

BYLAWS OF SCHOOL ADVISORY COUNCIL ATLANTIC COMMUNITY HIGH SCHOOL

Prepared by: Principal and School Advisory Council
Adopted by the School Advisory Council on November 19, 2024

Article I

Name of Organization

The name of this organization shall be *The School Advisory Council of Atlantic Community High School*. Florida State Statute § 1001.452(1)(a)

Article II

Purpose and Function

Section 1: The School Advisory Council (SAC) is a resource for the school, its teachers, parents and principal. Its function is to develop and oversee the implementation of a School Improvement Plan (SIP) that will serve as a framework for school improvement. The SAC will foster a positive learning environment, which sets high expectations and meets the diverse needs of the student body.

Section 2: The primary function of the SAC is to provide the stakeholders (i.e., its principal, teachers, staff, parents, students, businesses and the community at large) an opportunity to be active participants in the assessment of needs, development of priorities, and identification and use of resources based on an analysis of multiple sources of available school data and assist in the preparation of the school's annual budget and plan as required by Florida State Statutes §§ 1001.452(2) and 1008.345(1). The SAC shall be a link between the School and the local community and will serve as a means of participatory management through which the various stakeholders in the school community may assist the School and the School may assist the community. Specific functions include, but may not be limited to, the following:

1. Develop and review the implementation of the School Improvement Plan.
2. Enlist, promote, and support greater interaction between school and community.
3. Provide input in matters concerning disbursement of school improvement funds and other monies related to school improvement, and to ensure that such expenditures are consistent with the School Improvement Plan.
4. Consult with peripheral constituency groups when making decisions concerning educational practices within the school.
5. Consult with people or departments needed to support the School Improvement Plan.
6. The SAC must ensure the school includes within their SIP reference to:
 - i. Alignment to the District's Strategic Plan
 - ii. Single school culture and appreciation of Multicultural diversity (applicable

to all grade levels).

iii. Content as required by Florida State Statute § 1003.42, (see the matrix within the Student Progression Plan which is incorporated in School Board Policy 8.01) as applicable to appropriate grade levels, including but not limited to:

- a. History of the Holocaust
- b. History of Africans and African Americans
- c. Contributions of Hispanics to US History
- d. Contributions of Women to US History
- e. Sacrifices of Veterans and the value of Medal of Honor recipients

Section 3: Per Florida State Statute § 1001.452, the SAC shall not have any of the powers and duties now reserved by law to the School Board.

Article III

Representation and Membership

In accordance with Florida Statute § 1001.452, which outlines the establishment of SAC:

Section 1: The membership shall be representative of the student body and community served by Atlantic Community High School.

Section 2: The majority (50% + 1) of the members of the SAC shall NOT be school district employees.

Section 3: The SAC membership shall be appropriately balanced. Each advisory council shall be composed of the principal and an appropriately balanced number of teachers, education support employees, students, parents, and other business and community citizens who are representative of the ethnic, racial, and economic community served by the school. Per School Board Policy 2.09, if the election process does not produce representative membership of the ethnic, racial, and economic community served by the school, the principal will appoint additional business and community citizen members to achieve that balance.

Per Florida State Statute § 1001.452 and School Board Policy 2.09, after the School Board reviews the composition, if it determines that the membership elected by the school is not representative of the ethnic, racial, and economic community served by the school, the School Board or the Superintendent/ designee shall appoint additional members to achieve proper representation.

Section 4: All stakeholders may attend SAC meetings and comment on agenda and non-agenda items, but may not vote.

Article IV

Membership Selection

Section 1: Membership

1. The SAC membership shall be constituted as follows:

a. The principal is an automatic appointed voting SAC member. Parents, teachers, students, and education support employees will be elected by their respective groups through an election. Community/Business partners are appointed by the principal. There should be **at least one** representative member for each group.

- i. Teachers **must** be elected by teachers;
- ii. Education support employees **must** be elected by education support employees;
- iii. Students **must** be elected by students; and
- iv. Parents **must** elect parents in general, with all parents having an opportunity to participate in voting for any parent who wants to be a SAC member.

2. For purposes of School Advisory Council membership, a “parent” is a parent or legal guardian of a currently enrolled student at Atlantic Community High School. The term “teacher” includes classroom teachers, certified student services personnel, and media specialists pursuant to Fla. Stat. § 1001.452(1)(a). The term “education support employee” means any person employed by a school who is not defined as instructional or administrative personnel pursuant to s. 1012.01 and whose duties require 20 or more hours in each normal working week.

3. Information about SAC and identified vacancies are sent to all parents and school-based employees. The school will ensure a wide notice of vacancies via the school newsletter, email, school marquis, or the school website. This notice will begin prior to the end of the school year and as necessary throughout the year.

4. For business and community members, wide notice of vacancies shall be sent to Partners in Education i.e., business and community members. The school will take input on possible members from local businesses, chambers of commerce, community and civic organizations and groups, and the public at large.

5. Business and community members will be **selected** by the principal or as otherwise stated in School Board Policy 2.09.

6. Replacement members shall be elected by appropriate constituencies.

Section 2:

Elections

1. Elections shall be held in August of each year (on or before the fourth Tuesday of August), absent exigent circumstances, and those **elected by their representative**

groups become members immediately.

2. Voting can occur at meetings using a show of hands.

3. Voting for members is not a SAC function and not subject to sunshine law. Each representative must be voted upon by their corresponding group.

4. The principal shall establish the process that is fair and equitable for teachers and education support employees to have the elections of their representatives. The number of representatives may need to be limited in number. This election process should include procedures for the teachers and education support employees: collecting nominees for membership, counting these nominees, a process for voting on these nominees, and the counting of the votes and by whom.

5. Student representatives shall be selected by the Student Government Association (SGA). Any student may nominate themselves, or another student, to become a SAC member by notifying SGA. The elected members of SGA shall vote on the nominees.

6. The names of parents willing to serve on the SAC will be distributed to all parents who will vote on the nominees. Each parent of Atlantic Community High School will be notified of elections of parents for SAC membership.

7. If schools are voting by a show of hands at a SAC meeting for the appropriate peer group, the Chair or other SAC officer counts the hands and informs the group of the results. To prevent discrepancies, they need to be certain of the count and who has voted.

8. Resolution of disputes and/or deadlocks as to the membership if done at a SAC meeting, must be in compliance with the Sunshine laws: No resolution, rule, or formal action of a SAC shall be considered binding unless taken or made by voting members at meetings that have been made open to the public.

Article V

Tenure

Section 1: The term of office for SAC members who are elected or appointed shall be staggered to provide continuity from year-to-year.

Section 2: SAC members, other than those designated to complete unexpired terms, shall be elected to 2-year terms. Appointed SAC members (community members), other than those designated to complete unexpired terms, shall be appointed to two-year terms. It is recommended that a SAC establish terms of membership that allow for continuity and historical perspective of school improvement planning and implementation.

Section 3: Council members may run for re-election at the completion of each 2-year term.

Section 4: No member may miss more than two (2) unexcused consecutive SAC meetings. As required by Fla. Stat. § 1001.452(1)(d)4, in the event of two unexcused consecutive absences from a properly noticed SAC meeting, the person's membership will cease. The SAC Chairperson shall arrange for the replacement of the member by election as specified in Membership Selection, Article IV, Section 2 or, if a community or business member, ask the principal to appoint another person. Such individuals will fill the remainder of the term elected or appointed of the person they replaced. Such individuals will fill the remainder of the term to which they were elected.

A member who contacts the SAC Chair or Secretary in advance via phone or email will be recorded as having an excused absence.

Meetings

All SAC meetings shall be held in accordance with Florida Statutes § 286.011 -- "Public meetings and records; public inspection." At a minimum, the Sunshine Law requires reasonable public notice; openness of SAC meetings to the general public, in a location accessible to the public, absent emergency situations when allowed by law; and taking minutes of the meeting, which must be made available for public inspection following the meeting.

This public notice is in addition to the minimum three (3) days advance written notice required by Fla. Stat. § 1001.452(1)(d)2 to all SAC members regarding any matter scheduled to come before the SAC for a vote.

The SAC shall designate a specified period of time for public comment during each meeting before the SAC votes on an item as per Florida State Statutes §§ 286.011(1) and 286.0114 and Informal Opinion, February 17, 1995, Attorney General's Office.

Florida State Statute § 1008.452 requires a **quorum** for the SAC to conduct meetings and vote. The quorum is a majority of the SAC membership before business is transacted or motions can be voted upon.

Participation in Meetings Interactive Video or Telephonically

SAC members, parents, community, and the public may attend and participate in meetings through the use of an interactive video and/or telephone system, as long as a quorum of voting SAC members are physically present at all times during the meeting in the same location. The Department of School Improvement is available to assist principals with resources regarding the decision to offer a hybrid option for SAC meetings.

Voting SAC members may participate and vote through the use of an interactive video and/or telephone system to allow a SAC member who is not physically present to attend the meeting, in those instances where the SAC member is confined to home or hospital due to illness or accident, or in situations where the committee member's absence is due to a death or serious illness of an immediate family member. Any other situations which cause a voting member to be absent from a meeting will require a vote by a majority of the committee members physically present, based only on extraordinary circumstances as

required by law in the SAC's best judgment, to allow the voting member to participate and vote by the above-referenced technology. This voting procedure needs to take place for all future meetings to determine if any extraordinary circumstance exists.

Section 1: There shall be at least seven council meetings during each school year.

Section 2: SAC meetings shall be held on the **fourth Tuesday of each month**, in the Atlantic Community High School **Media Center**, starting at 6:00 p.m., absent emergency situations. As required by Fla. Stat. § 1001.452(1)(d)3, this SAC has determined that this meeting schedule is at a time when parents, students, teachers, businesspersons, and family members of the community can attend.

Section 3: The SAC chairperson, on occasion, may call a special meeting, with reasonable public notice and the three days' notice required for members.

Section 4: Subcommittees will meet as needed (See Article VII).

SAC Governance

1. Persons suggesting ideas should present them in writing to the Principal or SAC Chair no later than 10 days prior to the next scheduled SAC meeting.

2. When a proposal has been added to the schedule, a representative for the proposal should be present at any SAC meeting where their idea is being presented or considered, in order to address questions or comments.

3. All ideas should be heard and considered by SAC prior to making any decisions.

4. Any idea should have purpose and outcome affecting school improvement and aligned to the Strategic Plan.

5. The idea can be addressed before closure of meeting but must be postponed until the next meeting if not included in the 3 days' advance notice of the meeting.

6. When an idea is addressed, SAC will follow the consensus and resolution of deadlock voting procedure stated below, and by majority vote will decide the outcome of adopting or rejecting the idea.

7. If voted and approved by the SAC, chairperson must sign as approved and give a copy to school administration and school's treasurer, with a copy going to SAC historian.

8. The minutes will be retained at school site.

Article VI

Duties of Officers

The officers of this Council shall be a chairperson and vice-chairperson (or co-chairpersons), a secretary, and a treasurer. The officers of this Council may also include a historian and a parliamentarian. In the event of a vacancy in a Council office during an existing term, the vacancy will be filled by SAC member election; however, the SAC Chair shall appoint an interim officer until such time as a SAC member is elected to that

office.

The Council shall elect its own officers at the second regular meeting. Officers shall serve a maximum of two terms.

Section 1: *Chairperson*-- The chairperson [and co-chairperson] shall preside at all meetings of the Council and shall be a de facto member of all committees. The chair is responsible for notifying members of upcoming meetings and votes. The chair, or designee, will facilitate the SAC meetings and inform the SAC of relevant issues related to school improvement activities. The chair, or designee, also ensures that a quorum is present before an action item on the agenda comes to a vote and works in collaboration with the SAC secretary to ensure minutes are recorded and filed promptly.

Section 2: *Vice-Chairperson*-- The vice-chairperson shall act as an aide to the chairperson and preside in the absence of the chairperson. In the case of a vacancy in the office of chairperson, the vice-chairperson shall become the chairperson for the remainder of the unexpired term.

Section 3: *Secretary*-- The secretary shall keep minutes [available to the public per Fla. Stat. § 286.011] of the meetings and shall be responsible for such correspondence as is delegated to them by the chairperson. The secretary shall also document activities, decisions, and attendance of the Council and its committees for accountability. The School Board will maintain a record of minutes of all SAC meetings, as required by Fla. Stat. § 1001.452(1)(d)5.

Section 4: *Treasurer*-- The treasurer shall liaison with the school to research budget and financial information necessary to support the SAC's financial decisions. The treasurer shall provide a budget report at each Council meeting.

Section 5: *Historian*-- The historian shall document the past, present, and future progress of the SAC and its committees. The historian shall maintain the minutes of previous years, any anecdotal records, and the SAC archives.

Section 6: *Parliamentarian*—The parliamentarian shall assist the person presiding over the meeting with the rules of procedure.

Duties of Members

Section 7: *Principal*-- The principal ensures the council is comprised of properly elected representatives. The principal shall provide information regarding the school educational plan, provides leadership in the development, revision, and implementation of the school wide improvement plan. The role of the principal includes the development, through positive actions, of feelings of trust and mutual regard among the SAC, the community, and the staff. The principal arranges for presentations and/or information of interest to the SAC and encourages leadership from within the Council.

Section 8: *Faculty and School Staff Representatives*-- The members of the school staff

shall represent the views and interests of the total school staff. They will act as resources for the SAC by making available specialized information about educational programs, innovative ideas, and available resources. School staff representatives serve as a communication link between the SAC and the school staff, informing others of actions and activities of the Council.

Section 9: *Parents, Business, and Community Representatives*-- The parent, business, and community members of the SAC shall represent the view of the parents, citizens, and business and community organizations of the school community. They shall act as resource persons for the SAC in the areas of community-related issues that affect the school and its students. They shall serve as a communications link between the SAC, business, community, and parent groups.

Section 10: *Student Representatives*—High schools must have a student representative. The student representatives of the SAC shall serve as voting representatives of all students. They relay suggestions and recommendations from members of the student body and the Student Government Association to the SAC for consideration. [See Fla. Stat. § 1001.452(1)(a) and Policy 2.09(2)(a)(i), (ii)].

Article VII

Committees

Committees may be formed to research and make recommendations regarding specific areas that affect the organization. Committees may be constituted in several configurations. Committees are also subject to Sunshine law requirements.

Standing Committees: Standing committees are created for long-term, on-going functions and are expected to schedule regular meetings. The standing committees focus on "large" issues, such as school safety, curriculum, professional development, or student needs. The SAC chairperson will appoint the chairperson of a standing committee. A standing committee will study issues and make recommendations to the voting body.

Ad Hoc Committee (Task Force): These committees are formed to deal with specific, short-term concerns that are not appropriately assigned to the standing committees. Examples of ad hoc committees could be a uniform committee, or a committee formed to deal with a bus problem, etc. If the standing committees are properly organized, the need for Ad Hoc committees should be infrequent. The use of various sub-committees serves several functions. It will allow greater participation of those who wish to serve, while limiting the actual voting membership of the SAC to a manageable number (such as 12 or less). Additional benefits include a wider variety of ideas and greater sense of ownership by the constituents. A voting SAC member may be a part of the Ad Hoc committee.

Article VIII

Rules of Order

Section 1: SAC decisions shall be reached by consensus or vote whenever possible. If the SAC is deadlocked, decisions will be made according to the deadlock process.

Section 2: The SAC need NOT operate under Parliamentary Procedures such as Robert's Rules of Order. However, rules that will be used to govern decision-making must be specified.

Consensus

Section 1: Consensus will be the primary decision-making method to be used by the SAC. Consensus is reached when all members understand the decision, will support it, and are willing to implement the decision.

Section 2: The deadlock resolution procedure will be used when the membership has voted, and the decision is not unanimous. When time deadlines permit further deliberations, the SAC members, by majority vote, determine if there is an agreement to refer the issue to a committee for further study. If not referred, follow this deadlock process:

1. Either upon motion to postpone, if approved by majority vote, all SAC members shall be given notice that a vote will be held at the next meeting on the issues, or
2. Upon motion, a majority of the total SAC membership votes to adopt a position on that issue at that meeting and specify the official position.

Additional Financial Controls

Section 1: After the SAC has voted to approve an expenditure of school improvement funds by an entity or person, that person/entity has a period of time not to exceed 3 months to use those funds and seek payment from the SAC. If the SAC (or school bookkeeper) has not been notified that the funds were expended by that deadline, following a reminder notice to the requestor, the funds will be considered as having reverted back to the general SAC funds as available for reallocation, absent extenuating circumstances as determined by vote of the SAC.

Procedures for collecting ideas/determining the use of School Improvement Funds

Florida State Statute § 1001.42(18)(d) stipulates school improvement plans must utilize school improvement funds in accordance with Florida State Statute § 24.121(5)(c) for programs or projects selected by the SAC. The principal may not override the recommendations of the SAC on use of these funds. (The SAC bylaws should include procedures for collecting ideas and determining the use of these funds.)

1. During the SAC meeting individuals may present their ideas/questions/comments/concerns regarding use of school improvement funds.
2. To submit a specific request for SAC funding, individuals or groups must complete a SAC Request for School Improvement Funds and submit it to the principal for signature. To be added to the SAC agenda, request must be received by principal a minimum of 10 days prior to the next SAC meeting.
3. All ideas and requests should have a purpose and an outcome supporting the

- school improvement process and aligned to the Strategic Plan.
4. Ideas can be addressed before closure of meeting or must be postponed until the next meeting if they were not included in the 3 days' advance notice of the meeting to members.
 5. The use of school improvement funds requires a vote, and the voting process set forth within the bylaws should take precedence.

Establishing a Procedure for use of A+ Funds

As per Florida State Statute § 1008.36, the final recommendation comes from school staff and the SAC votes whether to approve that recommendation. If school staff and the school advisory council cannot reach agreement by February 1, the awards must be equally distributed to all classroom teachers currently teaching in the school.

1. Prior to receiving A+ funds, schools should refer to the agreed upon process on how to resolve conflicts that may arise. SDPBC's Budget Department suggests setting up separate accounts for each A+ type of distribution with year and type of allocation (for specifically marked project or program).
2. The funds are to assist the school in maintaining or improving student performance as determined jointly by the school's staff and school advisory council. They must be used for nonrecurring bonuses to faculty and staff, nonrecurring expenditures for educational equipment, materials and/or for temporary personnel.

Article IX

Amendments

Section 1: The bylaws may be amended at any regular meeting of the SAC committee by a two-thirds majority (recommended by Robert's Rules of Order) of the members present and voting. Written notice to the members of the proposed amendment shall be at least three (3) days prior to the meeting at which it is to be voted upon.

Section 2: The SAC and its committee, if any, shall review annually, and when appropriate, recommend revisions of the SAC Bylaws, particularly if there is a change in the law or Board policy. The adoption of revised bylaws shall follow the procedure for amendments.

HISTORY: 09/20/2020; 09/21/2021