

Walhalla High School  
School Improvement Council  
Minutes May 11<sup>th</sup>, 2017

- I. Welcome: Lorilei Swanson opened the meeting and welcomed attendees. In attendance were: Tricia Burgess, Lorilei Swanson, Olivia Timms, Dora Leonard, Katherine Allen, Steve Garrett, Paul Holleran, JoAnn Heaton, John Twitty, Lori MacLachlin, Bruce MacLachlin, Jessica Duke, Amanda Harris, Julieann Shannon, Christie Lee, Dora Leonard, Meredith Cobb, Morgan Massey, Emma Sauer, Rachel Twitty, Cooper Timms, Trisha Riser, Jessica Duke, Tonya Massey, Brij Patel, Elliot Wechter, Maddy MacLachlan, and Alex Hernandez.
- II. Approval of Minutes: Katherine Allen called for a motion to approve the April SIC Meeting Minutes – Seconded and Unanimously Approved
- III. Teacher Appreciation Luncheon: provided and very successful
- IV. Undergraduate Awards Day: to be held on May 18, 2017 at 6pm with cake and punch after
- V. Report to the Parents: has been sent out to families, Spanish version is being created
- VI. Election Results: All parents nominated have been elected to serve for the 2017-2018 school year. Josh McCall, Amanda Gladiss, Jason Moss, Trisha Riser and Paul Holleran will be the teacher SIC representatives next year. Eight new students will join the current student SIC members for next year.
- VII. Grace’s Closet: A spaghetti dinner fundraiser is scheduled for Sunday, June 4, 2017 11am-3pm with all proceeds going to Grace’s Closet. Tickets cost Adults \$10, Kids (3-12) \$5. There is a continued need for donations of toiletry items, teen appropriate clothing and school supplies.
- VIII. Review of Accomplishments, Appreciation and Celebration: All chairs and committees are requested to submit proposed changes/improvements for their committees for next year.
- IX. WHS Strategic Plan update and SIC involvement: The WHS Strategic Plan and Report to the Parents will be posted on the school website.
- X. Principal Report: Mr. Garrett thanked members for their commitment to SIC initiatives. He recognized Julieann Shannon, the school volunteer of the year, for her hard work and commitment. He recognized the media committee for getting messages out to the public. The golf team is going to the state competition. Students in track have qualified for state. The boys’ soccer team made it to the state championship. The girls’ softball won the district championship. The baseball team and men’s soccer team both did very well this year. Senior Awards Night is next week. Friday is the school awards, yearbook day, and field day. Graduation and Senior Cook-Out are both coming up. We are in the middle of AP testing and getting ready for EOC testing. The school counselors and mental health counselors have worked very closely this year with many students who are dealing with depression. He is very thankful for the grief team that was available to the students during a recent tragedy. Our mission and our goal is to keep growing our kids and continuing to encourage involvement. Chromebooks will be issued during registration. There will be a fee for Chromebooks. The plan is for Canvas to eventually replace PowerSchool. He would like to encourage parents to become involved in the Booster Club. The president of the Booster Club is Tim Moore.

- XI. Public Comment: A suggestion was made that more informational sessions be made available to parents and families on the use of Canvas. Registration dates for 2017-2018: August 1, 2017 6:30am-4pm and August 2, 2017 10am-7pm. Please submit names of potential speakers to present to parents/teachers/students in the upcoming school year. Suggestions: technology used by teens, career paths for upper classmen, scholarships, surviving the teen age years, depression and suicide prevention, "blue buffalo" bullying prevention, district programs "Olweus Bullying Prevention Program", stress and how to handle the pressures of school, coping mechanisms
- XII. Adjourn: Meeting adjourned at 8:55.

**May 2017**

**SIC Co-Chair Report**

Tricia Burgess and Lorilei Swanson

- Teacher Appreciation Luncheon
- Report to the Parents
- WHS Strategic Plan update and future SIC involvement
- Election Results
- Review of Accomplishments, Appreciation and Celebration

## **SIC Student Committee Meeting**

April 27, 2017

1. Finished reviewing student applications for the 2017-2018 Student SIC Committee and came to consensus on new members.
2. Rachel Twitty is writing a letter to give to new members.
3. Discussed adding more student leadership for the SSIC Committee for the 2017-2018 school year.
  - a. Possible ideas include electing a SSIC Committee chair and secretary.
  - b. Discussed having a set time to hold SSIC meetings instead of when needed, for instance every 2nd Wednesday of the month.

## **Report to Parents**

The 2016-2017 SIC Report to the Parents is complete. The report was distributed to parents Monday, May 8, 2017. This year's report includes details around goals and accomplishments, school and student achievement and recognition, and highlights of SIC sponsored activities. New this year to the report is the school improvement council's alignment to the WHS strategic plan.

Next steps include providing a translated version of the report in Spanish which will be distributed and posted. Olivia Timms is working on the translation. Completion and distribution are to be determined.

## **Elections Committee Report**

May 2017

Chair: Lorilei Swanson

Members: Olivia Timms, Amanda Harris, Patrisha Riser, Paul Holleran

Accomplishments:

- Patrisha Riser received student nominations and held student election
- Amanda Harris received teacher nominations and held teacher election
- Olivia Timms collected parent and student nominations from Walhalla Middle School
- Lorilei Swanson collected parent nominations from Walhalla High School
- Mr. Garrett posted candidate statements and election ballot on the school website
- Jessica Duke posted the election on SIC social media
- Mr. Garrett made a one call announcing SIC election
- Election closes May 10<sup>th</sup>, 2017

Plans for the future:

- Discuss election results and determine who will serve on SIC for the 2017-2018 school year

**Parent Engagement/Student Recognition Committee**

May 2017 Report

Co-Chairs: Amanda Harris and Katherine Allen

Year-to-Date Accomplishments:

Canvas Help Session for Parents – April 4, 2017 5:30-6:30pm

Scheduled Underclass Awards Program – May 18, 2017 Time TBD

Recognition of NOW participants at the February SIC meeting.

Recognition of Razor of the Month students at SIC meetings.

Collaborated with athletic department in establishing a parent volunteer sign-up form for athletic events.

Future Goals:

Continue with and expand current initiatives during the next school year.

## **Professional Development and Teacher Appreciation Committee Report**

May 2017

Chair: Lorilei Swanson

Members: Olivia Timms, Paul Holleran, Christie Lee, Alicia Keys, JoAnn Heaton

Accomplishments:

- Latino outreach and communication committee agreed to summarize results from Dr. Torres focus group
- Olivia Timms and Esther Phillips successfully planned and organized a parent led Teacher Appreciation luncheon with authentic Mexican food.



## **Publicity Committee**

Jessica Duke and Laura Estes, Committee Co-Chairs

May 11, 2017 SIC Meeting

### Accomplishments

- Social Media Sites Created:
  - Facebook: [facebook.com/WHSSIC/](https://facebook.com/WHSSIC/)
  - Twitter: [@WHS SIC @walhallahigh](https://twitter.com/WHS_SIC)
  - Email: [WHSSIC@g.oconee.k12.sc.us](mailto:WHSSIC@g.oconee.k12.sc.us)
  - Website: [WHS SIC](http://WHS_SIC)
- SIC Meeting dates posted to social media.
- Ongoing news articles related to SIC accomplishments being published on SIC social media.
- Created Save the Date Flyer for the Professional Development and Teacher Appreciation Committee – Teacher Professional Development Day/Engaging Latino Families in Schools.
- Created Family Event Flyer for Open House Night.
- We promoted on our recent posting for Grace’s Closet to the Walhalla area via Facebook advertising.
- Promoted the Robotics Competition on the social media sites.
- Posted and created an Ad for the Workshop with Mrs. Whitmire.
- Press release for Teacher Professional Development Day written and published.
- Posted nomination and election ballot for new SIC members in English and Spanish.

### Future Actions:

- Posting reminders of senior and underclassmen award nights next week.