

STUDENT ADVISORY MEETING
APRIL 12, 2012 – 11:15 A.M.
SCHOOL BOARD OFFICE

Present were:

Adam Gambrel	Abingdon High School
Audrey Smith	Abingdon High School
Erick Farris	John S. Battle High School
Rachel Bennett	John S. Battle High School
Grey Robinson	Patrick Henry High School
Chase Coleman	Patrick Henry High School
Ethan Miller	Holston High School
Alexis Perrigan	Neff Center/Technical School
Jim R. Sullivan	Superintendent
Gary Catron	Supervisor of High Schools
Barry Yost	Supervisor of Middle Schools & CTE

Mr. Catron opened the meeting and thanked the students for their participation in the Student Advisory meetings. He wished the outgoing seniors well in their future endeavors.

Mr. Sullivan also thanked everyone for serving on the team. He expressed appreciation to the students who met with the SACS team. The SACS review went well.

Mr. Catron asked the students what was going on, and responses were:

- She is on the SCA, and they have a senior volleyball game coming up.
- Everything is going well. The facilities improvements are good.
- The SCA invited the Head Start kids over to hid Easter eggs.
- Abingdon High School's musical went well and was fun.
- A lot of senior events are coming up.
- State competitions at the Neff Center will be held soon, and state boards will be taken in May. The Special Olympics will be held next Saturday at John S. Battle High School.
- Some of her friends are concerned about the AP test schedule. Exams, SOLs and AP testing are scheduled at the same time, and students have to juggle. They have Relay for Life going on at Patrick Henry.
- The gym floor is being installed at Patrick Henry. There is also a lot of senior events taking place.

Mr. Catron asked how block scheduling went this year and how it could be improved upon. Responses were:

- Everyone she has spoken with has liked block schedule. More classes are available. She will be a senior next year, and Chemistry is her biggest challenge.

- Everything is positive, and he has had no challenges with block scheduling. Everyone he has talked with seems to like it. It will benefit the underclassmen and allow them to take more classes. It will improve with time.
- Some teachers are having a problem with block scheduling in that they have to move quickly through their instruction. History class is hard for him; he is on A/B block. The class is on overdrive, and there is a lot to learn. They are also worrying about AP tests. Block scheduling is good overall, but there are still some negatives.
- We do have to make up extra time. The A/B day can be hard.
- Some students have mixed feelings about block scheduling, and some teachers feel rushed.
- When the switch was made there was one class of sophomores and juniors. Sophomores had just finished geometry, and some juniors felt they were behind because they didn't have math the first semester.
- He has heard neither good nor bad comments. Some teachers comment that they need more time and feel rushed.

Mr. Catron said that block schedule is good practice for the college experience. The idea is to provide a full exposure across the board, and it is felt that over time, things will improve.

The exam schedule will be developed on April 18 at the Principals' Meeting. Some exams will be the same day, but times may be different.

Graduation dates have been set as follows:

- Holston High School – Friday, May 25, 2012, at 6:00 p.m.
- Abingdon High School – Friday, May 25, 2012, at 7:30 p.m.
- John S. Battle High School – Saturday, May 26, 2012, at 10:00 a.m.
- Patrick Henry High School – Sunday, May 27, 2012, at 2:00 p.m.

Mr. Catron asked how they felt about the Reality Store held at the community college, which replaced the Career Fair. It was done in conjunction with Bristol City Schools. It was designed to provide exposure to unplanned expenses and circumstances.

Responses were:

- It was different.
- It was ok. A lot of students did not get to choose their career. Everyone he spoke with seemed to have had fun. It was a learning experience.
- It was good.
- She was unable to attend, but her friends commented to her that they would like to have a more realistic view of what their career would be and how it would work out.

Mr. Sullivan asked if we should do it again but provide more and better choices. Response was:

- She heard several students say that, as they were not interested in the particular job they were assigned, it did not apply to them.

Mr. Sullivan asked if they felt they were being prepared for their future and what they aspire to do. Responses were:

- She is working towards elementary education, and the tutoring she has been allowed to do at Abingdon Elementary has been helpful.
- Dual enrollment classes are a great way to prepare and get ahead for college.
- The three-hour block at the Neff Center has helped her. She feels she has learned more. Students had a lot of fun sponsoring Grace Health Care at Christmas, and there was great participation. It was one of her best school experiences.
- The courses she has taken at Patrick Henry High School is preparing her for college. Washington County has very competitive grades. She asked why juniors were not provided three days for college visits. By senior year, she has to choose, and it would be more helpful to have some time in the junior year.

Mr. Sullivan said that he would look into the possibility of providing more days to use for college visits that would include the junior year.

One student suggested that some might take advantage so proof of the visit would have to be provided. Another student said that they are required to fill out a form and someone at the college that is visited is asked to sign as proof of the visit.

Mr. Sullivan announced that the Washington County Community Scholars celebration is April 17 at the Higher Ed Center. He informed them that Heartwood is looking for volunteers to serve as ambassadors, and students would get credit for Community Scholars.

The following seniors were recognized with certificates and medals:

- Alexis Perrigan
- Adam Gambrel
- Audrey Smith
- Chase Coleman
- Grey Robinson
- Erik Farris
- Rachel Bennett
- Ethan Miller

Mr. Sullivan invited the juniors to participate on the Student Advisory Team next year. He wished the seniors the best with their graduation and post graduation.

The students thanked Mr. Sullivan for the opportunity to serve on the team.