

Arundel High School
Citizen's Advisory Committee – CAC

Meeting Minutes

March 2, 2011 – 7 pm

The minutes from the January 5, 2011 meeting were approved with two revisions by a motion from Mary Beth Gormley and seconded by Lisa Eliot.

County CAC Update: The recent elections at the County CAC were discussed. The new officers are as follow: **Chair: Joanna Conti, Vice Chair: Carol Kissal and Secretary: Janet Pogar**. The first meeting with our new officers will be **Thursday, March 24, 2011 at 7 pm** at the Board of Education building.

AHS CAC Update: We are currently looking for a new CAC representative for Arundel's 2011-2012 school year. Our next AHS PTSO meeting/Coffee with the Principal is **Saturday, April 9th at 9 am**. The final AHS CAC meeting for the school year is Wednesday, **May 4th at 7 pm**.

Principal's Report: Mrs. Stratton announced several teachers currently being honored for their achievements: **Ms. Kibala**-Community Participation Award, **Ms. Hoffberger**-Teacher of the Year nominee and **Ms. Yuscavage, Ms. Whayland and Ms. Hall** were all honored for Board Certification. Congratulations went out to all our wonderful teachers. **Mrs. Davenport**, assistant principal, will also be presented the Star Award for her involvement with the Special Education City Advisory Council and **Mrs. Stratton** has been nominated for Principal of the Year!

The Japanese students will arrive Saturday, March 12 and will spend their first weekend relaxing at their host families' homes followed by a walking tour of Annapolis with Mr. and Mrs. Yuscavage. Monday, March 14, a welcome ceremony will be held at AHS during first period; Senator Reilly will be in attendance. They will then go to class second period, be placed together again for Wildcat Hour to touch base with each other, and then back to classes for the remainder of the day. Tuesday they will attend classes with their host students and Wednesday they will take a field trip to Baltimore. Thursday they will attend classes in the morning and be involved in music and art activities in the afternoon which they will then show to our students. Friday they will perform a cultural activity in the morning, attend World Café where they will organize a presentation for Arundel. On Saturday they will be back with their host families and then fly back to Japan. The next step in this process is having our students go to Japan!

Benchmarks: what we are doing is working...we have good scores. First quarter Arundel placed #1 in Algebra, #4 in English 10. Second quarter Arundel placed #1 in Algebra, #4 in English 10. We were third in English 9 Daily and fourth in Biology. Special Education was up seventeen percentage points for the second English benchmark, they also improved in Biology. The Asian group lost ground in Biology which is worrisome. We are up six points in Government; ninth grade Matter and Energy up by seven points;

English Daily 9th grade up 8.31 points. The data shows that our teachers and students are working hard and it's paying off.

Second quarter overall GPA was down. Midterm exams were hard and students weren't prepared.

Seven of our teachers presented at the AP Conference; we are very proud of them.

Graduation is June 1 at 10 am. There was a rumor that it may have been changed due to a Board of Education meeting at the same time but it has been resolved.

Anne Arundel County is the second in the state for the highest number of Board Certified teachers; Montgomery County is number one.

Mr. Kevin Jackson and Andrew Pruski, Board of Education: Mr. Jackson spoke to us about our global signature tie-in with foreign travel. He understands that we have some concerns with the current AACPS foreign travel policy. It was written in 1974 and revised in 1991, 1997 and 2010. Questions asked by the group of Mr. Jackson and Mr. Pruski regarding this issue were as follow:

~What about outside travel groups? Can we advertise non-school sponsored travel? Could we possibly establish a separate policy for pre-established student travel companies (EF Travel, People to People, etc), Mr. Pruski suggested that the Board may be able to "wave liability."

~Why such a high chaperone/student ratio? We are 1:5; other counties are 1:8, 1:15.

~Could we possibly have another foreign travel deadline in the spring? (Currently there is only one deadline of Oct. 15).

~Would like to stress service learning during the summer. (Currently no travel is allowed June-August).

~ Once paperwork has been completed, it should not have to be repeated.

~Policies are outdated and should match our culture and change of times.

Both Mr. Jackson and Mr. Pruski discussed the fact that the policy only allows for one foreign travel deadline of October 15 due to the various other events taking place shortly after; HSA/MSA testing, Capital budget. Both gentlemen agreed that they would take these issues back to the Board and also encouraged our CAC to contact our new County CAC Chair, Joanna Conti as well as attend Board meetings and be heard during the public comment time.

Mr. Jackson and Mr. Pruski were thanked for their support to Arundel and for their attention to our concerns.

Meeting adjourned at 8:40 pm.

Respectfully submitted by,

Kerri Barbour, Arundel High School CAC