class size reaches 20 students. APS is discussing removing EIP teachers and, rather than assigning 2 EIP teachers per school, basing the assignment of EIP teachers on set standards. APS currently has a hiring freeze so any open positions will be filled internally within the APS system. The technology contract between On Point and APS will end by March when a new vendor will be under contract with APS. The administration is very satisfied with the current technology technician assigned to Jackson and hope he will be hired by the new vendor. The Mac lab is highly utilized by the 5th grades and the mobile Macs are frequently used by the rest of the school. Ten North Atlanta students come to Jackson every Tuesday morning to work with the 5th graders in the Mac lab on their IB exhibitions.

3. Old Business

There was no old business discussed.

4. New Business

Chairperson Liz Lauer summarized the press release from APS on February 3, 2010 regarding plans to relieve overcrowding at Sutton Middle School. APS announced plans to relieve overcrowding through construction of a new high school in the Buckhead neighborhood and the temporary use of portable classrooms on the Sutton site. Students for the feeder elementary schools are enrolling at Sutton in greater numbers than in the past. It is anticipated that Sutton's enrollment will continue to increase well beyond the school's current capacity within the next

several years. Eight portable classrooms will be installed at Sutton beginning next fall as a temporary solution to the overcrowding problem. Long term, the district is planning to build a new high school and convert the current North Atlanta High School into a second middle school for the area. An alternative plan has been suggested by interested members of the community to create a 6th grade annex at the current Sutton Middle School location and a 7th and 8th grade middle school at the North Atlanta High School location.

The council will survey the Jackson community to determine a consensus of our families as to whether two middles schools or a 6th grade annex is the most appropriate plan to relieve overcrowding at Sutton Middle School. The council intends to coordinate with the Jackson PTA board for this survey and to draft a joint recommendation to APS. The council believes it is important for Jackson to have representation at the APS discussions regarding the solution to the overcrowding problem.

5. No Executive Session was held.

6. Adjournment

With no further business to come before the school council the meeting was adjourned at 1:30 pm. MOTION: Liz Lauer; SECOND: Nancy Okeson; VOTE: Unanimous 6:0.

ATLANTA PUBLIC SCHOOLS
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Warren T. Jackson School Council – March 2, 2010

The **Warren T. Jackson** School Council met in regular session on March 2, 2010 at 12:00pm. The meeting was conducted in the Media Center at the main campus at 1325 Mount Paran Road.

School Council Members Present: Lorraine Reich, Lori Dewberry, Lynn Handley, Robin King, Liz Lauer, Matthew Meshad, Nancy Okeson, Reid Onley.

Guests Present: Marianna Pressgrove, Warren T. Jackson PTA Co-President and Jennifer Wray, Warren T. Jackson PTA Co-President.

Seven Council members (7) were present, representing a quorum.

1. Call to Order

Chairperson Liz Lauer called the meeting to order at 12:00pm.

2. Report of Principal

There was no report from Dr. Reich.

3. Old Business

Liz presented a draft letter to Ms. Sharon Pitts, Chief of Staff of Atlanta Public Schools. The letter expresses support for the recent APS recommendation to relieve overcrowding at Sutton Middle School. The council discussed the contents of the letter and suggested various revisions. The council agreed that the most important point in the letter is our desire to have the opportunity to participate in discussions, particularly where the position of any specific elementary school community is represented. Liz will redraft the letter and send it as soon as possible.

4. New Business

Liz discussed the composition of the school council for next year. She proposed a slate of 4 parents (1 representing the Jackson Primary campus and 3 representing the Jackson Main campus), 3 faculty and 2 business partners for a total of 9 members. Liz Lauer, Reid Onley, Missy Ramsey and Lori Dewberry's terms will expire at the end of this school year. Robin King will replace Liz Lauer as council chairperson, 2 new parent representatives will be added, 1 new business representative will replace Reid Onley, and 2 new teacher representatives will replace Missy Ramsey and Lori Dewberry. The council will hold an election later in the spring for the new parent and business representative council members.

5. No Executive Session was held.

6. Adjournment

With no further business to come before the school council the meeting was adjourned at 1:10 pm. MOTION: Liz Lauer; SECOND: Nancy Okeson; VOTE: Unanimous 7:0.