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Atlantic Technical College and Technical High School

School Advisory Council/School Advisory Forum Joint Meeting

### **Minutes - September 30, 2025**

**Members: Quorum Met.** Philippe Jean-Bart, Neeta Rancourt, Neila Atkinson, Sandra Welch, Rochelle Williams, Dulce Barrios, Logan Whitaker, Laila Jones, Laura Maracondes, Aly Petion, Laila Jones, Carol Lindgred, Sandra Rubio

**Attendees:** Brian Bush, Cathy Castelli, Hallema Collier, Debbie Evangelista, Jennifer Jennings, Vicky LaPorte, Simeka Love, Rhonda Matos, Rebecca Miller, Brian Norris, Jim Payne, Millie Puddie, Nicole Willis

#### **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 30, 2025. Chair Commissioner Sandra Welch called the meeting to order at 8:06 AM.

Dulce Barrios will record minutes for this meeting.

#### **Minutes:**

**Rochelle Williams** motioned for approval the minutes of May 6, 2025, with the corrections. **Neila Atkinson** seconded the motion. Motion was approved unanimously.

**Hallema Collier** motioned to approve the SAC By-Laws, and the motion was seconded by Laura Maracondes, Motion was approved unanimously.

School Recognition Funds Proposal (Simeka Love) Since the school earned an “A” last year, a draft proposal ballot is included in your packet. The standard approach is to distribute 100% of the funds among faculty and staff. Proposal Two offers an alternative: “None of the above.”

Hallema Collier motioned to approve. Second, by Aly Petion. Motion was approved unanimously.

#### **Agenda:**

1. SAF Update (R. Miller) – Parents expressed confusion and dissatisfaction with the rollout of the FOCUS system, especially around account creation and communication. Danny Trido addressed questions and offered support resources. There was discussion about the lack of school nurses across the district, 57 reportedly lack nurses. Fortunately, Atlantic Technical College does have a nurse. The district continues to hold meetings on possible school boundary changes and redefinition. While Atlantic Technical College may not be directly impacted, these changes could affect programming and services. Community members, especially those who are north of Sunrise Blvd, are encouraged to attend the final meeting tonight (09/30/25).
2. SIP Update (*Cathy Castelli*) – The first FAST progress monitoring test showed excellent results— 82% of 9th graders and 87% of 10th graders passed, exceeding expectations. Students typically perform even better on the third test (PM3), which affects placement in future reading classes. ATC is on track with its goals.
3. Director’s Comments (*Neeta Rancourt*) Business Supporter of the Year: Carol was honored by the Florida Association for Career and Technical Education. IET Student of the Year: A former Patient

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Care Assistant who became a Practical Nurse received state-level recognition. Atlantic Technical College has received several significant grants aimed at expanding and enhancing career dual enrollment and technical education programs. Capitalization Incentive Grants for dual enrollment in Applied IT and Patient Care Assistant programs. Previous grant supported Automotive, Business, Database Development, Programming, and Welding. NCLEX pass rates for ATC were 7.92% above the national average.

4. Neeta Rancourt – Strategic Plan: Six Wildly Important Goals for the year: One has already been achieved (to be revealed by Ms. Laporte). Increase Industry Certifications by 10%. Launch GATE Program: Free career and diploma pathway for students under the age of 22. Expand Ash Campus: Plan to offer 2 new CTE programs this year. Improve Completion, Placement & Licensure Rates: Completion: 79% (above 60% minimum) Placement: 85% (above 70% minimum) Licensure: Above national average. Enrollment and Performance Data: CTE Enrollments (2022): 1,669 (Adult certificate and diploma program only) CTE Enrollment (Current) 1,787-slight increase, but still below target. Completion Rate” 79%, Placement Rate: 85%, Licensure Rate: Above national average.

## 10. Student Comments

- a. *Ali Petion* (BPA) The club is actively recruiting new members. The first information session was successfully held, and the club is now accepting payments. BPA currently has 32 members.  
Club Rush took place during high school lunch and Open House, providing students and parents with the opportunity to explore various clubs and meet staff members.
- b. *Logan Whitaker* (Machining) Field trip to visit machining interns: Several students were accepted into internships. One adult secured a job, and a grant was awarded to purchase mouse pads.
- c. *Laila Jones* (Health Science) Our health science programs continue to thrive with new student enrollments and dynamic learning experiences. New students have joined the EKG and Patient Care Technician (PCT) programs, while continuing students in Pharmacy Technician, Dental Assisting, and Practical Nursing are progressing through their training. Practical Nursing students are currently preparing for the HESI focused on Medical-Surgical content. A group of nursing students recently visited the Board of Nursing to observe real-life case proceedings, enriching their understanding of professional practice. Additionally, students have been actively engaged in hands-on learning through simulation lab sessions at the Arthur Ashe campus.  
ATC HOSA Club had its first meeting of the Academic Year. Club is scheduled to participate in ICE Skating Fundraiser on October 11. ATC HOSA is looking to recruit 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> grade students who may be interested in health occupations.
- d. *Laura Marcondes* (Student Government Association) Tech Tiger event in August was a major success with 160 students. Lip sync battle was a success with students from all four grades getting involved in the friendly competition. Chocolate Box Fundraiser changed from 60 bars to 30 bars at \$2 each. The fundraiser will support the Anthony Rizzo Foundation, which provides direct financial assistance. Anthony Rizzo, prof. MLB first baseman, had Hodgkin’s Lymphoma and vowed to make a foundation to help others.

## 11. Assistant Directors’ Updates

- a. *Vicky LaPorte*--ATC is now a Magnet School of America Certified Demonstration School, one of only 19 nationwide and the only one in Broward County. School realigned its

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technical academies and academic instruction to better integrate learning. Academic and technical instructors are collaborating on lesson plans and observations. ATC is an A-rated school across all student subgroups, with improved scores from last year (from 84% to 88%). Swimming for Life Saving program ensures students learn to swim and perform rescues—unique to this high school. Flower Baby Project in AP Psychology teaches responsibility and care. ACCUPLACER field trip encourages 9th graders to take college-level assessments. ATC leads the district in library book circulation, contributing to high academic performance. Family night on October 29th will include AI workshops for parents to support student learning.

- b. *Brian Bush*-- Celebrated Adult Education & Family Literacy Week with student stories and cultural moments. Six GED graduates in September; new tradition celebrates student progress. Integrated Education and Training (IET) combines foundational learning with career training. IET students are now present in multiple programs, including HVAC, with support staff helping both targeted and general students. Successful flu shot drive; Walgreens praised pharmacy student clinicals.
- c. *Tammy Clabo*— Culinary Arts has hired a new chef, Lien, who joins ATC from Coral Springs High School. A Student Summit was held featuring guest speaker Nicole Willis, focusing on culinary arts. The reopening of Café Atlantic has been delayed due to ongoing construction; however, pop-up restaurants remain active and offer a diverse menu. Building 3 (the cafeteria) is expected to be completed by March 2026. Student restrooms across campus are currently under renovation. New intercom and fire alarm systems are being installed, and the sprinkler system is nearly complete. A new nurse clinic is under construction in Building 11. The walkway between Buildings 10 and 19, which collapsed in 2023, has a contractor assigned and is awaiting district approval to begin repairs.
- d. James Payne-Four students awarded \$5,000 scholarship each (needs-based, usable for tuition, books, etc.) New part-time social media coordinator hired to managed platforms (LinkedIn, Instagram, Facebook, Instagram)
- e. Brian Norris- Office of Student Affair is now offering monthly campus tours for pre-college and prospective students, scheduled for October, February, and May. TIE (Transition into Employment) Program helps students with disabilities become self-sufficient. Currently, 85 students between the ages of 18 and 22 are enrolled in the program. Student Spotlight: Tinson Mesdor, a graduate of Bleach High School, is now in his second year at Technical College. He has earned his security license and gained two years of experience working with Marksman Security. Most recently, he began working at Fort Lauderdale Airport, where he is currently training to become a mechanic.
- f. Jean Vilus- ESOL 235-day students and 178-night students enrolled. ABE 27 students. Plans to install banners for the fences to advertise AGE program. Eleven PN students were pinned on September 15; 75 students enrolled. Next cohort starts October 27. Received recognition from Johnson funds and Florida Blue.

12 Nicole Willis- Business and Economic Development Update (*Nicole Willis*)- Unemployment rate: Broward 4.1%, Palm Beach 4.4%, Miami-Dade 2.9%. Conducts employability workshops and hosts company visits. Coordinated a meeting and guided tour of NovTech, Inc. Boutique provides professional attire for students. Tech Step Friday's monthly line dancing event to build confidence and social skills.

13. Business Highlight – No highlight at this time

14. SESIR Update (*Brian Bush*) – No incidents to report

Approved

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

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

**Meeting Adjournment:**

Motion: Ali Petion motioned to adjourn the meeting at 10:00 AM. Motion seconded by Laura Maracondes Motion passed unanimously.

Submitted by,

Dulce Barrios, Secretary

Approval Date: 11/04/2025