

KIPP: ATLANTA SCHOOLS

KIPP Atlanta Schools Advocacy Committee Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, February 3, 2026

KIPP Atlanta Schools Regional Office, 1050 White St., Suite C, Atlanta, GA. 30310

Zoom Location: <https://kippmetroatlanta-org.zoom.us/j/5780715328>

Committee Members Present: Avion Abreu, David Jernigan, Elon Osby, Zane Major

Other Attendees: Atoya Constantine, Ra'Chel Ford, Raven Moore, Torrey Bates, Joe Arnold, Antrell Tyson - Paramount Consulting

*Chair **

- **Summary of Discussion:**
 - The committee discussed advocacy, community partnership, local, state and legislative updates. Quorum was met. There were four members present in person contributing quorum.
- **Call to Order:**
 - The meeting was called to order at 2:04 PM by Zane Major. Zane Major made a motion to call the meeting to order. David Jernigan approved the motion and Joe Arnold seconded motion.
- **Welcome & Agenda:** [Advocacy Committee Agenda](#)
- **Consent Items:**
 - A vote was conducted to approve the November 18, 2025 Advocacy Committee Meeting Minutes. Zane Major made a motion to approve, and David Jernigan approved the motion, and Joe Arnold seconded the motion.
 - The motion was approved unanimously, with no abstentions and no opposition.
- **Discussion Highlights:**
 - **Mission Moments:**
 - Two KIPP Atlanta Collegiate scholars were featured in a news segment for the partnership with Chick-Fil-A Vine City.
 - KIPP Atlanta Schools scholars have received an invitation to the National Chick-Fil-A Academy
 - Chick-Fil-A owner, Quincy Springs, has made two donations to KAS totaling \$60k, providing resources for scholars to develop job readiness and financial literacy skills.

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- **Committee Membership Update**
 - KAS welcomed the newest incoming Advocacy Committee member Mrs. Elon Osby, who will officially join the slate in March 2026.
- **Local, State, and Federal Legislative Updates**
 - See Memo attached below
- **Spring Federal Hill Day**
 - Hill Day will be held in Washington, DC April 12-14
 - KAS has requested two committee members attend
 - Avion Abreu confirmed her attendance
- **Local Charter School Day**
 - Senator Kemp sponsors a bill for Charter School Day for select charter schools. KAS will select a student, staff member, and parent from each school to attend.
- **Adjournment:**
 - Zane Major made the motion to adjourn the meeting. The motion was approved by David Jernigan and seconded by Joe Arnold.
 - The meeting adjourned at 3:50PM
 - Respectfully submitted by **Atoya Constantine**

- **Summary of Actions:**

Action Item	Owner	Deadline/ Status
Spring Federal Hill Day - April 12-15	Raven and Torrey	March 2
Board Member KAS Email Update	KIPP Atlanta Schools	June 2026

MEMORANDUM

To: Torrey Bates, Managing Director Advancement
From: Raven Moore, Advocacy Associate
Date: February 2, 2026
Re: Atlanta Public Schools Monthly Board Meeting – Work Session (February 2026)

Purpose

This memorandum provides a detailed summary of the Atlanta Public Schools (APS) February 2, 2026 Monthly Board Work Session, based on review of the presentation materials and publicly available meeting documentation. The memo highlights key updates related to early childhood enrollment, workforce investments, district financial performance, state budget developments, and the FY27 budget development timeline. It also outlines potential implications for KIPP Atlanta Schools where relevant.

Presentation 1: Early Childhood Enrollment, Access, and Capacity

APS leadership provided an overview of Pre-K enrollment trends, capacity utilization, and access equity across the district. The presentation emphasized APS's continued effort to maximize utilization of state-funded Pre-K seats while addressing geographic and demographic disparities.

Enrollment and Capacity Overview

- APS currently serves approximately 1,132 Pre-K students.
- Pre-K programming is offered through:
 - 57 classrooms
 - 38 elementary schools
- Overall districtwide Pre-K capacity utilization is approximately 90 percent.
 - Traditional APS elementary sites operate closer to 95 percent capacity.
 - Head Start partnership sites operate closer to 85 percent capacity.

Lottery and Access Data

- 72.4 percent of Pre-K seats were filled by in-zone families.
- 22 percent of seats were filled by out-of-zone families.
- 5.6 percent of seats were allocated to APS employees residing outside school attendance zones.
- APS emphasized that lottery outcomes reflect both family demand and housing instability in certain clusters.

Geographic Trends

- Stronger enrollment was noted in clusters such as North Atlanta and Jackson.
- Lower enrollment and higher vacancy rates were observed in Mays, Washington, and Therrell clusters.
- Several schools were identified as having six or more vacant Pre-K seats, raising concerns about access and outreach effectiveness in specific communities.

Next Steps Identified by APS

- Continued community-based recruitment and family outreach.
- Expansion of partnerships with early childhood advocacy organizations, including GEEARS.
- Improved coordination to support families affected by mobility, school closures, and housing displacement.
- Focus on smoothing transitions from Pre-K to kindergarten.

Implications for KIPP Atlanta Schools

- APS's efforts to strengthen early childhood enrollment may increase competition for early learners in overlapping neighborhoods.
- Data on underutilized Pre-K capacity may present opportunities for collaboration, advocacy, or shared family engagement strategies.
- District emphasis on equity and access aligns with broader early literacy and readiness priorities relevant to KIPP Atlanta.

Presentation 2: Investing in Our People – Workforce Development

APS leadership presented an update on districtwide workforce initiatives, positioning staff investment as a central pillar of student success and operational stability.

APS framed workforce development as both a retention strategy and a response to persistent labor market challenges affecting K–12 education systems nationwide.

Key Themes

- APS highlighted the importance of recruitment, engagement, and long-term retention of educators and operational staff.
- Staff feedback tools, including Gallup engagement data, were used to assess workplace climate.
- Positive indicators included professional growth opportunities and mission alignment.
- Ongoing challenges included:
 - Compensation competitiveness.
 - Workload sustainability.
 - Burnout and morale concerns.

Workforce Strategies Highlighted

- Expansion of grow-your-own educator pipelines.
- Tuition assistance, scholarships, and certification support programs.
- Leadership development pathways for instructional and non-instructional staff.
- Career mobility opportunities within APS.

Narrative Emphasis

- APS used individual staff stories to illustrate how workforce investments impact retention and career progression.
- Workforce stability was framed as essential to sustaining instructional quality and school culture.

Implications for KIPP Atlanta Schools

- APS investments in staff development and benefits may intensify competition for qualified educators and support staff.
- Continued advocacy around educator compensation, benefits, and workforce funding remains relevant for both APS and charter systems.
- KIPP Atlanta may need to continue emphasizing differentiated supports and mission-driven recruitment to remain competitive.

Presentation 3: Financial Update and Budget Outlook

APS Chief Financial Officer Lisa Bracken presented a comprehensive update on FY26 financial performance, fund balance status, and the broader state fiscal environment.

FY26 Revenue and Expenditure Snapshot

- APS reported total FY26 consolidated general fund revenues of approximately \$962.2 million as of December 31, 2025.
- This represents roughly 75 percent of the FY26 budgeted revenue.
- Total expenditures to date were approximately \$571.6 million, or 44 percent of the annual budget.
- APS noted stable local tax collections, with slower growth in state revenues relative to prior years.

Fund Balance Overview

- FY26 beginning fund balance: approximately \$171.1 million.
- Anticipated use of fund balance in FY26: approximately \$13.0 million.
- Estimated FY26 ending fund balance: approximately \$158.1 million.
- Fund balance remains within board policy thresholds but continues to be closely monitored.

Governor's Amended Budget Highlights – FY26

APS outlined several key components of the Governor's FY26 amended budget that directly affect district operations.

- \$611.8 million statewide to provide a \$2,000 one-time supplement for eligible K–12 employees.
 - APS estimates approximately \$9.7 million funded by the state.
 - APS anticipates an additional \$7.5 million will be required locally to cover staff not fully funded under the state formula.
- \$43.5 million midterm adjustment to the Quality Basic Education (QBE) program.
- Increases in funding for:
 - Social work services.
 - Mental health support grants.
 - Dual enrollment programs through the Georgia Student Finance Commission.

Governor's Proposed Budget Highlights – FY27

APS reviewed early projections from the Governor's proposed FY27 budget and potential impacts on district finances.

Major Items

- Increased funding for State Health Benefit Plan (SHBP) coverage for certified educators.
 - APS estimates \$4.5 million in local costs to cover classified employees.
- Increased employer contribution rate for Teacher Retirement System (TRS).
- Additional funding for:

- Student transportation.
- Replacement of aging school buses.
- Continued reduction in Pre-K classroom size.
- APS does not receive QBE equalization grants, despite significant statewide increases.
- Reduction in formula funding for school nurses.

Implications for KIPP Atlanta Schools

- Changes to QBE, SHBP, and TRS directly affect charter school funding and staffing costs.
- Rising benefit and retirement obligations may increase financial pressure on operating budgets.
- Structural funding inequities remain a shared concern between APS and charter systems.

State Economic Forecast

The state economist characterized the current economic outlook as cooling but not in recession.

Key indicators included:

- Continued high interest rates with no immediate federal rate cuts anticipated.
- Elevated inflation, potentially exacerbated by new tariffs.
- Slower real GDP and job growth.
- Flat personal income tax collections following rate cuts.
- Weaker consumer sentiment contributing to slower sales tax growth.
- Rising business costs and higher bankruptcy rates.

APS emphasized that economic conditions may constrain future state revenue growth and require cautious fiscal planning.

FY27 Budget Development Timeline

APS shared the tentative FY27 budget development schedule, which includes:

- Department and school budget development through February.
- Budget Commission meetings through March and April.
- Public hearings scheduled for May and June 2026.
- Final budget adoption anticipated in June 2026.

Overall Takeaways for KIPP Atlanta Schools

- APS is prioritizing stability in early childhood enrollment, workforce investment, and fiscal management amid economic uncertainty.
- State-level funding decisions continue to significantly influence local district and charter school finances.
- Workforce and benefits costs remain a key area of shared risk and advocacy opportunity.
- Continued monitoring of APS budget actions and state legislative outcomes will be important for KIPP Atlanta's FY27 planning and advocacy strategy.