

School board members scheduled a special called meeting on Monday night, March 30th, to act on the revision of criteria for credit requirements for promotion and retention as well as address approval of the Director of Schools contract.

At the close of the meeting Board Member Wilmore stated, "In a special called meeting, only the information on the agenda shall be discussed." The next regular scheduled meeting of the board of education will be held on Thursday night, April 9th at 6:00 p.m. at the Board of Education.

In the first order of business, board member Steve Walton made a motion to renew Director Law's contract for one year, the motion seconded by John Wheeley failed. It was quickly followed by a statement from Jimmy Cook, "Mr. Chairman, Mr. Law has done a good job for two years, I can't see him doing otherwise again. I'm making a motion that we renew the contract for two years."

This motion was seconded by Steve Walton and passed unanimously.

Director Law inquired about the terms of the contract, to which Cook stated, "continuing the pay as it is."

After the motion was clarified, Law stated "I would like to consider that contract and that option, I'm not saying that it is not satisfactory, I'm just asking for time to think about it."

The board agreed it was fair to ask for the decision by the next meeting.

When the board members met in regular session, on March 12th lack of a consensus was reached between them and the committee, who had worked on the plan to go to block scheduling, though one motion was made requiring 28 credits out of 32 as the acceptable graduation requirements. The majority of board members were concerned about having higher criteria than the state guidelines of 22 credits to pass.

At the March 30th meeting the following Policy 4.6031 Criteria for Promotion and Retention passed unanimously on first reading:

1. Credits for Graduation

A. Freshman in the year 2009-10, and each class thereafter, would need 28 total credits in order to graduate.

1. Of the 28 total, 22 would have to be academic credits
2. Remaining may be either academic or in-house

B. Sophomores in the year 2009-10 would need 26 total credits, with at least 20 being academic credits.

C. Juniors in the year 2009-10 would need 24 total credits, with at least 20 being academic credits.

D. Seniors in the year 2009-10 would need 22 total credits with at least 20 being academic credits.

II. Student Classification

A. All first-year students will be considered freshman.

In order for these students, the freshman of 2009-10, and all who enter thereafter, to meet the 28 required credits for graduation by the end of their fourth year, it is recommended that they can earn a minimum of at least six (6) their first year, six (6)- for a total of twelve (12) their second year, and eight (8)- for a total of 20 their third year.

B. All second-year students will be considered sophomores.

In order for these students, the sophomores for 2009-10, to meet the 26 required credits for graduation by the end of their fourth year, it is recommended that they earn a minimum of ten (10) credits by the end of their second year and eight (8)- for a total of 18 by the end of their third year.

C. All third-year students will be considered juniors.

In order for these students, the juniors of 2009-10, to meet the 24 required credits for graduation by the end of their fourth year, it is recommended that they earn a minimum of 16 credits by the

end of their third year.

D. All fourth-year students will be considered seniors.

Seniors of 2009-10 must have 22 credits to graduate, 20 of which must be academic.

In order for these students, senior of 2009-10, to meet the 22 required credits for graduation by the end of their fourth year, it is recommended they have earned a minimum of 15 credits by the end of their third year.

Seniors who have not earned 22 credits by the end of their fourth year in high school will have the following options for graduation.

1. attend Summer School or Credit Recovery and/or pursue other options such as correspondence, online, or adult high school courses in order to complete the remaining amount of credits necessary to graduate on time that summer.

2. return the next school year as a fifth-year senior and complete only the remaining courses necessary for graduation at the end of the fall or spring semester.

III. Senior Year Early Graduation

A. Only 4th year students are eligible

B. May graduate at the end of 1st term, providing all academic requirements are met.

C. Early graduation will result in forfeiture of all spring activities (for example: Senior Trip, Prom, etc.)

D. May choose to participate in graduation in the spring; may receive their diploma at the end of either the spring or fall term

E. Must apply for early graduation by the end of the 1st nine weeks.

IV. Class requirements

A. Students must be enrolled in 8 classes. Seniors on track to graduate will have the options of earning two (2) in-house credits during their last semester.

B. Fifth years seniors may only take the courses needed for graduation. They will not be allowed to leave and return. Once at school, they must stay until their classes are completed for that day. They may be allowed early leave or late arrival of if they are enrolled in the courses to meet graduation requirements.

V. Offer in-house credits such as teacher assistants, study skills, athletics, etc. (department chairmen should meet with their departments to compile what should be offered as in-house credit. Department chairmen should then meet together to finalize a list that will be submitted to the board for approval. This should be done prior to the regular May meeting of the Macon County School Board.

* Also, department heads should submit guidelines for enrollment into these in-house credits.

- Pass or Fail Class

- No letter or number grade

- Not calculated in GPA

VI. Drop/Add Coursework

A. Schedule Change: A student will have, at the beginning of the term, a period of five (5) school days in which to add a course. No new academic classes may be added after the 5 day period. (Teacher recommendation may supersede this portion of the policy.)

B. Students are required to obtain the proper forms to change a schedule. These forms must have the required signatures in order to receive approval to change schedules.

VII. Transfer Students

A. Students enrolling in the Macon County School System during the 2009-10 school year and thereafter and having been under a different types of course credit system in their previous schools will be required to have four (4) fewer credits that his or her attainable credits over a four-year period.

B. Students enrolling in the Macon County School System during the 2009-10 school year and thereafter will be classified according to the year they entered the 9th grade at their previous school.

The following classes have been identified as “possible” offerings for in-house credits. This list may be added to or taken away from until finalized and presented at the board. Some of the classes are being considered at both high schools while some are at just one of the schools.

- Teacher’s Assistant – This would include guidance assistant, office assistants, and library assistants as well as classroom teacher assistants.

- Lab Assistant

- Sports

- Credit Recovery – Academic credit is given in specific class.

- Gateway Remediation – This will be phased out as Gateway will not be required under new graduation requirements

- Study Hall/Study Skills

- Tutoring – This would include those who need tutoring as well as those students who could provide tutoring