

Call to order

A meeting of the GO Team for Sarah Smith Elementary School was held at the Intermediate Campus Media Center on 8/22/16 at 3:15 p.m.

Attendees

Attendees included.

Dr. Michael Forehand	Ms. Elizabeth Cox	Ms. Laura Troup	Ms. Christina Barnette
Ms. Chiesa Carter	Dr. Sherry Riley	Mr. Robert Sarkissian	Mr. Alfonso Champion
Ms. Jana Thomas			

Members not in attendance

Members not in attendance included.

Ms. Shirley Anne Cruz			

Is there are quorum present? Circle or highlight **Yes** or No

Changes Made to Minutes

1. None

Minutes approved? Circle or highlight **Yes** or No

Mr. Sarkissian moved to approve the minutes; Ms. Barnette seconded.

Discussion Items

- The Go Team reviewed data from the Georgia Milestones Test. Dr. Forehand had previously shared data with the Go Team members to review prior to the meeting. Test scores from 2015 and 2016 were compared and highlighted by subject area and then

more specifically by domain. Statistically significant increases and decreases were noted. The top two measures, “on target” and “distinguished” were the primary focus of percentages discussed in order to determine areas on which improvements can be made. The exclusion of third and fourth grade Social Studies and Science sections on future Milestones test was noted. Various assessments were discussed among the group including Milestones and STAR, but it was stressed that viewing starting points and the Student Growth Percentile was more representative of achievement. Scores in subject areas and domains compared to the state were discussed per grade level with some concern in the area of Science noted.

- Eureka math was discussed including the details of the program, student performance, vocabulary, math talks, exemplars, modeling, parent education, and teacher training.
- CCRPI scores were discussed, comparing Sarah Smith’s current ranking to that of other schools in the cluster. The high score on “School Climate” was noted as it is garnered from input from staff, students, and parents. The importance of student attendance was discussed. Lexile levels and student growth percentiles were discussed as an accurate representation of a student’s reading level. Dr. Forehand stated that the Lexile level is based on a scientific formula that includes the complexity of words and length of passages among other literacy skills.
- The GO Team began identifying school priorities. Questions about the science curriculum arose including lab usage, teaching time, and amount of curriculum covered prior to the Milestones test. Currently, there is a teacher who is supervising the Science Lab assisting with scheduling and gathering of supplies to encourage use of the lab. Other suggestions included a curriculum specialist, transdisciplinary teaching, and application of material so students learn while doing. Ms. Carter stated that children learn science best through hands-on learning vs. text-based learning. Ms. Barnette stated that the Foundation can contribute to enrichment. In the interest of time, the discussion was tabled until the next meeting.

Some priorities discussed are listed below:

- Improve science mastery through hands-on experimentation
- Increase lexile levels to develop academic vocabulary
- No matter where a child starts, he/she can achieve a whole year of learning growth
- Some strategies were briefly discussed including
 - a curriculum coach
 - field trips

Information Items

- Dr. Forehand will analyze and condense material for us to review at the next meeting.
- A reminder was given to submit a bio written in third person along with a photo for the website.
- Be on the lookout for information about the North Atlanta cluster meeting regarding IB requirements and the math curriculum.

Announcements

None

Ms. Troup moved and Mr. Champion seconded to end the meeting. The motion passed unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 5:15 p.m.