

**ARUNDEL HIGH SCHOOL
CITIZEN'S ADVISORY COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES
MAY 4, 2011**

Minutes from our March 2, 2011 meeting were reviewed and approved by a motion from Lanie Stargel and seconded by Madge Bowen.

County CAC Update: At the April 20 Board of Education meeting, Kerri Barbour asked the Board members to consider revisions to the current foreign field trip policy. The revisions requested were:

1. Considering a second date in which to turn in the Foreign Field Trip Approval Packet. Currently the due date is October 15. It would be very helpful if there was an additional due day in early spring, allowing teachers more time to gather student and parent interest, fundraise and plan.
2. Change the student to chaperone ratio, especially for high school aged students. The current ratio is 1:5; other counties and companies are anywhere from 1:7 to 1:15.
3. The regulation states that school-sponsored field trips shall not be planned in June or August. But then a few pages on in the policy, it states that in order to avoid students missing school days, teachers should consider a variety of scheduling alternatives including weekends, school holidays, vacations and summer months when planning foreign travel. Teachers are discouraged immediately when reading that no trips should be planned in June or August; this is one reason they so often choose outside travel companies. It was asked that a revision with clarity in the travel times be sought to avoid the ambiguity.

Copies of the results from the CAC survey for AACPS were distributed. County Chair Joanna Conti conducted the survey and went over the results with the members at our county meeting. Over 4,000 people completed the survey. Results can be found at the following link: www.cacsurvey.com The following five top ranked issues from the survey will be explored by the County CAC:

1. Class sizes too large
2. Children being bullied in school
3. Students need better science education to compete in today's world
4. Too much emphasis on test taking
5. Minority students are not achieving at the level of Caucasian students

One other issue that made the top five but was not chosen for further exploration was that 51.2% of respondents felt strongly that the Board of Education should be elected, not appointed by the Governor. It was agreed however that the CAC should send a letter to all Anne Arundel County delegates and senators informing them as to how the respondents feel about the issue.

A new Arundel High School CAC representative is needed for the 2011-2012 school year. Kerri Barbour is available to support the new rep in getting started. Interested people can contact her at kerrib61@hotmail.com

Principal's Report: AP testing began on Monday; a record number of tests are being taken this year. Next year the tests will have to be administered off-site; we do not have enough classrooms to accommodate the tests; too much teacher movement from classroom to classroom during testing. The senior banners have gone up in the main corridor; it's a nice for lower classmen to see, looking up to their seniors peers. Our third quarter benchmark has increased in many areas; the county average for Algebra is 54.0%, we're at 67.9%. Our success on HSA reflects on our third quarter benchmark. English 10 has only increased by a small increment and Mrs. Stratton is not happy with this. A lot of teachers will be replaced. Daily English 9 county average is 49.3%, we're at 69.45%. Special Ed's county average is 53.9%, we're at 67.5%. In Biology, the county average is 63.5%, we're at 74.63% and Special Ed increased from 38.02% to 55.64%! These good test results are proof that our Standard Base Grading/Proficiency program is working.

Summer Assignments are currently being posted to our website. Ms. Davenport met with parents to ask what they wanted to see as far as summer homework. When all assignments are on website, Mrs. Stratton will send out a connectEd message. The assignments will be shorter, only in core classes and no more than one hour in length.

May 13 – Senior Prom

May 16 – HSA Week – delayed opening for those not taking tests, 11:20 arrival is fine. Partial schedule students off for two days.

May 20 – Senior Awards

May 27 – Seniors last day

June 1 - Graduation. If it rains, all ticket holders will be allowed in building; green tickets to the gym, others to classrooms to watch on screens.

Arundel High has a display at the Board of Education in the Board room for our Most Improved High School award.

AP question answered: A teacher does not need to sign off for a student to take an AP class, only the parent.

Meeting adjourned at 8:05 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Kerri Barbour, Arundel High School CAC