

ATLANTIC COMMUNITY HIGH SCHOOL
SCHOOL ADVISORY COUNCIL
Minutes for Tuesday, April 29, 2025
ATL Media Center

1. Meeting Call to Order: Meeting called to order by Chair at 6:11 pm.

2. Roll Call/Determination of a Quorum: Quorum is present.

3. Welcome

4. Approval of Minutes from Previous Meeting: Motion to approve the minutes from February 25, 2025 meeting made by Kathy Burstein; second Pamelina Baglio. February minutes approved.

5. Adoption of Agenda: Proposal to amend the Agenda by deleting the SIP review. Proposal to amend the Agenda such that the Leadership Report comes prior to the business portion of the meeting. Motion to approve the Agenda, as amended, made by Randy Kurtz; second Kathy Burstein. April 29, 2025 Agenda, as amended, is approved.

6. Leadership Report:

a. Principal's Report/Testing Updates. Current enrollment is 1825. Unfortunately, a student was lost in a tragic accident. Significant support has been provided for our students, including counselors and a therapy dog. 140 students sought out and received support.

Prom was held last Saturday. Best since Principal Edwards has been at Atlantic. beautiful, elegant, uneventful--no behavior issues. State testing next week. Teachers can test their own students, as opposed to being randomly assigned as proctors. Tammy Mose-Cooper and her committee were able to make the changes to allow for this. Expecting it to result in improved scores--students want to please their teacher; are more comfortable in a familiar environment.

A new hybrid schedule was proposed, with Wednesday/Thursday block schedule, and periods 1-7 meeting on Monday/Tuesday/Thursday. (Students can benefit from more frequent interaction with each teacher; admin will take responsibility for more frequent transition between classes.) Teachers voted to continue current block schedule. Training will focus on "teaching from bell-to-bell."

AP/IB testing has begun. 50% of AP/IB/AICE funding will be cut. (Legislative Bill HB 5101) Newest teachers who lose their position will "go on the bench" to be placed in a position as openings occur.

Accolades to Dr. Gonzalez for his teaching excellence in the Social Sciences as he prepares to retire at the close of this school year.

College day tomorrow; May 17th 8 am is graduation.

b. PTSA. Busy March/April. College and Career Fair on April 8th was great. About 150 registered and showed up. Board nominations for PTSA end tomorrow. Open positions: VP, recording secretary, non-recording secretary. Working on a scholarship in memory of the student we lost. More information to follow. Online auction fundraiser starts May 1st. Universal tickets, salons, restaurants, college prep, driving lessons, graduation tickets, etc. Runs through May 15th. May 20th final PTSA meeting (Zoom) before the next year. Discussion will focus on how PTSA can support/facilitate fundraising for all clubs. Graduation signs: 42 have been sold.

c. **SGA.** (DeAnna Allen) On May 12th, a Google Form will be sent out; seniors may log in to request extra graduation tickets.

d. **Budget.** \$19,011.12. Transactions include payment for books and for college tour buses.

e. **Department Instructional Leads Updates.** Sarah Konash: 2-D work is being showcased in front of Media Center. Art Show for the incoming 9th grade. HL Art IB students are completing their portfolios. Susan Rodriguez: making sure all students receive/use their accommodations for testing. Waivers for juniors. James Rodriguez: JROTC is focused on graduation and Memorial Day activities. Leslie Andreula: for college-decision day, there will be an event for seniors in the cafeteria (decorating college pennants). Counselors are in graduation mode--working with students to get all requirements completed. Tricia Langston: ELL is winding down. Counselors have planned schedules for next year; about 90 9th-graders are in-coming. Natalie de Felix: Classroom visits to review service hours. John Constanzo: reviewing for IB Finals. Met incoming students and talked with parents at Freshman Orientation. Juan Gonzalez: IB Social Sciences uploaded Internal Assessments for students. IB exams started this week. Some concern about diminished numbers in program, and how this will affect which subjects teachers will be teaching. Stephen Berlanga: Biology finished units 9 and 10. Data is looking on the upside going into EOCs. Nick Peragine has been talking with individual students who are close to encourage them to get over the line; this has had a positive effect.

7. New Business:

a. **Funding Request.** Tricia Langston requested funds for CLT exams for ELL juniors/seniors. The in-school exam is scheduled for May 10th. Students get invalidated if they take test at home and there's any noise or interruption. Teachers proctor students taking the exam at school, so invalidation is far less of an issue. Also, the in-school test is less expensive. There is a list of 75 names--but some have met the graduation requirement since that list was made. When ACT scores are released, some other students may come off the list. There are other students outside of ELL who can take the test and benefit from this, so any unneeded seats will be offered to them. However, there will be a maximum of 75 students. Responses to questions: the students being targeted need a passing grade on the CLT for graduation. No waivers available for CLT. Students have received CLT-specific tutoring.

A motion to approve \$2,362.50 for CLT testing fees was made by Kathy Burstein; second Pamela Baglio. Motion approved unanimously.

b. **Language Facilitators.** Discussion about a need for Spanish and Creole language facilitators to encourage and welcome greater attendance at SAC meetings. We should identify students who are qualified and willing to do this (they will receive service hours). May be able to find students through Latinos in Action and SGA. Banyan Creek has done this. Headsets were suggested as a good way to do this—and the headsets can be used to encourage parental involvement in other areas, such as orientation, Title 1 meetings, etc. The plan is to get more information, including researching translator headsets, and present a funding request at the next SAC meeting.

8. Old Business: None

9. Closing Remarks.

Is there a way to backfill the loss of IB/AP money, such as a surtax? Unknown at this time. Other district schools have even larger IB/AP budgets and have been opposing the cuts. Currently there is a budget freeze.

10. Future meeting dates: Next SAC meeting is May 27, 2025.

11. Adjournment: Meeting adjourned at 7:10 pm following a motion by Pamelina Baglio, second Kathy Burstein.

Attendees (Voting)

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

Staff: Michelle Berlanga; John Costanzo; Sandra Edwards (Principal); Anitra Grant-Straughn (Chair)

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

Business/Community: Randy Kurtz (Secretary)

Attendees (Non-Voting): Stephen Berlanga; Juan Gonzalez; Nick Peragine

Attendees (Remote): DeAnna Allen; Leslie Andreula; Jackie Boileau; Natalie De Feliz; Sara Konash; Tricia Langston; Justin Mayerchak; James Rodriguez; Susan Rodriguez; Travis Vanscoy