

Walhalla High School
School Improvement Council Agenda
May 8th, 2018

I. Welcome

- **In attendance were: Principal Steve Garrett, Board Member Joe Rukat, Amanda Gladys, T Jason Moss, Amanda Harris, Paul Holleran, Esther Phillips, Brian Ridsen, Annette Orr, Melinda Fischer, Carrie Dunton, Alicia Keys, Lorilei Swanson, Dora Leonard, Katherine Allen, Olivia Timms, Lori Maclachlan, Jessica Duke, Laura Estes, Brij Patel, Rachel Twitty, Cooper Timms, Elliot Wechter, Meredith Cobb, Maddie MacLachlan, Meg Fischer, Carter McInnis, and Tricia Burgess**
- a. Appoint time keeper for meeting – **Thank You Olivia Timms**
- b. Sign in - **Sign in sheet circulated**
- c. Light Breakfast – **Thank you Mr. Garrett**

II. Approve April Minutes – Tricia Burgess

- **April minutes were emailed out to all SIC member with one correction: deadline for Report to Parents was on April 30 not the 31st.**
- **Motion was made to accept and minutes was approved.**

III. Teacher Appreciation Awards

- **Amazon gift card was given to all SIC teachers**
- **Winners of Summer Fun Baskets are Dorothy McCoy and Harriet Wilson**
- **Cards and treats will be put in teacher boxes at the end of the month**
- **Teacher drawing for Foreigner tickets will be on May 31st**

IV. Student Committee Report

- **Mr. Moss reported that they have 7 new student SIC members for next school year.**
- **Currently promoting the teacher appreciation pictures to be posted on social media by the students.**
- **Currently they have some rising 9th grade student members and may have another election in the beginning of the next school year.**
- **Students did a great job representing our SIC at the annual meeting in Columbia.**

V. Student and Teacher Comments

- **Teachers spending a lot of time preparing students for AP and EOC exams**
- **Amanda Harris will be working in the media center next year and she will be focusing more on the technology**
- **Discussion to offer free books through the school library or Grace's Closet. Details will be discussed in the beginning of the next school year.**
- **Amanda Gladys announced that the installation of the pollinator garden is complete. Currently they need plants, anyone can donate.**

- VI. Co-Chair Report- Lorilei Swanson & Jessica Duke - **Report Attached**

- VII. Committee Report Summary/Recommendations
 - a. Communication – **Report Attached**

 - b. Wellness - **Plan to partner with the Latino Outreach Committee to support the Wellness Fair next year.**

 - c. Teacher Appreciation –**Report Attached**
 - **Olivia reported that the teacher appreciation lunch was a huge success. Mr. Garrett praised Olivia and all who helped her for their hard work.**
 - **Lorilei read a thank you card from all the teachers.**

 - d. Parent/Student Engagement – **Report attached**

 - e. Data Collection
 - **A summary of responses will be emailed to all SIC members. 160 parents responded to the SIC Parent Survey and 126 names were submitted for drawing. Mr. Garrett will be doing the drawing today and the winners will receive an “all sports pass.”**

 - f. Riley Award – **We WON!**

 - g. Recruitment, Retention, Elections – **Report Attached**
 - **Parent candidate summaries attached**
 - **4 new parents; Chanda Morrison, Butch Clay, Libna Bojorguez, Merab Perez-Arellano**
 - **7 new students; Josiah Akridge, McKenna Booker, Isaac Buckner, Jenna Cobb, Meg Fischer, Hanna Lyle, Kallsen Wright**

 - h. Report to the Parents –
 - **Report to the Parents is completed. It is posted on the school website and it will be mailed to all parents with the student reports card.**
 - **The Report will be emailed to Olivia Timms for translation.**

 - i. Latino Outreach –
 - **Dr. Chavez did a parent presentation to 17 Hispanic parents. There will be another meeting at Welcome Wesleyan church. No date has been set yet.**
 - **Sept 22nd will host a Wellness Fair at the soccer stadium in downtown Walhalla.**

VIII. Principal Report – Steve Garrett

- **Girls soccer team had a great season 13-1**
- **Track team is going to state**
- **Searching for a Consumer Science teacher**
- **Will have 10 new teachers for the next school year**
- **Prom at the lighthouse went well. Parking was difficult but would suggest having it at that location again, the seniors will place the vote next year.**

IX. Public Comment and Discussion

- **SIC members helped fold Report to the Parents during discussion.....**
- **Laura Estes discussed with Officer Brooks for next year to provide a wrecked vehicle for display in the parking lot for students to see and possibly provide driving under the influence goggles for the students to wear**
- **Melinda Fischer suggested possible participation in the EUDL, Enforcing Underage Drinking Laws**

X. Adjourn **8:51**

SIC Co-Chair Report

Lorilei Swanson and Jessica Duke

May 2018

Accomplishments:

- Winner of the 2017-2018 Riley Award
- One administrator, four parents and five students attended the annual meeting
- Announcement shared on social media
- Article published in the Seneca Journal (front page)
- Met with Mr. Garrett on April 25th, 2018
- Attended the PAC on April 18th and WHS SIC was recognized by the DO

Announcements:

- Winner of the 2017-2018 Riley Award Banner will be presented to the WHS SIC at the May 14th, 2018 School Board Meeting at 6:00 p.m. All members invited to attend.
- Announce SIC elected members for 2018-2019

To Do:

- Attend Board Meeting on May 14th, 2018
- Arrange Tour of WHS for Executive Director of SC SIC on May 14th
- Invite newly elected members to join SIC next year and attend SIC training

Elections Committee Report

May 8th, 2018

Accomplishments:

- Three parents return to SIC to serve an additional term.
- Two parents of rising ninth graders elected to serve on SIC next year.
- Two parents from the Latino community elected to serve on SIC next year (thank you, Esther).
- Students conducted their own nomination and election process this year (thank you, Jason).
- One new teacher elected to serve on SIC next year (thank you, Amanda).
- Election completed in spring 2018 as recommended by SDOC.

Recommendations for next year:

- Request that each SIC member nominate one parent, student or teacher to join WHS SIC.
- Request that each SIC member identify a potential community member to serve on WHS SIC.

Communication Committee

Jessica Duke - Chair

Joy Duncan, Melissa Dempsey, Laura Estes, Katherine Allen - Members

May 8, 2018 SIC Meeting

Accomplishments

- Social Media Sites:
 - Facebook: [facebook.com/WHSSIC/](https://www.facebook.com/WHSSIC/)
 - Twitter: [@WHS_SIC](https://twitter.com/WHS_SIC)
 - Email: WHSSIC@g.oconee.k12.sc.us
 - Website: WHS_SIC
- SIC Meeting dates posted to social media.
- Ongoing news articles related to SIC accomplishments being published on SIC social media.
- Met with Mr. Garret and updated school's Facebook page.
- Worked with Riley Award Committee to assist in writing and submitting 2018 application.
- Promoted the SIC student led 1st Annual Snow Ball.
- Promoted the Grace's Closet Movie Night Fundraiser.
- Promoted the SIC Canvas for Parents event.
- Promoted the Holiday Dessert Day in appreciation of our teachers.
- Promoted WHS SIC being named to the SC-SIC Honor Roll.
- Submitted quotes to the paper for news story on the SC-SIC Honor Roll.
- Created a flyer for and promoted the upcoming Open House/SIC Family Focus Night.
- Holding discussion via email to map out the plan for the future newsletter.
- Advertised moving of SIC meeting dates.
- Assisted Riley Award Committee with documentation for level 2 of the 2018 application.
- Promoted WHS SIC being named to the SC-SIC top finalist.
- Promoted need for Spring Sports ticket gate workers.
- Promoted WHS SIC Nature Trail Work Day.
- Promoted WHS SIC Nomination forms.
- Assisted Riley Award Committee with PowerPoint for SC SIC presentation.
- Promoted ThankATeacher Event

Future Recommendations:

- Regularly remind SIC members and teachers of the SIC social media presence and request information/events to post.
- Continue to promote the social media pages and remind all new SIC members to like, follow and share with their friends to increase followers.
- Help create flyers for and share any SIC events.
- Continue to hold discussions around potentially developing a quarterly or bi-yearly newsletter for parents in coordination with the school.

Teacher Appreciation Committee Report

May 2018

Members: Amanda Gladys, Annette Orr, Dora Leonard (Co-Chair), John Twitty Jr., Kristin Ambrose, Olivia Timms, Paul Holleran, Rachel Twitty (Co-Chair), Tricia Burgess

Current:

- Thank you to Olivia Timms for coordinating the Teacher Appreciation luncheon on May 4 and to everyone who helped to make this event a great success.
- This week we are celebrating National Teacher Appreciation Week with a social media campaign coordinated by our SIC students.
- All teacher/staff drawing for winners of summer fun baskets at the May 8 meeting. Thank you to Annette Orr for coordinating these gift baskets and to everyone who donated.
- A special thank you to our SIC teacher members for their hard work and dedication.

Upcoming:

- Just before the last day of school, we will put a note and treat in each teacher's mailbox. We will need help compiling and inserting these into teacher/staff mailboxes.
- We will be holding a drawing for 4 tickets to the Foreigner Juke Box Heroes Tour concert in Alpharetta, GA. This drawing will be by entry, as we want to make sure whoever wins wants to go and is able to attend. The drawing box will be placed in the workroom with the teacher mailboxes during the month of May. Drawing will be held May 31.

Parent/Student Involvement Committee:

1. Organized and hosted a session to help parents with Canvas

- Coordinated with district office instructional technology department to have their help
- Made arrangements for computer lab use and signage to direct parents to lab
- Publicized event
- Attended to help parents with their Canvas accounts

2. Organized underclassmen awards night, which will be Thursday, May 10

- Worked with department chairs to compile lists of award titles and recipients of awards
- Created invitation postcards and mailed to award recipients
- Coordinated ordering of trophies and printing of certificates with Mrs. Haines
- Coordinated with Mr. Garrett to prepare the awards and agenda

Still to do before Thursday - pick up cake, pick up punch supplies, serve cake/punch (would love volunteers to help!)

WHS SIC Parent Candidate Summaries for 2018-2019 Year

Jessica Duke

Jessica Duke is a parent of a rising Senior at WHS. She has been employed by Wells Fargo Bank for 17 years and currently holds the position of Strategy Consultant for the Corporate Banking Group of Wells Fargo. Jessica holds a Bachelors of Business Administration with a minor in Accounting and a focus on Management. She has served on the WHS SIC for the past two years as the Communication Committee Chair and is the current Co-Chair of the SIC. Previously, Jessica was Chair of the Walhalla Elementary School SIC and was President of Oconee United Soccer Academy. She looks forward to building on the success winning the Dick and Tunky Riley Award this year by partnering with new and current members of the WHS SIC in accomplishing even more goals and activities for the school next year.

Olivia Timms

I am the parent of Cooper Timms who is a 10th grader at WHS. I also work as the Family Liaison at Blue Ridge Elementary School and am a staff member of their SIC. I have been a parent member of the WHS SIC for the past two years and was co-chair last year. I have greatly enjoyed working with fellow members in trying to better our school.

Tricia Burgess

I, Tricia Burgess, would like to be re-nominated to serve on WHS SIC for the 2018-2019 School year. I am currently the Secretary of the WHS SIC and I have served on several school SICs for the past 15 consecutive years. I feel my experience of working on SIC for that many years can only benefit Walhalla High School. Both my children will be seniors this coming year and I would like to serve one more year to help make it the Best year it can be. I currently work at the School District Office in which I feel will allow me to be available as much as possible. I love being on this Award winning team and would like to continue.

Chanda Morrison

My husband and I have lived in Mountain Rest since 1999. My husband owns a construction business, MoreSun Timber Frames. I work part time for Visit Oconee SC and Chattooga Conservancy. We have three daughters, one who will be entering ninth grade at WHS next year.

The jobs I have are flexible and allow me to volunteer with several organizations.

- I was the president of the Long Creek Community Club for three years. During my leadership, our club appealed to County Council and was successful at having them pave a walking track and basketball court at our community center.
- Since 2013, I have volunteered my time putting together a monthly online newsletter that promotes businesses and events specific to Long Creek.
- I'm on the Board of Trustees for the Oconee County Public Library.
- I'm on the Board for Gateway Arts Center in Westminster.
- For several years, I have been involved with SIC at James M Brown.

From everything I see and hear, WHS is a wonderful school and WHS SIC is a get-things-done group, and I would like to be part of it. Last month our family helped clear the new nature trail on the school property. I'm thankful to teachers, students and SIC members who felt this was an amenity worth creating.

Friends, teachers and activities at school heavily influence children. I'd like to participate in SIC to help parents have opportunities to be involved in their child's educational experience. I would like to work to improve school-parent communication to help parents feel more connected with their child's school.

Butch Clay

I am a sixty three year old happily-married father of three children, all currently enrolled in SDOC schools with my oldest son entering 9th grade at WHS in the fall. I work part time for the USFS and my wife works full time at Whetstone Academy.

I taught in local therapeutic boarding schools for roughly thirteen years as served as an Outdoor Environmental Education teacher, English teacher, Academic Department Coordinator and Lead Montessori Educator. I earned a Master's/English from Clemson in 1989 and I am a SC Certified Master Naturalist.

Serving as Platoon Leader/Cadet Officer in Junior ROTC during my high school years and my son's involvement with WHS Marching Band have shown me the importance of student engagement in meaningful school activities and the importance of good teachers who really care about their students and go "above and beyond" day after day.

I can say without hesitation that I will bring to this volunteer service task a "beginner's mind" that seeks to "look and learn" and appreciate what is already great about WHS, and that I will then do my best to work in concert with teachers and associates to help enhance and "optimize" the educational opportunities for all Oconee County students.

For starters, I want to look at how I might enhance students' engagement in planning and preparing for their own academic endeavors and careers, whether bound for college or immediately for the working world.

Libna Bojorguez

My name is Libna Bojorguez. I am the wife of the Pastor at La Luz del Mundo. We have five kids and four of them attend schools at Oconee County. I have two kids at Walhalla High School, one daughter at Walhalla Middle School and one child at Walhalla Elementary School. I am pleased to be nominated to join the School Improvement Council at Walhalla High School.

Merab Perez-Arellano

My name is Merab Perez-Arellano and I have four kids in different schools at Walhalla. Two of my children attend the elementary school, one child is at Walhalla Middle School and one child is at Walhalla High School. Im honored to be nominated to join the WHS School Improvement Council and look forward to a great year.