

West Carteret High School
Parent Advisory Council
August 23, 2010

Present:

Carolyn Heller
Shadrack Barrow
Jane Newbern
Pattie Maxwell

Sherrill Moraven
Cecilia Pfaff
Bert Pearce
Corrine Geer

Donna Getty
Laurie Murrell
Ashley Henry

The meeting began with the introduction of new board members.

Mrs. Heller reviewed the School Board Governance and Operations with the members. This policy is available for viewing on the Carteret County Schools website at www.carteretcountyschools.org. Click "Policy Manual" in the left side column and 2000 Series, "Board Operations". The policy is #2235/5002 entitled "Board Advisory Councils".

Officers were chosen for this year's PAC and are as follows:

Donna Getty - Chair
Shadrack Barrow - Vice Chair
Cecilia Pfaff - Secretary
Laurie Murrell - Site Based Management Team Representative

The Chairperson or Vice Chairperson will represent WCHS at monthly Board of Education meetings which are held the first Tuesday of each month. In the event of their absence, Corrine Geer will represent WCHS.

The time of future PAC meetings has been rescheduled to begin at 5:30 pm and remain on the fourth Monday of each month. Scheduled meetings for the 2010 - 2011 school year are as follows:

September 27
October 25
November 22
December (PAC traditionally hosts a celebration for faculty & staff. Date to be set.)
January 24
February 28
March 28
April 18

Old Business:

The school year will begin Wednesday, August 25 with the hours being 7:50 am - 2:55 pm. Current enrollment for the year is 1,200 students, but we won't have a firm number for approximately 10 days after the start of school. Because of the progress with the HVAC, the only classes being held on the West Campus are ROTC, Odyssey Ware, and Patriot Academy. As a result of the majority of classes being in the main building, the time between classes has been reduced to 5 minutes this year.

HVAC is in Phase V. The 600 Hall (English Department) is currently located throughout the building. The 400 Hall and 500 Hall continue to undergo installation, but all three should be complete by Thanksgiving.

The new, electronic sign should be installed the first week of school!

New Business:

Personnel updates at WCHS are as follows:

Sherrill Moraven - Assistant Principal
Courtney Horn Rose - Assistant Principal Intern
Wil Baxley - Agricultural Science
Allison Parker - Career Development Coordinator
Joanna Dodge - Social Studies
Michelle Grice - Math
Mary Hartman - Math
Robin Caldwell - Life Skills TA
Sue Hall - Patriot Academy
Amy Wilkinson - English Teacher (part time)
Rhonda Henry - Front Desk
Elvis Raynor - Custodian
Richard Whittaker - Custodian

WCHS staff consists of 85 teachers and a total of 145 including custodial staff, cafeteria staff, and teacher assistants!

Curriculum update:

West Carteret High School is an Honor School of Excellence! This means that 90% of our students scored at Level III or IV on their EOC courses. Other schools in the county who attained this goal are Croatan High School, Broad Creek Middle School and Harkers Island Elementary. There was a decrease in the 10th grade writing scores which may be attributed to the fact that some 10th grade students were retaking in English I in the fall of their sophomore year. This issue has been addressed so that future sophomores will benefit from taking English II during their 10th grade year. Specific ABC and AYP (Adequate Yearly Progress) scores are available at www.carteretcountyschools.org. Click "Testing/Accountability" in the left column then "Test Results" in the upper box. For AYP scores, click "'09 - '10 AYP" and for ABC scores, click "2010 ABC Status Report". Given the diversity of our student population, the scores WCHS earned are quite impressive. Plans are in place to continue working with students

who need or request additional help so scores will continue to rise. In celebration of last year's success, a ticker tape parade is planned for Friday afternoon, August 27th and will culminate outside on the band practice field.

One plan for improvement of test scores is to increase the graduation rate. Odyssey Ware will help with credit recovery toward this goal. Getting students interested in extra-curricular activities will assist them in remaining focused and working more diligently to stay in school to reach their goal of graduating.

Academic Blitz will begin September 20 and continue throughout the school year. (The only exception will be the 1st Wednesday of each month when students will report to their Advisory Homeroom on regular schedule.) During Academic Blitz, students who have an average of C or higher may report to school with the tardy bell ringing at 8:27 am. This is the second full year of Academic Blitz which was modeled after different schools' "remediation within the school day".

Academic Blitz will concentrate on classes that have EOC tests, although students can get help in other classes as needed. This year, enrichment classes will be offered during the Academic Blitz time for students who are not required to attend a specific class. This is also a great opportunity for seniors to work on their Senior Projects. EVERY concentration area showed improvement last year as a result of Academic Blitz! A color coding system (backgrounds of red, white, or blue) will be used on the school wide televisions indicating which area of concentration they are to attend that particular day.

Students receiving failing grades in courses will be assigned and required to attend Academic Blitz. Some students will have LONG TERM placements, which at minimum will last through the current grading period. A re-evaluation of LONG TERM placement is done at the interim and end of each 6 weeks period. Some students may have a SHORT TERM placement. This occurs when a teacher gives a student a pass in advance to come see them for additional help on a regular schedule. Teachers may also give a student a pass requiring them to attend one or two sessions rather than a recurring time. For example, a student missing class due to illness or a sporting event may benefit from attending this session. In ALL cases, students will know in advance where they are supposed to be. Mrs. Heller is available to clarify these policies for students and/or parents. These exact guidelines will be posted on the WCHS web page and reminders will be sent out in the "Heller Holler".

It was suggested that a detailed explanation of Patriot Grades be given, particularly to benefit new families. A detailed informational sheet will be given to all students.

School Maintenance update:

Jackets have been placed on hot water pipes throughout the school. Windows have been replaced in the library, art rooms, and 400 hall. The 600 hall and PE hall are scheduled to have windows replaced during the month of September. The 300 hall will have windows replaced during Thanksgiving or Christmas break. All new windows, with the exception of the library, will also have new blinds installed. Currently, the 700 hall has new blinds. Finally, many of the classrooms need new lighting. This has been brought to the attention of the Central Office and will hopefully be addressed soon.

Technology update:

Teachers have been trained on the Google calendar along with other tips by a staff member's spouse who works for Google. Expect updated web pages.

The Captain's Mess was held August 10th at the Civic Center for the first time and was very well attended. Thanks to the hard work by Robert Lancaster and Becky Bosse. Ninth grade orientation was a huge success. It was held Thursday, August 23rd and was attended by 81% of the freshmen class. This is an increase of 3% from last year!

School Activities through September:

1. Wednesday, August 25th - 1st day of school
2. Friday, August 27th (4th period) - Ticker tape parade and cookout. Volunteers are needed to help with the event. Athletic Boosters will take 9th grade, FFA Boosters - 10th grade, Band Boosters - 11th grade, and Parent Advisory - 12th grade.
3. Monday, August 30th - 1st period, underclassmen pictures
4. Monday, August 30th - Open House, 7 pm. Go straight to 1st period.
5. Wednesday, September 1st - Freshmen commitment to graduate ceremony in auditorium, 8 am
6. Wednesday, September 1st - Senior project graduation planning meeting in Media Center, 6:30 pm
7. Monday, September 6th - Holiday, no school
8. Monday, September 13th - Athletic Booster meeting in Media Center, 6 pm
9. Tuesday, September 14th - Junior and Senior College Night at Civic Center, 6 pm
10. Thursday, September 16th - Freshmen class elections
11. Thursday, September 16th - Junior class meeting with Jostens in auditorium, 8 am
12. Thursday, September 16th - Senior class meeting with Jostens in auditorium, 9:30 am
13. Friday, September 17th - Mullet Bucket PEP Rally (last part of 4th period)
14. Monday, September 20th - Senior picture make-up day
15. Wednesday, September 22nd - Early release
16. Thursday, September 23rd - Junior class ring order
17. Friday, September 24th - Senior class cap & gown/invitation order

With no other business, the meeting was adjourned until September 27th at 5:30 pm in the Media Center.

Cecilia Pfaff
241-2351

