

**ATLANTIC COMMUNITY HIGH SCHOOL**  
**SCHOOL ADVISORY COUNCIL**  
**Minutes for Tuesday, October 28, 2025**  
**ATL Media Center**

- 1. Meeting Call to Order:** Meeting called to order by Chair at 6:18 pm.
- 2. Roll Call/Determination of a Quorum:** Quorum is present.
- 3. Approval of Minutes from Previous Meeting:** Several amendments to the minutes were recommended.

(1) Michele Miller said that, in the SGA Report (Section 7), the statement “[t]his reflected poorly on SGA” was inaccurate. Secretary agreed to rewrite this as something like “[b]ecause SGA leadership did not want to allow this type of incident to reflect poorly on SGA, quick action was taken to protect their organization’s integrity.”

(2) Anitra Grant-Straghn stated that the exact SAC-recommended changes to the SIP need to be recorded in the minutes. Secretary agreed to review the changes that SAC recommended and amend the minutes to include those exact changes.

(3) Anitra Grant-Straghn stated that she did not agree with the way the minutes reported the Public Comments section of the SAC meeting. She said that the sentence “[b]y this point the discussion was loud and argumentative” was opinion, not fact, and should be stricken. Dedrick Straghn, who was not present at the September meeting but seemed to be familiar with meeting minutes in general, concurred and also noted that the statement about what Ms. Kurtz said should be stricken and that the final sentence, regarding adjournment, did not belong in the Public Comments section. Kathy Burstein volunteered to go back through the recorded meeting and prepare a transcript of what transpired so that the minutes can be amended to accurately reflect the meeting; Pamelina Baglio volunteered to assist as needed.

Motion to approve the minutes from the September 16, 2025 meeting, with stipulated amendments, made by Kathy Burstein; second Pamelina Baglio. Amended Minutes approved.

**\*\*Secretary’s Note:** Because the September Minutes were approved based on substantive amendments that are in the process of being drafted, the amended Minutes will need to be reviewed and approved again at the next SAC meeting.

**4. Adoption of Agenda:** Request to amend the agenda and move New Business to before the Leadership Reports to facilitate preserving a quorum to vote on funding requests. Request to amend the agenda to add a discussion about rescheduling the March meeting prior to adjournment. Motion to approve the amended agenda made by Anitra Grant-Straghn; second Randy Kurtz. Amended agenda for October 28, 2025 approved.

**5. New Business:**

**Requests for SAC Funding**

**A.** Tricia Langston presented a request for \$5,520 to pay the CLT exam fee for 160 students who need a concordant score for graduation. CLT is December 3rd. Discussion centered on the high cost per student of the request, and whether more cost-effective ways were available for students to achieve the same

goal. On a motion by Kathy Burstein and second by Cheyanne Thorne, discussion was tabled until other requests were heard to allow the opportunity for presenter to gather additional information.

**B.** Alicia Ostendorf presented a request for \$767.00 to pay for paperback copies of the novel Star Splitter. This science-fiction/futuristic book will be used with intensive reading students, and the author will talk with students about the book. The purchase will include copies of the book for the media center which will be available to all students.

On a motion by Kathy Burstein and second by Cheyanne Thorne, **\$767.00 was approved to purchase 100 copies of the book**. Anitra Grant-Straghn voted no because the request was not part of the 2026 Atlantic High School Improvement Plan.

**C.** Travis Vanscoy presented a request for \$1700 to purchase 85 EDIA software subscriptions for Algebra 1A classes. Discussion centered around what the full subscription offers beyond what the free subscription can do, and why EDIA is needed since IXL was already funded. The free subscription has a limited number of practice problems, and intensive math needs access to different teaching tools than what is used in the standard algebra classes.

On a motion by Anitra Grant-Straghn and second by Pamelina Baglio, **\$1700.00 was unanimously approved to purchase 85 EDIA subscriptions**.

**D.** Nadia Stewart presented a request for \$2000.00 to purchase incentives/rewards to be used in the Up Eagles: Every Day Counts initiative to combat tardiness and absenteeism. The initiative will reward positive performance, but also identify students who are chronically tardy/absent in order to meet with them and, in some cases, their parents/guardian, to set goals for improvement. Based on reports from "Student Conductor," there have been 6,244 tardiness episodes so far this year. This request will support/benefit every student in the school. Discussion on how incentives were purchased and used last year without any noticeable improvement. It was pointed out that last year, incentives were purchased/donated by PTSA and the focus was on student behavior, not attendance.

On a motion by Anitra Grant-Straghn and second by Randy Kurtz, **\$2000.00 was approved to purchase incentives/rewards** in support of the Up Eagles: Every Day Counts initiative. Anitra Grant-Straghn Grant-Straghn voted no because the request was not part of the 2026 Atlantic High School Improvement Plan.

**E.** Tricia Langston clarified that there are no waivers available for the CLT, and that of the 160 students in need of a concordant score, about 100 are seniors. After further discussion, the consensus was that students should continue to take all standardized exams already available to them, and if there were still students needing a concordant score later in the school year, SAC would reassess. On a motion by Kathy Burstein and second by Pamelina Baglio, SAC did not approve the funding request for CLT exam fees. Randy Kurtz voted Yes (with stipulations).

## **6. Leadership Report**

**A. Principal's Report:** (Presented by Travis Vanscoy) Student enrollment is 1577, and there are no teacher vacancies (one teacher was hired today). Showcase of Schools happening now, and Principal Edwards is attending. New choice program for Atlantic: Bio-medical Engineering. Also, criminal justice will be a choice program. ACT and SAT testing coming up in November. Football team are district champs.

**B. PTSA:** PTSA website is [atlantichighptsa.org](http://atlantichighptsa.org). Mini-grant enrollment opens at 9 am on November 1st. Square Peg Pizzeria spirit day on November 4th. College/Career Fair March 9<sup>th</sup>; several organizations have already been signed up.

**C. SGA:** As of October 27<sup>th</sup>, 125 new members. New membership drive to target 9/10/11<sup>th</sup> grades to get a minimum of 50 students per grade to build leadership. Flower fundraiser was successful. SGA was able to fund trinkets/glasses/glosticks for pep rally (\$700). Homecoming Dance a huge success. First time for outside guests, and behavior was exceptional. SGA (with help from PTSA) provided chips and cookies, Chick-fil-A/cupcakes/light-up dance floor/DJ/decorator. Lower costs from using a new DJ and new decorator. Coming up: sponsoring of sports rush; class T shirt fundraiser (Atlantic on front; class on back); December 12th Night at the Movies on football field instead of in gym. Flower sale for Valentine's Day plus a Valentine's dance. Talking about making baskets of gratitude, supporting a food bank, and other opportunities to give back to community.

**D. Budget:** \$17,354.87.

**E. Department Instructional Leads Updates:** Art Department has added AVID and design/speech. Ceramics 2 and 3 have fall sculptures on display; drawings of fall images also on display. Math department is working diligently toward raising Atlantic's grade to "A", focusing on reducing D's and F's in math courses. English: also working on increasing student grades and getting students to read. Focusing on district exams. ROTC is fine except currently there is no money from the federal government due to the shutdown, which presents a leadership challenge. Gained a teacher in ESE; working with Reading and English departments on a new reading initiative.

**7. Upcoming Meetings:** Next SAC meeting is January 28, 2026. Discussion: the Media Center may not be available for the March 24<sup>th</sup> due to local elections. Consensus is that there are several alternate meeting locations available on campus, so the date shall remain the same and we will decide on the location when we meet in February.

**8. Public Comment:** December 3<sup>rd</sup> is a literacy night 6-8 pm at Barnes and Noble in Boynton Beach. Offering a read-aloud activity with teachers participating as readers. All proceeds will be received by Atlantic as Barnes and Nobles credits.

Suggestion that a future SAC meeting be held at Delray Beach Public Library.

Nadia Steward shared that a teacher lounge is being turned into a zen room (relaxing space). Posted on Delray Community site—volunteers have offered to do a yoga session, donate plants, etc. Love Delray coming to paint (district providing paint).

**8. Adjournment:** Meeting adjourned at 6:53 pm following an approved motion by Randy Kurtz; seconded by Cheyanne Thorne.

**Attendees (Voting)**

**Parents:** Kathy Burstein; Anitra Grant-Straghn

**Teachers:**

**Educational Support Employee:** Jeannette Rosario-Reyes

**Students:** Cheyanne Thornes

**Business/Community:** Randy Kurtz; Pamela Baglio

**Attendees (Non-Voting):** Michele Miller (SGA sponsor); Alicia Ostendorf; Nadia Stewart; Dedrick Straghn (parent); Travis Vanscoy (AP)

**Remote:** Omar Farouk (remote, then joined in person); Trisha Langston; Rebecca Radic; James Rodriguez; Susan Rodriguez