

ATLANTIC COMMUNITY HIGH SCHOOL
SCHOOL ADVISORY COUNCIL
Minutes for Tuesday, September 16, 2025
ATL Media Center

- 1. Meeting Call to Order:** Meeting called to order by Chair at 6:08 pm.
- 2. Roll Call/Determination of a Quorum:** Quorum is present. Pamelina Baglio was excused due to illness but attended remotely. Michelle Berlanga has resigned due to reassignment.
- 3. Approval of Minutes from Previous Meeting:** Motion to approve the minutes from the August 26, 2025 meeting made by John Costanzo; second Randy Kurtz. Minutes approved.
- 4. Adoption of Agenda:** Motion to move SGA to before Old Business made by Anitra Grant-Straghn; second Randy Kurtz. Motion to approve amended Agenda made by Randy Kurtz; second Sandra Edwards. Amended Agenda approved.

5. Leadership Report

A. Principal's Report: Student enrollment is 1630 (projected 1808). Budget cut has resulted in 10 lost positions: 6 are teaching units; 4 non-instructional. Classes need to be collapsed/rearranged.

These losses include 1 AP; 1 data processor; 1 technology support (Michelle Berlanga, who was also a voting SAC member); 1 Guidance Counselor; 1 French teacher; 1 vacant secretary position; 1 music teacher; 2 ELL positions. Changes went in place on Monday. By Friday, all should be placed in other district schools. One math teacher is out on medical leave--should get approval to fill her slot. District dictated which staff positions were cut; for teachers, principal was able to look at departments to see who would be less effected. (Could make justifications for which positions t release.) Students having to adjust to new schedules. Testing: PM1 last week; makeup today. CLT makeups next week for students needing a score for graduation. Jackie Boileau and Jill Meadow will be visiting middle schools to recruit for IB program. Working to get enrollment up to be able to bring teachers back. College visits this week.

B. PTSA: Good back to school raffle. Tomorrow is Chipotle night (5-9 pm) plus a free event on trends in college admissions/standardized testing. Event is in Media Center at 6 pm. (Attend meeting then eat at Chipotle!) Buying 26 new traffic cones. PTSA will recognize staff on various days, as appropriate. IT Professionals Day was today. National Custodian Day is October 2nd. "Do Good Delay" is on October 10th at Silverball Retro Arcade--partnering with the Chamber of Commerce. Pens with Atlantic High logo have been received as part of a grant. PTSA Funding Requests will open in October--\$250 mini-grants for clubs/activities. More sponsor banners are coming.

C. Budget: \$17,354.87 (reflects \$1,656.25 approved expenditure for IXL math software)

D. Department Instructional Leads Updates: World Languages: Down one teacher in French; her classes have been split up between other teachers. John Costanzo is looking forward to teaching French 1 for the first time in many years.

6. New Business:

a. SIP Review. Chelsea Williams initiated the SIP Review by pointing out significant changes to the SY26 SIP: Because Atlantic has a block schedule, the only period that meets every day is 5th period.

Algebra 1A been added such that students who need additional support in Algebra will have math every day, alternating between Algebra and Algebra 1A. Teachers are encouraged to have math students work in groups, with teachers assisting/guiding these groups. This year's freshmen showing more deficiencies in math foundations than in the past. PLC's are going great--discussing resources and strategies. There is a focus on single school culture. Randy Kurtz noted that on page 23 numbering needs to be corrected. Anitra Grant-Straghn said that attendance numbers don't show improvement, even though they were a previous SIP focus. She stated that students don't come to class because they think they can just get everything done in Credit Lab. Response: staff keeps trying to engage and encourage. Some students were taking advantage of Credit Lab, but that opportunity is no longer applicable. Funding limits have made it harder to address attendance issues because there isn't money for after school programs to engage student. Another issue is teachers not taking accurate attendance. Principal Edwards expressed that the Administration is looking for ideas to increase attendance and welcomes input. DeAnna Allen introduced herself as the administrator over Ingenuity. She said that Credit Lab has indeed tightened up. Parents can get called; there is a reward system; incentives are in place. Students relying on Credit Lab must be done by January; no off-campus classes or placements are permitted until Credit Lab complete. Credit Lab is no longer a hang out or a convenient way to skip class. SIP attendance goal is to drop from 20 to 15%--Positive Behavior Interventions & Support (PBIS) will be implemented in support of this goal. Anitra Grant-Straghn asked about the high number of failures in Math/ELA. This was acknowledged and is being addressed through the SIP. Examples: Algebra 1A works on foundational skills. This is new this year—and there are several additional new initiatives to address shortcomings. There will also be more collaboration with Carver Middle School, Atlantic's feeder school, to help prepare incoming students. It was noted that page 28 has some typos that need to be fixed.

Motion to approve the SIP with corrections as discussed made by Randy Kurtz; second Kathy Burstein. Vote was 4-1, with Anitra Grant-Straghn voting against approval. By a majority, **the SAC approved the SY26 SIP.**

b. SAC Bylaws Review. No revisions were required at this time. Motion by Randy Kurtz to approve the Bylaws dated January 28, 2025; second Kathy Burstein. **SAC Bylaws were approved by unanimous vote.**

c. Sunshine Law Review. Randy Kurtz briefed the SAC members on Florida Sunshine Law (Florida Statute 286.011) as the law pertains to SAC meetings.

7. SGA Report: Naya Ahmed (SGA President) and Cheyanne Thornes (SGA VP) briefed the SAC. SGA has a new sponsor (Ms. Miller). All officer positions are filled. "Enforcers" (recruiters) are visiting classes, hyping at pep rallies, etc. to raise interest in SGA. Big meeting next Monday after school. Will elect new treasurer; work on Spirit Week, Pep Rally, Homecoming. Homecoming is October 17th; theme is Midnight in Paris; tickets \$55. SGA decided to keep the fee the same regardless of when it is purchased, to be considerate of students who may not be financially able to pay early. No school on the day of the dance. Food will include Chick-fil-A and cupcakes (DeAnna Allen recommended adding chips) and there will be a variety of drinks, including options in consideration of students who can't have sugary drinks, and plenty of water. Plans are to have a photo booth, DJ, LED lights, and a balloon garland (Ms. Ahmed's family will volunteer their skills for this). No voting for Homecoming Court this year--just a King and Queen, and the 2 runners up for each will be the Court. Gold and white crowns. Currently preparing Homecoming Guest paperwork (one guest per student). Fundraiser for the dance: Pink Petals in Paris. Carnations will be sold in the courtyard--baby pink for anyone; hot pink for significant others. Finally, a member of SGA told her teacher she was going to SGA, but never went and didn't go back to class. This reflected poorly on SGA.

In response, SGA has initiated progress reports/quarterly suspensions to support accountability of its members. Homecoming set up is Thursday, October 16th; help is welcome.

8. Old Business:

Discussion of SAC open positions. Kathy Burstein self-nominated to fill the Treasurer position. This will be voted on at the next SAC meeting. The SGA representatives have been added as voting members of SAC. Randy Kurtz will review current membership to determine what positions remain to be filled, then will coordinate an email announcement recruiting potential SAC members.

9. Public Comments:

Anitra Grant-Straghn addressed the situation where several HBCUs had to cancel classes the previous week due to threats to the universities and their students. She stated that many in the Atlantic High Community had children or siblings attending one of the affected schools and she expressed her opinion that Atlantic's Administration should have done something to address this. One suggestion was that the principal should have addressed the student body and asked for a moment of silence or prayer. Ms. Grant-Straghn added that, when a white Atlantic High student died suddenly, there were memorials and t-shirts, and black students should be afforded the same attention. Discussion arose as to whether such an announcement should/could be made without district approval. Randy Kurtz said that, along with the threats to the HBCUs, there were many troubling things happening in the world and Atlantic's administration can't address every single one. By this point the discussion was loud and argumentative. Ms. Kurtz said that the important thing was that everyone looks out for each other and is kind, and complemented the SGA representatives for demonstrating kindness by being considerate of all students in planning SGA activities. Ms. Grant-Straghn made it clear that this kindness in no way equated with threats to students attending HBCUs. Pamelina Baglio said that the discussion had become inappropriate and needed to stop. The discussion did not stop, but Ms. Kurtz took over the meeting and called for adjournment.

10. Adjournment: Randy Kurtz made a motion to adjourn. Kathy Burstein seconded. 4 votes for adjournment; Anitra Grant-Straghn did not vote. Meeting adjourned at 7:35 pm.

11. Next Meeting: Next SAC meeting is October 28, 2025.

Additional meeting dates:

January 27th

February 24th

March 24th

April 28th

Attendees (Voting)

Parents: Kathy Burstein, Anitra Grant-Straghn (Chair)

Staff: John Costanzo; Sandra Edwards (Principal)

Business/Community: Randy Kurtz (Secretary)

Attendees (Non-Voting): Naya Ahmed; Cheyenne Thornes; Chelsea Williams

Remote: DeAnna Allen; Pamelina Baglio (Co-Chair)