

Maynard Jackson High School

Date: 2/11/2025

Time: 5:00 PM

Location: MJHS Media Center

I. Call to order: 5:04

II. Roll Call

Role	Name (or Vacant)	Present or Absent
Principal	Adam Danser	Present
Parent/Guardian	Kimberly Leeks	Present
Parent/Guardian	Stacey West Wooding	Present
Parent/Guardian	Nancy Lamb	Present
Instructional Staff	Bryce Duncan	Absent
Instructional Staff	Emily Galloway Khalid	Present
Instructional Staff	Sakari Balam A	Present
Community Member	Suzanne Mitchell	Present
Community Member	Lewis Cartee A	Present
Swing Seat	Shawana Rhaney A	Present
Student (High Schools)	Drew Millman	Present
Student (High Schools)	Anaiah Ebron-Williams	Present

- Ms. Harpreet Hora from APS Finance is here to take notes.
- Chaundra Tullis from the GO Team office joined the meeting
- Chaundra Gipson joined the meeting
- Carol Barnett from Executive Strategy and Governance joined the meeting.

Quorum Established: [Yes]

III. Public Comment

IV. Action Items *(add items as needed)*

A. Approval of Agenda: Motion made by: [Suzanne Mitchell]; Seconded by: [Nancy Lamb]

Members Approving: 9

Members Opposing: 0

Members Abstaining: 0

Motion [Passes]

B. Approval of Previous Minutes: List amendments to the minutes: Motion made by: [Cartee Lewis]; Seconded by: [Savannah Millman]

Members Approving: 9

Members Opposing: 0

Members Abstaining: 0

Motion [Passes]

V. Discussion Items

A. Discussion Item 1: Budget Development Presentation

Dr. Danser introduced the schedule for the meeting, starting with the school strategic priority rankings, and ending with the budget.

He then reviewed the change in Signature Program budgeting, along with the process of how we submitted the amounts we will need for Signature Programming,, and then received a total budget from the district for the Signature Program (zero sum budgeting). We received around \$52,000 less Signature Program funding than we did last year.

Suzanne Mitchell pointed out that the assumption that we only have 1533 students this year, when we have 1567 students in actuality. It projects that we will go “up” in student population to 1558. We are working with erroneous numbers and I would like that put on the record.

Dr. Danser points out that there is a reserve account which can account for some discrepancies in student population. He also pointed out that generally schools don’t pull from that unless approved by the district.

He pointed out that we submitted \$720,833, and we were approved for \$515,664. Only one FTE at the instructional coach average salary. There were some questions about the feasibility of keeping all three IB programs based on the work of one IB coordinator.

We asked the Ms. Hora to find out the justification for only one FTE IB Instructional coach from the district by the end of this call if possible.

Dr. Danser then went over the allocations in the budget by staff. We are funded for more gifted teachers. We are funded for 3 REP teachers. He went over line items for staff budgeting contained in the presentation. We are allocated 4 AP’s ,but we are staffed with 5. Dr. Danser reiterated the importance of this as we look toward our new budget. Suzanne Mitchell requested that Dr. Danser expand on facility use. Dr. Danser responded by pointing out the maintenance needed to support the facilities within this building. School Dude is a process that people must go through in order to rent out our facilities. Suzanne Mitchell has asked that the funds that are being generated by the school be more transparent at the school level. Ms. Hora responded that she has a total number for all schools, but not for MJHS. Suzanne Mitchell asked her to get that number so that we can fully understand how that relates to our cuts.

Dr. Danser then turned his attention to the staff budget items of clerks. The front clerk is essential to security. We are funded for 4 counselors and staffed for 5. Dr. Danser defended the need for 5 counselors, as they all have heavy student loads as is. Dr.

Danser then reviewed the positions that have been created and removed based on the FY26 budget. Suzanne Mitchell asked about the school secretary and school business manager and asked him to expand upon the importance of having them here in the building. He then detailed times when people are not in the building and there are various actions and activities taking place over when they need to be here. Summer programs have a site coordinator for summer school and district offered programs, but what needs to be done over the summer is required to prepare for when faculty returns. Suzanne Mitchell asked why they are reducing poverty. Ms. Tullis responded that it is the same percentage for all schools.

Ms. Leeks requested that we see what it would look like if we used the reserves, and if we did not based on funding if our school population was accurate.

Dr. Danser responded that it is essential to continue looking at the line items of the budget to accurately answer that question.

One of the areas discussed was Cognity- which is software which supports our IB program, and we have not heard whether or not that will be supported this year. We discussed the line item for field trips- CEP required by the mayor and mandated CTAE field trips. The district is going to stop providing ink for our printers. Signature Program Travel does not necessarily mean travel. It could be local trainings. Ms. West Wooding asked approximately how many students are utilizing the Learning Lab. Dr. Danser said that it fluctuates- it gets very full in March. Suzanne Mitchell asked Ms. Balam about the importance of transportation to the Dual Enrollment program? Ms. Balam stated that it is the biggest barrier to Dual Enrollment. Students who desire to enroll in dual enrollment courses are forced to take virtual courses instead of being in the classroom with college professors. It also causes a hardship for finding a place for students to work on their virtual courses. Dr. Danser said that he hopes we will have room in the budget for paying for a bus for at least one bus to Atlanta Metro.

Ms. Balam emphasized that we cannot continue to house them once their classes in the building end if they are enrolled in Dual Enrollment. We do not have the staff to supervise this amount of children. Ms. Lamb connected this to our efforts to connect kids to extracurricular activities and clubs. Dr. Danser pointed out more line items with explanations for each, including Non-staffing. Suzanne Mitchell asked for the approximate dollar amount we are losing in funding. Dr. Danser replied that we are gaining money. Ms. Mitchell responded that we are not being made whole because the budget, while increased, with the salary increases, we should actually have much more in the budget with all other things being equal. There was a deficit of almost a million dollars based on the allocated budget.

Ms. Lamb brought up that all of our staff earned raises, and as a result we are at a budget shortfall and asked Ms. Hora if that was correct. Ms. Hora said she would not say that. She said we base our calculations based on an average amount. We did change our average amount, but the benefits cost is also going up, so is TRS

contribution. At leveling we look at enrollment numbers and change things then as well. Ms. Lamb asked if the budget that we are being provided covers the increases in salaries / benefits/ TRS/ etc? Cartee Lewis brought up that the signature program of our cluster is IB, and he has real concerns about having to pull money away from other parts of our budget to pay for IB. And taking money away from IB to balance this budget is not acceptable. IT sets a terrible precedent. This goes against our priorities as a cluster and our strategic plan. Ms. Rhaney, brought up that we have an hourly person for scheduling as well and asked if that was in the budget. Dr. Danser said it is currently not part of the budget. Suzanne questions if federal budget cuts are having impacts on this budget. Suzanne pointed out that we are losing employees in this building. Ms. Lamb pointed out that it will be hard to replace these students. Drew Millman expressed their love of the IB Program and expressed the inability for one person to run all three programs. Without the support system of IB, it would greatly reduce the success rates of our students. Cartee Lewis stated that if the district feels it is important, then the district should fund it, and here we are and they are taking money away. Suzanne Mitchell brought up that she has been in this district for many years, and she would like to challenge the finance team to go back and sharpen their pencils. We are the only over-enrolled Title 1 school in this district. She stated that APS has a 1.8 billion dollar budget and an overstaffed CLL. To do anything to destabilize this program or this school goes against our strategic plan, and against the strategic plan of the district. We have high-needs families. We have high-needs students. I support Dr. Danser in trying to make lemonade out of lemons, but I do not support the district putting him in this position. It is clear in the finance department that you do not understand who we are as a school and I invite Ms. Brackin and other representatives from the district to come to this school and speak with us about this budget. Ms. Gipson clarified that we are not voting on the budget, we are voting on supporting Dr. Danser's allocation of funds for his budget. She said that if we do not approve the budget, we will then revert back to the state budget. I asked her for clarification on this point, and she said she would have to get back to me. Ms. Gipson said that the alternative to flexibility is no flexibility. Ms. Gipson said she never said the state would take over the budget. If the budget is not approved, you can make changes in your budget. The next step is that you will take the feedback that they (the GO Team) have given you, and you will then make the changes based on the amount of money you have been given.

Ms. Carolyn Barnett said we will not be getting any more money in this budget. We can meet with Dr. Danser to help him with the budget. She also pointed out that the timeline is tight and that perhaps you could meet on Monday and invite Dr. Johnson to the meeting. At this time, you will probably not receive any additional funds. She suggests providing Dr. Danser with feedback so that he can go back and adjust the numbers. Suzanne Mitchell stated that we will need to regroup and meet with our

community, Dr. Johnson, and Ms. Brackin in order to go forward. She feels that Dr. Danser has done the best with the budget as it is. Ms. Balam questioned if we could break even if we tap into the reserves when the enrollment numbers increase. Dr. Danser said it will cover about a staffing position and a half. Dr. Danser said that if more money comes to our budget after leveling, we can hire after the school year has started. The non-staffing budget is already slim. Dr. Danser said that he feels like the weighing of the pros and cons was done with intentionality, but the full use of discretionary funds was just told to me today. Ms. Balam expressed concern that Ms. Gipson answered but also did not answer the question that if we do not approve the budget, that they will then give us a lower budget and/ or take things away. Ms. Suzanne Mitchell pointed out that what she was expressing is that there is fear we will have funds taken away from us as retribution for not approving the budget which is extremely concerning. Dr. Danser asked if there were any items in the budget that the GO Team would like to focus on. Drew Millman suggested focusing on the non-instructional aids and keeping those. Dr. Danser suggested meeting next week for a work session and another GO Team Meeting.

i. ACTION ITEM: GO Team vote on Draft Budget (After Presentation and discussion)
Cartee Lewis made a motion to not approve this draft budget in the form that it is. It was seconded by Ms. Stacey Wooding West and Nancy Lamb

Members Approving: 8

Members Opposing: 2

Members Abstaining: 1

VI. Information Items *(add items as needed)*

A. Principal's Report- We continue to be busy. We are 43 days away from the first Milestone test. Spring sports are happening.

i. CCRPI

VII. Adjournment

Motion made by: [\(Drew Millman\)](#); Seconded by: [\[Nancy Lamb\]](#)

Members Approving: 11

Members Opposing: 0

Members Abstaining: 0

Motion [\[Passes\]](#)

ADJOURNED AT [7:11PM]

Minutes Taken By: [Emily Galloway Khalid]

Position: [Secretary]

Date Approved: [2/25/2025]