

WGC Meeting Minutes

December 5, 2017

Welcome & Call to Order

- Role Assignments
 - Time Keeper – Jennifer West
 - Start – 3:40 p.m.
- Introductions – Guest Fran Black, an attorney with the State Department working with district flexibility and charter schools.
- Attending – Rachel Baker, Irene Barton, Lara Bassil, Donna Blankenbecler, Katie Bustle, Anne Carlson, Teresa Casey, Christine Gordon, Tobie Hendricks, Tamara Hollingsworth, Lori LaVoy, Neysa Lee, Tina Link, Liz Manguno, Lauren McConnell, Judy McNeill, Beth Plotkin, Angela Strickland, Scott Sweeney, John Tapley, Maggie Taylor, Jennifer West
- Approve minutes of last meeting
 - Approved by Tamara Hollingsworth; 2nd by Teresa Casey

Reports:

- Administration (3 voting members)
 - Principal – *Judy McNeill*
 - CCRPI scores – Walton scored 101, the highest of all high schools in Cobb County. Only four schools in the state scored higher and all of those are schools that admit students via an application process. Mrs. McNeill is proudest of the perfect scores Walton scored on Student Assessment, Student Progress and Closing the Gap. The four schools that scored higher than Walton did not have perfect scores in all three of these areas though nineteen other schools in Georgia did. Walton earned a top ranking of five stars in the area of Climate. While Walton scored four stars in this area last year, it had five stars two years ago, so the climate score cannot only be attributed to the new facility.
 - Charter Update – The charter took over one year to write. Each division of the CCSD has reviewed the section relevant to its area of expertise. Only one suggestion was made, and it regarded rewording. The next step is presentation to the full Board in January. Once approved by the board, it will be presented to the State Charter Committee. This will probably entail an interview. The final step is approval by the State Department.
 - National Data – Walton requires all students taking AP courses to take the AP exam. Walton students took over 3000 AP exams last spring and 92% of them earned a score of three or above. Walton also did well nationally on SAT and ACT exams.
 - Student Focus – Walton's focus is preparing students to do what they want to do. Most are interested in attending college. Several indicators support Walton's success in preparing students for college. Colleges demonstrate interest in recruiting Walton students. Over 100 colleges visited Walton for informational and recruitment purposes this fall and many more will come in the spring. One hundred and eight Walton students received early acceptance to the University of Georgia this fall. That represents approximately one-sixth of the senior class. Walton also looks at college retention. Currently, most of the data Walton has is based on verbal feedback from Georgia schools. They say Walton students are well prepared for college. Naviance will make it possible for Walton to gain more concrete data moving forward.
 - Extracurricular Activities – Band placed in the top ten regionally and in the top thirty at National Bands of America. Chorus recently returned from a very successful trip to Scotland and Ireland. Orchestra will be travelling to Austria in February. Volleyball was named Number 1 in the nation yesterday. Football finished with an 11/0 season and made it to the second round of playoffs. Both girls and boys cross country placed in state.
 - Exams – During the final full week of the semester tests and quizzes can only be given on scheduled test days so students are not overwhelmed. No final exams will be given early.
 - Construction – There should be nothing left of the old building but the cement slab when we return from winter break. The next step is grinding the slab. This must be completed by February or the demolition company will be subject to a \$1000 penalty. Phase II of construction goes before the CCSD Board in February.
 - Administrative Delegate- *Suzanne Schott*
 - No report.
 - Non-certified Staff Delegate – Position Open
 - No report.

- Department Representatives (9 voting members)

- Career Tech – *Lori Foltz*
 - No report.
- English/ESOL - *Tamara Hollingsworth*
 - No report.
- Math - *Jennifer West*
 - Harvard MIT Mathematics Tournament – The “A” Team finished 31st overall, which guarantees an invitation for next year. “B” team finished 70th. This was the largest tournament in the history of HMMT with 142 teams and 800+ competitors. Walton remains the only true public school in attendance!
 - Yale’s “Girls in Math” Tournament – Walton sent a team of 4 to this inaugural event (only 56 girls were accepted nationwide!) Since only 1st and 2nd place were announced and Walton was not one of those, the team does not know how it placed but still found the event to be an extremely positive experience.
 - Jennifer said she has been asked how a public high school can afford to attend major competitions like these. She said the teams raises money by hosting a summer math camp and elementary and middle school tournaments throughout the year. In addition to raising money for the teams, these events are helping to foster a culture of math enthusiasm with young students.
 - The math department is gearing up for Dr. Po-Shen Lo’s (Carnegie Mellon) visit to Walton – January 30. STEM students and Math Team students will be attending the presentation. A full roster of students will be distributed to the faculty. A series of events is planned for throughout the day. Dr. Po will also discuss college admissions. Faculty will be invited to attend this session.
- Media/Guidance - *Anne Carlson*

Guidance –

 - Walton students have submitted 5,000 college applications to date; the number will probably reach 8,000 by the end of the year. The lowest number of applications a senior has made is one; the highest is twenty-four. 1,949 students took the PSAT. Counselors have completed the Bridge activity for 10th, 11th and 12th grades. Only 9th grade is left. Junior advisement has been completed for 642 11th graders.

Information Center –

 - Poetry Out Loud is this Friday, December 8 from 4 – 5 p.m. in the Information Center. All are welcome to attend. The first Helen Ruffin Reading Bowl competition is January 13 at Campbell H.S. Again, all are welcome to attend and cheer on the Walton team. The NACLO open round is January 25. Registration is underway. Interested students should see Liz Manguno for more information. The Info Center had its best Scholastic Book Fair ever, selling just over \$1800 in books and earning a cash profit.
- PE/Fine Arts - *Maggie Taylor*
 - Chorus will have its annual Winter Holiday Concert at Lassiter Concert Hall this Saturday, December 9, at 2:00 p.m. and 4:00 p.m. We will be performing the same concert twice to allow all students and parents to view the concert. This is a ticketed event and our most well attended concert each year!
 - Orchestra had a wonderful, well-attended concert last week! Thank you to all who came out to support!
 - The band holiday concerts are next Tuesday, December 12 and Thursday, December 14.
- Science - *Pat Harvey*
 - No report.
- Social Studies - *Christine Gordon*
 - Congratulations to Stephen Goodwin. He got married over Thanksgiving break.
- Special Education - *Katie Bustle*
 - No report.
- World Languages/Gifted - *Rachel Baker*
 - World Languages is proud to announce that five students will be advancing to the state level of GHP. They are Vivi Lu (Latin), Neeraj Raja (Latin), Aleem Lakdawala (French), Amanda Banh (Spanish), and Nyokabi Gikiri (Spanish). The state semi-finalists will then continue on to the state interviews on February 24, 2018, at Berry College.
 - The Spanish National Honor Society held its annual induction last month.

- Committee Facilitators Reports (non-voting members)

- Curriculum and Instruction - *Tamara Hollingsworth*
 - No report.
- Attendance and Discipline - *Christy Lewis & Beth Plotkin*
 - No report.
- Facilities - *Lori LaVoy and Sheila Sell*
 - No report.
- Goals and Assessment - *Jennifer West*
 - The annual renewal report has been approved.
- Professional Learning - *Tobi Hendricks/Matt Staruch*
 - We are compiling a list of professional opportunities that teachers have attended and have found to be beneficial. This will serve as a go-to list when looking for professional learning opportunities.
- Staff Enhancement - *Roberta Manheim/Jasenda League*
 - The Walton family is growing! The Staff Enhancement committee gave out baby bibs to Sara Grimes, David Dewar, Kathryn Regan, Tony Hunter, Bo Abney and James Orff.
- Student Climate - *Olympia Diaz*
 - Chocolate kisses were distributed to students in homeroom.
 - The committee is soliciting feedback from faculty on how Halloween went this year. They will use this information to make suggestions, as needed, for next year.
- Technology - *Donna Blankenbecler & Anna Stanton*
 - No report.

- Students (2 voting members) Seniors: Lara Bassil & Lauren McConnell Juniors: Alternating Reps

- Students are focused on final exams and college applications.

- PTSA (3 voting members) – Irene Barton, Dawn Quinn, John Tapley

November:

- Announced the Reflection Winners for Walton. There were several outstanding submissions.
- Completed the Great American Smokeout and Vapeout November 16. Focused on Vaping education.
- Week of November 6 we had Custodian, Officer and Bus Driver appreciation.
- November 15 completed a student focus group and survey to assess student needs. The turnout was strong.

Coming up:

- Teacher Holiday Lunch is December 11.

- Facilities Foundation (2 voting members) – Neysa Lee, Angela Strickland

- Homecoming was a huge success – and profitable! Students are considering the best way to use the profit. Great feedback from students and faculty – already planning HoCo 2018.
- New hand sanitizer solution has arrived; working on plan for installation.
- Foundation has been poured for first Walton Garden. Facilities is working with STEM students and others on plantings.
- Commemorative bricks from the old building will be available for sale. Only 300 bricks are available. Sales are expected to be strong, so place your order as soon as they go on sale.
- Capital campaign to kick off in January.

- Auction is scheduled for March 17 at Holy Family Catholic Church. The theme is March Madness. Many great auction items have already been donated.

• Business/Community [Partners in Education, CCSD Board member, Community Representative] (3 voting members)

- Scott Sweeney reported on Board activities. He said a Board priority is capping the Fair Share assessment. Cobb contributes \$144 million to Fair Share. While a portion of this money comes back to Cobb, it is not enough according to Mr. Sweeney. Superintendent Ragsdale will meet with the Cobb delegation to present district concerns. Mr. Sweeney said that many in the delegation are “not friendly” to public education. He cited as an example their support of vouchers, something he says diverts funds from public schools. He said some feel Cobb is always whining, but the realities of the budget are challenging. While the budget is over one billion, 90% of that goes toward salaries and benefits. The remainder must cover all other expenses, including the maintenance of 112 facilities. He said that while the tax digest is growing, the level of exemptions is growing faster, and that the county’s obligations to benefits and teacher retirement ties the district’s hands. On a more positive note, he congratulated both Dodgen Middle School and Dickerson Middle School on achieving Blue Ribbon status. He also congratulated Walton’s football and volleyball teams on their accomplishments.

• Old Business

- None.

• New Business

- PTSA would like input from the WGC student reps for advice/guidance on how to increase student involvement in PTSA. The student reps can share any suggestions either with the WGC or directly to the PTSA president.

• Motion to Adjourn

- By Tamara Hollingsworth , seconded by Maggie Taylor

WGC (Council) Meetings:

(Held at 3:30 in the Room 400)

~~August 8, 2017 (kick off meeting)~~
~~September 5, 2017~~
~~October 3, 2017~~
~~November — no meeting~~
~~December 5, 2017~~
 January 9, 2018
 February 6, 2018
 March 6, 2018
 April 10, 2018 (due to Spring Break)
 May 1, 2018

WGC Committee Meetings:

(Times and locations vary by committee)

~~August 15, 2017~~
~~September 12, 2017~~
~~October 10, 2017~~
~~November — no meeting~~
 December 12, 2017
 January 16, 2018
 February 13, 2018
 March 13, 2018
 April 17, 2018
 May – no meeting