



James F. Byrnes High School

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Dr. Jeff Rogers, Principal

Over the course of the school year our School Improvement Council reviewed the following topics:

- Major renovations are on their way to James F. Byrnes High School. In September 2014, the District 5 community voted to not raise the money for the proposed four phase construction. Student safety and space are the major reasons for the renovations. In the current setting, Byrnes consists of two buildings, and students have to leave one building to enter the other. Therefore, both buildings have a few doors that are unlocked during the day. The new construction proposes additional classrooms and an enclosed courtyard to connect the two buildings. The attendance rate at Byrnes is increasing with each new class, so the school needs more classrooms. Since the [bond referendum](#) for the entire remodel did not pass, new construction will only consist of a modified version of phase one. The current bus ramp will be demolished, and the new bus route will displace a portion of the senior parking lot. The center of the new bus route will still allow parking for teachers.
 - The ROTC, broadcasting, old locker rooms, old weight rooms, and bus ramp will be demolished.
 - We will add science classrooms, a production lab for engineering, a court yard, and new locker rooms.
 - The 800 hall will join the ground floor of the new gym. With this addition, BHS will be secured. The courtyard will also be secured on all four sides.
 - In the 900 building, a biomedical lab, weight room, science classrooms, ROTC classrooms, and a drill pad area for ROTC will be constructed.
 - The expansion for BHS will cost \$21 million to construct, and it will be without any tax increase.
 - 38 classrooms will be added, and this expansion will increase our school's capacity by 22.3%.

- In September of 2014, the varsity football team traveled to Concord, California to play the De La Salle Spartans. The game was televised on ESPN. Community members expressed concerns that taxpayer dollars were used to pay for the trip. All of the funding for the trip was provided by ESPN, De La Salle, and the [Rebel Touchdown Club](#). No District 5 taxpayer money was used.
- The South Carolina High School Assessment Program exit exam was [eliminated](#) By Act 155 (H. 3919) on April 14, 2014. Instead of HSAP, South Carolina high school juniors took the [ACT](#) and the [ACT WorkKeys](#) on April 28th and 29th. The ACT assesses college readiness, and WorkKeys assesses job skills. A passing grade is not required for graduation, but scores can be used by students to apply for colleges and gain employment. Results can help students develop their individual graduation plans. Scores will also be used to compare Byrnes with other schools in the state.
- The 2014 annual [school report card](#) gave Byrnes High School an excellent absolute rating and excellent growth rating. According to the ESEA/Federal Accountability Rating, Byrnes received a B for the 2013 – 2014 school year. The out-of-school suspensions and expulsions decreased from 1.3% to 0.9%. The annual dropout rate decreased from 3.3% to 2.8%. Overall, 73.3% of parents are satisfied with the social and physical environment of the school. Byrnes also experienced an increase in students taking dual enrollment classes, graduation rate, and student attendance rate.
- Education opportunities continue to grow at Byrnes. There are several ways students can earn college credits while taking courses in high school. This year, Byrnes added math and biology to the list of classes that will provide dual credit. Other options are offered at SCC and USC Upstate. Byrnes offers 4 different modern languages. Project Lead the Way participants are increasing in number, and in the 2015 – 2016 school year, Byrnes will see the addition of Biomedical Innovation class. Professional and Leadership Development will also be added for students interested in learning more soft skills that will be practical in the professional world. RD Anderson has increased their class offerings as well.
- With new classrooms being added in the upcoming renovation, the school will need furniture and technologies. The council also had the chance to sit in some of the student desks that are under consideration for the new classrooms. Guest speakers Mrs. Heather Poore, psychology teacher, and Mr. Geoff Turner, physics teacher, conducted an excellent presentation of new interactive panels they have used in their classrooms this semester. These panels will possibly be chosen for the new classrooms. The 70 inch panels are a mix of touch screen computer and television. Mr. Turner said “This device brings education to where the students are. As teachers, we are getting ready to teach students who have grown up and understand the digital world wholly.”

- Each year for prom week, Byrnes high school partners with the Duncan Police Department to share the dangers of distracted driving, texting, and the overall importance of being safe on the road. Students take the sobriety tests with goggles that simulate the feeling of being under the influence. Duncan Police teach the students the consequences of drinking and driving. During one of the SIC meetings, council members had the opportunity to read some of the literature and participate in the tests.

The members of the Byrnes High School Improvement Council are:

James Alford

Erin Greenway

Jeffery Rogers

Jeanette Benson

Maurice Hawkins

Cindy Sanders

Mark Bigby

Darryle Hodges

Rita Simmons

Allison Cavendish

Marcia Howard

Shaylyn Simmons

Valerie Feiling

Kelly Jewett

Jeffery Ward

Wanda Fowler

Navi Kaur

Charles Freeman

Grayson McAlister