



James F. Byrnes High School

P.O. Box 187

Duncan, South Carolina 29334

(864) 949-2355

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 success with the AVENTA program. AVENTA allows students the opportunity to gain credit for material they have missed in a course or even for an entire class they have failed. The number of students taking advantage of this program is increasing, and in 2013, eight seniors who would have otherwise had to return to Byrnes were able to graduate on time. For the 2013 – 2014 school year, a teacher was added to allow students more time to use AVENTA before and after school.
- Over the summer of 2013, several improvements were made to athletic fields including lights added to fields at Beech Springs, Byrnes Freshman Academy, and to the Rebel Regiment practice field. Door locks were changed for safety purpose and can now be locked from inside the classroom. Substitute teachers will be issued keys for their classrooms when they check in each day. A computer lab was also added for use by the special education department.
- The 2013 – 2014 school year saw the beginning of District Five's Bring Your Own Device Policy. There have been growing pains with the policy. All are adjusting and it is becoming commonplace. Questions asked by the membership pertained to internet filters, charging stations, and daily monitoring of devices. Each student and parent must sign an Acceptable Use Policy. The media center designed and has implemented a charging station. Daily monitoring is something teachers are learning to manage. Teachers are taking advantage of websites and programs such as Remind 101, Schoology, and Edmodo. Such activities encourage students to use their devices in educational ways.
- An initiative was put in place by Mrs. Konopka, the school's book keeper, to encourage people to register their Publix, Food Lion, and Ingles shopping cards. For each dollar spent when these cards are scanned, the supermarkets make a donation to the school. To

support the school, customers must log into each supermarket's website and select James F. Byrnes High School.

- Led by Dr. Rogers and his presentation entitled “Every Child, Every Day”, the committee discussed the following facts about Byrnes High School:
 - There are 1675 students enrolled in Byrnes High School, with 97 teachers, 5 administrators, and 4 counselors.
 - 30% gifted & talented, 11% disabled, and 44% with subsidized meals.
 - Regarding academics, we strive to follow common core standards and research based instructional studies (such as essential questions and graphic organizers).
 - Teachers provide extra help (tutoring, Rebel Success Center, Saturday Recapture, etc.)
 - Byrnes allows a program for disabled students: RATE- Rebels Achieving Through Effort- Students with disabilities are able to receive district diplomas.
 - Byrnes offers Study Skills- A class to help students who are bound to receive high school diplomas.
 - Rebel Success Center- Occurs Mondays and Wednesdays where students can receive extra help without setting an appointment.
 - Saturday Recapture- 320 students attended recapture. 1609 days were recaptured because of this program.
 - We also provide Small Group Test Prep Sessions (for the HSAP, SAT, ACT)
 - We have strengthened our ties with technology as well.
 - Bring Your Own Device has started this year, which has been a success with both the students and the teachers.
 - Kurzweil is a program for students whose second language is English. It is a program that assists in translating languages for these students.
 - Teachers have started to use Remind 101 to text students without sending their phone numbers. Edimoto can be used for virtual collaboration. Score 21 is a program used for building assessments.
 - In 2013, 457 students earned diploma, 560 in the senior class, so 81.6% of students earned diplomas.
 - The career cluster chosen most by students at Byrnes is Health Science, so we added a Biomedical Science class which has hands on, real world problem solving.
 - 223 AP college credits were earned last year.
 - We have an increasing amount of students who want to take Dual Credit classes. Last year, 403 dual enrolled college credits were earned.
 - We will start to expand our classes in USC Upstate so more students can take classes there other than Scholars Academy Students and Teacher Cadets.
 - Last year, we had more students go to R.D. Anderson than ever before: 735 students.
 - We also have a program called REBS with 18-20 students per classroom. Students usually meet twice a month, and this program helps students build a relationship with a teacher that they can talk to for the rest of their high school career.
 - AVENTA is a program that helps students recover credits that they have failed.
 - Byrnes also has a program called CARE, which helps student mothers care for their children while the students receive their high school diploma. We have paired up with

- Middle Tyger Community Center for a day care center.
- We have many community service projects throughout the year in which students may join: Leadership, AFJROTC, Junior Civitans, Beta Club, our annual Lake Sweep, and Relay For Life (which we have been a top fundraising school for the past several years).
 - In the next several years, we will rebuild our school to improve the overall structure.
 - Also, we will plan to fund for after school transportation for students who want to participate in extra-curricular activities but cannot because they do not have personal transportation.
 - We will also plan to fund for new classroom sets of electronic devices.
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- Ms. Kelly Jewett, science teacher and Beta Club sponsor, brought two members of the Beta Club to share about their annual events and accomplishments. Alanna Battistini and Navi Kaur talked of their community projects and activities including the talent show and yard sale. Ms. Jewett outlined the requirements students must meet in order to become members of the Beta Club.
 - Mr. Bryan Bone, director of the Rebel Regiment, brought three students, Brady Ward, Carson Duthu, and Mea Abrahams, to share about the band's current accomplishments. The 2013 – 2014 school year is Mr. Bone's first year as leader, and the Rebel Regiment won Upper State. Also, 16 members of the Rebel Regiment had state callbacks – the most in our band's history.
 - One issue that has occurred at Byrnes High School in the 2013 – 2014 school year has been the presence of a colony of bats in Schofield gymnasium. The committee discussed this issue at length for a couple of months. Several games and activities were canceled or postponed due to the problem. It is difficult to remove the animals and not injure or kill them. Groups were hired to come in, remove the bats, and seal the building. The issue has been resolved, and the bats never got into the hallways or classrooms.
 - The committee also discussed courses that will be offered on the BHS campus for the 2014 – 2015 school year. New college courses will be offered next year in both math and biology. The school will continue to expand its biomedical program (Project Lead the Way) that offers a hands-on approach for health science majors and others. Several new technology and business classes are offered for next year including a class focused on Google apps. Many AP classes will be offered in all core categories. For the first time, Byrnes High School has teamed up with USC Upstate to offer dual credit classes. Prices and offerings will be similar, but vary just a bit from those at SCC. Various changes have also been made to R.D. Anderson courses.

- During the March meeting, Dr. Rogers presented the architectural plan for renovation phases at Byrnes High School. The current building can accommodate 1,900 students. There are currently 1,700 students enrolled at Byrnes. According to recent growth in the community, the school will reach this maximum number in the next few years. The proposed plan will allow the school to grow to a capacity of 2,400 students. The current proposal is that all four phases of the renovation will be completed by August of 2019. Parts of Byrnes High School are nearly 60 years old. Considering student safety, need for upgrades, and growth of the student population, the district believes this is the best solution. The committee discussed at length concerns of design, budget, and timeline. This renovation will greatly improve Byrnes High School.

The members of the Byrnes High School Improvement Committee are:

James Alford	Wanda Fowler	Andrea Moore
Alanna Battistini	Charles Freeman	Navi Kaur
Jeanette Benson	Alison Graham	Jeffery Rogers
Mark Bigby	Erin Greenway	Steadman Rogers
Ginger Burnett	Lori Hall	Stephanie Ryals
Fran Creel	Maurice Hawkins	Charles White
Valerie Feiling	Sabrina Hodges	