

SHS School Council
Minutes of Meeting
September 6, 2023 at 6 pm
SHS Media Center

The Statesboro High School School Council had its first meeting of the 23-24 school year on Wednesday September 6, 2023, at 6:00 pm in the Media Center at Statesboro High School. Council members present were as follows: Principal Keith Wright, Maggie Halaby, Lakesha Hill, Jen Calhoun, Amy Jo Riggs, Kathy Yawn and Ashley Thompson.

Principal Keith Wright called the meeting to order.

Each member introduced themselves and told about their connection to SHS.

Principal Wright went over the School Council Training. The purpose and mission of school councils were presented. Expectations for School Council members were outlined. The SHS School Council consists of 8 members (minimum of 7 required). The process for how school council members are selected, as well as, the term of office, and the process for removing someone and filling a vacancy were presented. Principal Wright went over the qualifications and expectations of officers. The parliamentary procedure and quorum were presented. Information about minutes and confidential records were also presented.

After reviewing the School Council Training, Principal Wright made a motion that the council elect officers. He said that teacher representatives could not serve as the Chairperson.

Kathy Yawn nominated Maggie Halaby to serve as the Chairperson again. Maggie Halaby suggested that another member serve as the Chairperson for this year. Lakesha Hill was nominated for the position. All members present unanimously approved the nomination (7:0). No other person was nominated. Lakesha Hill accepted the nomination.

Amy Jo Riggs was nominated to serve as the Vice Chairperson. All members unanimously approved the nomination (7:0). No other person was nominated. Amy Jo Riggs accepted the nomination.

Ashley Thompson was nominated to serve as the Secretary. All members unanimously approved the nomination (7:0). No other person was nominated. Ashley Thompson accepted the nomination.

Principal Wright shared the School Improvement Plan (SIP) goals and action steps for the 23-24 school year. Principal Wright shared that a group of teachers got together at the District Office over the summer to do SIP Work. A group of teachers also attended a PLC Conference in Atlanta in July. SHS also changed planning periods from common grade level planning to common content area planning so that PLCs can meet more frequently than they did last year.

Ashley Thompson shared with the new members about what PLCs are, what SHS did with PLCs last year and where we are this year with PLCs.

Principal Wright shared data in regards to attendance, behavior and the graduation rate. An attendance report was pulled to show "Chronic Absenteeism", which is when a student is missing more than 10% of the school year. Last year during this time, SHS had 8.47% of students that were labeled with "Chronic Absenteeism". This year during the same time, SHS has 6.15% of students that are labeled with "Chronic Absenteeism". Behavior referrals have continued to decline. During the 21-22 school year, SHS had 131 behavior referrals in August. During the 22-23 school year, SHS had 145 behavior referrals in August. For the 23-24 school year, there were only 87 behavior referrals in August. Parents questioned why TLC "numbers" are included with SHS numbers. Parents also questioned how many of those 87 referrals are actually in SHSs building? Parents also wanted to know if Principal Wright had a breakdown of the 87 referrals. Principal Wright shared that of the 87 referrals: 32 referrals were for Student Incivility, 15 referrals were for Skipping, 5 referrals were for Vaping and there were 4 Fighting referrals. Parents, again, questioned how many of these incidents actually occurred at Statesboro High School (and not at TLC). Principal Wright also shared that the class of 2022 had an 83.5% Graduation rate. The projected Graduation rate for the class of 2023 is currently 85.9%. Principal Wright also shared information about having more on-site credit recovery labs and the Transitions class for students that are returning from TLC but are not ready to be in the mainstream of SHS.

The next item on the agenda was Parent Communication. Principal Wright told parents about the Parent Preview Folders on the SHS Website and why SHS swapped to those instead of Sneak Peeks. Jen Calhoun and Ashley Thompson both showed parents their version of the Parent Preview (Calhoun's is her lesson plan with important dates highlighted and Thompson's is a calendar of important dates, including minor and major grades). Ashley Thompson mentioned to parents that the main form of student communication is through Google Classroom. Principal Wright sends out a weekly newsletter to parents and teachers with upcoming events and important dates. The parent weekly newsletter also has a link for parents to volunteer to help out with various events at SHS. There is no background check needed for parents to volunteer with the school. Principal Wright also informed parents that School Council Meeting Notes are housed on the SHS Website.

Other items that were brought up for discussion was the concussion protocol, Honors/AP Night, the Engineering Pathway, the Pep Rally and Homecoming. Kathy Yawn and Maggie Halaby both shared concerns with the current concussion protocol. Principal Wright assured parents that he would get with the Athletic Director and Trainers and have a better concussion protocol to share at the next meeting. The new concussion protocol would be shared with the nurses, trainers, teachers, parents, etc. Kathy Yawn suggested that the end goal for SHS Athletics should be that all athletic facilities be on site to help the Athletic Trainers be more accessible to all athletes. Maggie Halaby asked about the Honors/AP Night. It was shared that teachers and administrators met on this but a date has not been set yet. Maggie Halaby also shared her concern with the closing of the Engineering Pathway at SHS. Principal Wright explained the

current situation with the pathway. Ashley Thompson told parents about the first pep rally to be held on September 15. Students are eligible to attend if they have not received any OSS days this school year. Ashley Thompson also mentioned that SHS is having a Homecoming Dance on October 6 and we will need volunteers to bring in pre-packaged snacks and drinks for the dance.

The council decided to meet more than 4 times a year. The next meeting was decided to be on Monday, October 9, 2023 at 5:30 pm in the SHS Media Center.