



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

Five Council members (5) 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 5:0.