Atlantic Technical College and Technical High School

School Advisory Council/School Advisory Forum Joint Meeting

Minutes - September 1, 2026

Members: Quorum Met. Val Arquilliano**,** Neila Atkinson, Jake Ballesteros, Alexia Breau, Sascha Dastergerdi, Philippe Jean-Bart, Tahlia Lane, Carol Lindgren, Neeta Rancourt, Malia Saint-Fort, Sandra Welch, Rochelle Williams, Raymona Pramedass Blom

Attendees: Brian Bush, Cathy Castelli, Hallema Collier, Debbie Evangelista, Vicky LaPorte, Rhonda Matos, Rebecca Miller, Brian Norris, Jim Payne, Millie Puddie, Nicole Willis, Cathy Castelli, Rebecca Miller, Vedra Roker, Felicia Starke, Jean Vilus

Call to Order:

A meeting of the Atlantic Technical College & Technical High School Advisory Council was held in Room 122 of Atlantic Technical College on September 2, 2026. Chair Commissioner Sandra Welch called the meeting to order at 8:06 AM.
Cathy Castelli will record minutes for this meeting.

Welcome and Introductions Commissioner Sandra Welch welcomed the group and introductions were made.

Approval of Minutes:

Carole Lindgren motioned to approve the minutes of the May 12, 2026 meeting: Neila Atkinson seconded the motion. Motion was approved unanimously.

SAC Bylaws

Bylaws were presented to the group. After consideration, Jake Ballesteros motioned to approve the Bylaws. Tahlia Lane seconded the motion. Motion was approved unanimously.

SAC Fund Balance – *The current balance is $* 0.

School Recognition Funds Proposal Development Vedra Roker - Since the school earned an "A" last year, discussion was held on the distribution of funds. A draft of the ballot was made. Neila Atkinson motioned to amend the draft to correct the dates reflecting that the recognition funds be given to employees of the 2025-2026 school year. Maleah Saintfort seconded the motions. Vote on the amendments was unanimous.

After further discussion, Philipe Jean Bart motioned to approve the ballot which reads: Proposal 1:100% of the money awarded to Atlantic Technical College and Technical High School as A+ Recognitions funds will be divided evenly among Atlantic Technical College and Technical High School employees who were employed during the 2025-2026 school year as full-time contracted employees, full-time non-contracted teachers with magnet high school students, contracted employees who worked less than 100% and will be awarded according to the percentage worked, and full-time assigned to Atlantic Technical College and Technical High school: CSM, Security Specialist, Campus Monitors, and Guardians. Or Proposal 2: None of the above. All awards will be subject to income taxes. Alexia Breau seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

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Director's Update

Highlights: Broward Technical College received over one million dollars as part of 2.47 million given to Broward Technical Colleges from the Pipeline Program because of our 98.63 pass rate for our Practical Nursing students. This exceeds the national average. Funds can be used for all CTE programs.

ATC hosted the Manufacturing Work Force Expo which included cabinet members, school board members, and the Florida commissioner of education.

The referendum is up for renewal in November. This does not increase anyone's tax rate. It is just a continuation of the current 1 mil rate. More information is available on browardschools.com.

Our strategic plan for our post-secondary side of the school is in the draft stages. This is our working road map to prepare students for meaningful careers. Input was given through surveys, annual reports, and department meetings. The report card looks at enrollment, licensure, completion rates, and job placement. Goals are to expand access, support students for higher completions and licensure rates, and increase placement and workforce advancement. We are at the feedback stage, so we need input.

SAF Update Rebecca Miller – the North Area Meeting was held on 8/27/26. It explained ethics for the advisory. Next meeting is in September.

SIP Update Vedra Roker– Our SIP goal for this year: The percentage of 9th and 10th graders scoring proficient or higher in the Florida Assessment of Thinking test will increase from 92% to 93% by the end of May 2027 as measured by the PM 3.

Student Comments

a. Tahlia Lane Manufacturing Machining - former students have been visiting to speak about work and/or machining as a path to becoming an engineer. Lozick gave a $10,000 grant to ATC. Welding – all five high school students are on track to be industry certified. Electricity and Carpentry – preparing for Skills USA competitions.
b. Alexia Breau – Business – Many classes are working on OSHA certifications and digital citizenship. Bookkeeping is working on Camp TIA certification. Legal Admin Medical Admin is working on terminology, and IT is working on troubleshooting.
c. Jake Ballesteros (Student Government Association) Tech Tiger Camp was a major success with 140 students. Club Rush was done in the day time but carried into the evening as part of Open House. The first field trip of the year was to Rapids Water Park. Chocolate Box Fundraiser began this week. The fundraiser will support the Anthony Rizzo Foundation. There is a yearbook cover contest coming up.
d. Maleah Saintfort – Health – New program with Ms. Perez for phlebotomy certification. 100% pass rate in the summer. EKG is working in anatomy with an upcoming cow heart dissection. Medical Assisting has passed their tests. Mental Health and Pharmacy are doing their clinical rotations. Pinning is December 17, 2026 for our PN program.

11. Assistant Directors' Updates

a. *Vicky LaPorte*—Current enrollment is 609 magnet high school students, 88 TIE program students. US News and World report rankings: 1329 in the nation, top 8% in the state, and #6 in Broward county. We are also the #1 high school in Broward County for three years running. Ali Aamir advanced the regional competition for the National Civis Contest. The Alumni Panel in May was a success bringing back students who went to the military, to college, and directly into the workforce.

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b. *Brian Bush*—We have two PCA programs at Dave Thomas next door. PCA at night is being offered at Ashe evenings and on Saturdays. The ESOL department is working on increasing collegiality. We have students who are benefitting from the Out of School Youth Grant which pays for students to take their GED tests and gives a supplement for transportation.
c. *Barrett Goldman*— Tech Trades department. We have 340 post secondary students enrolled with 138 CDE students for a total of 478. For the T-Ten program, our 30th graduation was held this summer. In a cross-curricular project, a cart was designed and built from scratch.

d. James Payne-the BPA competition will be in Pompano Beach in November. ATC is the leader in the state for apprenticeship programs. The IT department received new furniture making the classroom look more like a workplace environment.

e. Brian Norris- Office of Student Affair is now offering monthly campus tours for pre-college and prospective students. They have Tour 1 and Tour 2 with each tour highlighting different programs. In Culinary Arts, we are finding that many students are already Serve Safe Certified, which shows their dedication to improving and moving forward in their careers. The kitchen has new equipment. Our TIE program has 88 students. Students are working on skills to employment.

f. Jean Vilus- Arthur Ashe held a back to school fair for the community. Over 75 backpacks were distributed. Broward Health and Nova as well as other community members were present for the attendees.

Business and Economic Development Update (*Nicole Willis*)- Ms. Willis continues to work with Big Interview to assist students in employability skills. Tech Step Fridays was a success this year, and may come back for a few special dates, but this year's venture is Career Café – Brewing Conversations for Success. This is each Monday from 9am to 11am on the patio. PN Career Day was held before the last pinning ceremony. John Knox Village employs many former ATC students. They offer $15,000 in college scholarships. We have a current student whose education is being paid by one such scholarship. The Spring Career Fair is April 15, 2026.

Business Highlight - Raymona Pramedass Blom from Walgreens says that she has hired almost every single ATC student who applies. 90% of those she hires are ATC graduates.

SESIR Update (*Barrett Goldman*) – No incidents to report

Announcements (*Commissioner Sandra Welch*) – Commended staff and students for jobs well done.

Rebecca Miller – through a survey of our local business partners, a need for AI training for current employees was identified. We are hoping to begin a new class in January called Applied Artificial Intelligence.

17. Adjournment (*Commissioner Sandra Welch*) – See below.

Meeting Adjournment:

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Motion: Neila Atkins motioned to adjourn the meeting at 9:40 AM. Motion seconded by Jake Ballesteros Motion passed unanimously.

Submitted by,

Cathy Castelli

Approval Date: _____

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