

**ATLANTIC COMMUNITY HIGH SCHOOL
SCHOOL ADVISORY COUNCIL**

Minutes for Tuesday, November 19, 2024
ATL Media Center

1. Meeting Call to Order/Determination of a Quorum:

Meeting called to order at 6:03 pm by Co-Chair Anitra Grant-Straghn.

2. Attendance (Voter/Non-Voter): Quorum is present.

3. Approval of October 22, 2024 Minutes: Motion to approve Minutes made by Kathy Burstein; second Caliyah Young. October 22nd Minutes approved.

4. Adoption of November 19, 2024 Agenda: Motion to adopt Agenda as amended (to include Pledge of Allegiance) by Kathy Burstein; second Michelle Berlanga. November 19th Agenda adopted.

5. Leadership Reports:

A. Principal. Welcome Ms. Grant-Straghn to her first meeting as Co-Chair. Student enrollment is 1910. No teacher vacancies! New geometry teacher hired; also hired a new Behavioral Health Professional. Football team made it to the 2nd round playoffs. Home game this Friday against Miramar High School—kickoff 6:30 pm. Very big thanks to PTSA for new signage for the school; installation has started.

B. PTSA. New signage delivered, and new front banners (along Atlantic Ave) have been installed. Holiday pies will be distributed to teachers this Thursday (small pumpkin, apple, and pecan). Planning a Holiday Dessert Bar for teachers/staff in December. Anthony's Coalfire pizza fundraiser, if feasible (based on corporate issues), coming up December 3rd. See's Candy online fundraiser:

https://www.yumraising.com/secure/atlantichsh_atlantic_high_holiday_sees_candy_13/letSyk8807/bag

C. SGA. No report.

D. Budget Report. \$20,531.40.

E. Department Instructional Leads Updates. Science Department: new teacher doing well. Math Department: Happy to finally have a fulltime geometry teacher. Preparing for semester exams. Collaboration amongst teachers has been positive. World Languages: French class discussions re AI; no departmental issues. Art Department: reiterated that this is the first year graduating seniors can earn a Fine Arts seal on their diplomas. Fine arts projects are on display; theater group working on a January production.

6. New Business:

A. Intensive Reading Funds Request (presented by Ms. Ostendorf). Request for \$1053.15 to purchase books for Intensive Reading class. SIP-tied improvements to performance include increased vocabulary, application of student knowledge of ELA standards, along with Florida history as book is set in Florida.

Motion to approve funding request by Kathy Burstein; second Randy Kurtz. Funding request approved unanimously. SAC will purchase 85 copies of the Ginny Myers book, *One Last Breath*.

B. Intensive Reading Funds Request (presented by Leslie Lynn-Lawton). Request for \$1110.00 to provide tutoring support for juniors and seniors who have not met the Reading graduation requirement. SIP-tied to improving graduation rates with lowest 25% students including ELL and SWD. Motion to approve funding request by Kathy Burstein; second Caliyah Young. Funding request for tutoring approved unanimously.

Chelsea Williams asked if the requested funds included teacher benefits, as funds will be used to provide tutors who must receive pay plus benefits. Benefits add 34.65%. Following this discussion, a new motion was made.

Motion by Kathy Burstein to approve funding request, not to exceed \$1800. The motion was seconded by Sandra Edwards. Funding request for tutoring approved unanimously.

C. Testing Updates. PSAT results were released. If a student cannot access scores using testing ticket, please email Tammy.Mose@palmbeachschools.org for a score report. October's CLT resulted in 100 students receiving passing math and/or reading scores needed for graduation. Students take the entire CLT and score is college reportable. ACT School Day scores will be out by end of Thanksgiving break. 293 students took test. NOT college reportable since all students receive the accommodation of triple time. Winter EOC testing window directly following Thanksgiving break. Civics Literacy exam offered free (4 & 5 December) for seniors currently taking AP or American Government. Students who attend a Florida University must pass this test to graduate, which they must pay for if they wait to take it until enrolled in college. Algebra, Geometry, Biology, and US History EOC retakes are 9 & 10 December. PM3 Reading retakes 11 & 12 December. PM2 for all 9th and 10th grade on Wednesday January 15th (shutdown morning).

D. Vote to approve distribution of School Recognition Funds ("A+ Funds) (presented by Chelsea Williams). In full conformance to the requirements of Florida State Statute § 1008.36, staff members met and voted prior to the SAC meeting. Ms. Williams represented the staff by bringing the outcome of that vote to the SAC for approval. The outcome was overwhelmingly in support of the staff's recommendation that 100% of funds be shared amongst all staff members.

Motion to approve the final staff recommendation by Kathy Burstein; second John Costanza. The recommended distribution, 100% to be shared amongst all staff members, was approved by unanimous decision.

E. Vote on December meeting date (4th Tuesday falls during Winter Break). This agenda item will be addressed following Old Business.

7. Old Business:

A. Voting on revisions to SAC Bylaws: Bylaw revisions were presented by Co-Chairs. School Board Policy 2.09 was updated in July 2024. Based on this update, every school needs to make specific revisions to their Bylaws and submit them no later than January 8, 2025. Our Bylaws were revised to include the required information. Ms. Grant-Straghn suggested going through each Article of the Bylaws. She felt that some areas (the election process for teacher and support staff members, and the School Recognition Funds voting procedures) were not specific enough, and that some Articles were not formatted correctly. Ms. Kurtz said that going through each Article as a group was not reasonable. The basic required revisions were in place; if further changes were necessary they should be drafted and proposed so the SAC could vote on those changes. Ms. Kurtz motioned to approve the Bylaws as is so they could be submitted by the deadline, then if additional changes were recommended, those changes

could be drafted and submitted to the SAC at a later meeting. Ms. Grant-Straghn did not think the Bylaws were ready to submit. Discussion then focused on whether to have a Bylaws Committee to work on the Bylaws, or to add an unscheduled December meeting to just go over the Bylaws, or to have the meeting just to vote on the completed Bylaws submitted by the Bylaws Committee that would meet and revise the Bylaws prior to the December meeting. Ms. Williams suggested that we track back to the Motion to approve the Bylaws as is, submit and get feedback on them, then make changes at future scheduled meetings as needed. That Motion got subsumed by more discussion about there not being enough specifics. Discussion about adding Bylaws to Google Docs so everyone could edit and suggest changes. Mr. Berlanga said this could be done so that any changes to the document could be tracked. Ms. Kurtz suggested that one person should take the lead on the Bylaws so they could present what changes, if any, actually need to be made and what those changes should look like. Ms. Berlanga emphasized that we have a SAC culture where we agree to continue to improve. It was agreed that our SAC Bylaws is not a perfect document and improvements can always be made but overall consensus was that the current version was in compliance with the district mandate. Ultimately a Motion to approve the Bylaws as is, for Principal Edwards to submit to the district, was made by Michelle Berlanga and seconded by Pamelina Baglio. Motion was approved unanimously.

At this point discussion returned to the question of a December meeting to be held Tuesday, December 17th to work on the Bylaws if necessary, no other business to be conducted. Anitra Grant-Straghn made a motion to meet December 17th and John Costanza seconded that motion. The motion was approved, with one dissenting vote.

8. Future meeting dates. Future dates were reviewed on the SAC website. Dates were off by one day and will be corrected and May was incorrectly included. Dates will be reviewed again at a future meeting.

NOTE: Bylaws require that the SAC meets at least 7 times per school year. Currently we meet in August, September, October, November, January, February, March (optional depending on spring break schedule), and April.

9. Adjournment: On a motion to adjourn by John Costanzo, second Michelle Berlanga, meeting adjourned by unanimous decision at 7:30 pm.

Next meeting: December 17, 2024.

Attendees (Voting)

Parents: Pamelina Baglio (Co-Chair); Kathy Burstein; Anne-Marie Maslach

Staff: Michelle Berlanga; John Costanza; Anitra Grant-Straghn (Co-Chair); Sandra Edwards (Principal)

Students: Alana Pearce (Treasurer); Caliyah Young (Parliamentarian)

Business/Community: Randy Kurtz (Secretary)

Attendees (Non-Voting): Stephen Berlanga; Leslie Lynn-Lawton; Alicia Ostendorf; Marquite Smith; Chelsea Williams

Attendees (Remote): Natalie DeFeliz; Sara Konash; Justin Mayerchak