

**NORCROSS HIGH SCHOOL COUNCIL MINUTES  
THURSDAY, OCTOBER 9, 2003**

**Members Present:**

Mary Anne Charron, Paula Parris, Dorothy Lewis, Kevin Case, Chuck King

**Members Absent:**

Harvey Snider, Bobby Butler

Mary Anne Charron welcomed guests Nathan Ballantine and Shannon Kersey, both of whom are Norcross High teachers currently doing leadership internships.

The motion to approve the agenda was made by Paula Parris and seconded by Chuck King.

The motion to approve the minutes from the September meeting was made by Kevin Case and seconded by Dorothy Lewis.

**Old Business:**

Kevin Case asked if the installation of a one minute warning bell had positively affected the number of tardies. Ms. Charron responded that the number of tardies has lowered since the warning bell was put into effect.

Dorothy Lewis reported that she has not had a response from Dr. Murphy regarding the personnel cuts at the local school level. The perception is that the percentage of cuts is not mirrored at the county level. The Council sees the need to communicate the reason cuts are made at the local level and if there is no response, keep asking the question.

**New Business:**

Ms. Charron introduced thirteen students who were named Commended Students by the National Merit Scholarship Program. They will be recognized at Honor's Night in spring.

The first topic of discussion was promotion to the next grade based on core content classes. Ms. Charron explained that currently students are promoted based on the number of credits earned. An example given was that in order to be promoted from 9<sup>th</sup> to 10<sup>th</sup> grade a student must pass four classes. However, the four classes passed may be in non-core subjects. When the student then takes the Gateway test in 10<sup>th</sup> grade, he may not have taken a core class that would help him obtain a higher Gateway score. When the student gets to 11<sup>th</sup> grade, the Georgia High School Graduation Test is given and if he hasn't passed the core

classes at that point, he most likely will not do well on that test. It is not a state or county policy that classes passed must be core classes. Norcross High School wants to change the promotion policy to base promotion on the passing of core classes. This would likely result in higher test scores and a higher number of students passing the GHSGT. If implemented, the policy would affect the current 9<sup>th</sup> grade class in the 2003 – 2004 school year.

Elimination of core content technical level courses for rising 9<sup>th</sup> graders was also discussed. In the past, math has driven students going into technical verses college prep classes. If students did poorly in math in the 8<sup>th</sup> grade, they were placed in technical level courses and could not get a college prep diploma. Kevin Case voiced his concern of the “big middle” students being slotted for the Tech Prep path when they should not be. Mary Anne Charron said there has been a change this year in that 100% of 8<sup>th</sup> grade students are taking Algebra I. By taking Algebra I before entering high school the students will be placed in college prep curriculum. They will later be able to make the choice to remain in college prep or change to the technical program. Ms. Charron will be talking to the faculty about this issue and will get back to the Council.

The SACS Review Committee will visit NHS on November 10 and 11. A copy of the SACS report was given to each School Council member. Ms. Charron briefly shared portions of the report. She commented that statistics in the report were based on the 2001 – 2002 school year. The School Council members were invited to attend a breakfast with the SACS Committee and school representatives on November 10 at 8:30 am.

This month’s discipline report showed positive results compared to the same time last year. Last year at this time there were three hundred students with 5 or more tardies compared to this year’s seventy students.

The next School Council meeting will be on Thursday, November 13 at 7:00 am.

Meeting adjourned.