



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:

- The council reviewed the school's Strategic Plan and Progress Report. Members of the committee looked at goals and test scores for BHS students on college entrance exams (SAT and ACT), End of Course (EOC) exams, High School Assessment Program (HSAP) exams, Advanced Placement (AP) exams, and the graduation rate.
- Two students, Sierra Hackney and Nathan Smith, seniors at BHS enrolled in The Scholars Academy at USC Upstate, shared information about their experiences. Nathan called The Scholars Academy "an incredible program" and explained that the goal of the school is to give younger students exposure to college from the age of 14. He said that the students slowly take on a heavier course load and are given a lot of freedom on campus. The program allows students to get a jump start on their peers for their future and to receive actual college credit. Sierra called the program "a great transitory step" and stated that "college classes allow students to become better-adjusted to the college program than they would be with AP". She also stated that the students learn to manage time, become an adult, and to learn what is expected of a college student.
- Mr. Bobby Edwards, Assistant Director at R.D. Anderson, shared information with the committee on the new building phase for the vocational campus which will be completed by April 15, 2014. The Facilities and Enrollment Update Report discussed the growth from 1969, opening year of the school. R.D. Anderson began with 17 staff members and now has a total of 46. Through the years, there have been expansions including three portables in 2008. The new wing will consist of 25,000 sq. feet which will house a new kitchen, graphic design classroom, two classrooms for growth, a computer lab, and an additional work area and bathrooms for the staff. The building phase is funded by all three districts who send students to the school: Byrnes, Dorman, and Woodruff High Schools. Principal Yarborough has directed the school since 2005, and she and Mr. Edwards are appreciative of school support and welcome visitors to their campus. Following the power point presentation, Mr. Edwards showed a 20 minute marketing video that was made by a R.D. Anderson student. The film showcased the various programs offered at the school along with student comments about their experience and potential career opportunities.

- The committee also discussed courses that will be offered on the BHS campus for the 2013-2014 school year. New courses were reviewed including a new biomedical program (Project Lead the Way) that will offer a hands-on approach for health science majors and others. She expanded on the description of the biomedical program, stating that health majors are among some of the highest-declared future majors for students at Byrnes High School, so this course will be important to those students. For some sections of the course, part of the school day will be spent at a hospital, and additional classes in the department will be added in future years. In the Social Studies department, many of the state standards have changed, so World History will be offered next year instead of Global Studies. AP Human Geography will be offered at the Freshman Academy next year. The Child Development courses will no longer be offered at Byrnes, and the biomedical course will replace it. Various changes have also been made to R.D. Anderson courses.
- Mr. Mickey Deering, the BHS Support Staff of the Year, attended a meeting of the council to share information on the school's AVENTA online learning program, which allows students to take online classes for initial credit, content, or credit recovery. The online program currently has 47 students during the school day and 28 students who take classes after school. All courses have an online teacher and each online "classroom" includes students of all different grades. Mr. Deering said that his role as the online school coordinator is to help the students with technical support and some tutoring. Mr. Deering stated that the school might extend the online program to before school and during lunch.
- The committee discussed the school's Electronic Media Policy, which might be changing for the 2013-2014 school year. The school is looking at moving to a policy which would no longer confiscate cell phones, but instead use a different disciplinary procedure.
- The team worked together to complete important components of the AdvancED accreditation process. The group reviewed data provided by student, staff, and parent surveys from the spring semester of 2012. The process of accreditation ended in April 2013 with a Quality Assurance Review visit.

The members of the Byrnes High School Improvement Committee are:

James Alford
 Jeanette Benson
 Mark Bigby
 Ginger Burnett
 Fran Creel
 Valerie Feiling
 Kent Foster

Wanda Fowler
 Charles Freeman
 Alison Graham
 Erin Greenway
 Lori Hall
 Maurice Hawkins
 Sabrina Hodges

Navi Kaur
 Jeffery Rogers
 Stephanie Ryals
 Camille Swanson
 John Carter Wells
 Charles White