

Walhalla High School
School Improvement Council Minutes
November 9th, 2017

- I. Welcome : **34 were in attendance: Steve Garrett, Erin Phillips, Joe Rukat, Amanda Gladys, T. Jason Moss, Haley McAnally, Amanda Harris, Paul Holleran, Julie-Ann Shannon, Walter Torres, Esther Phillips, Lisa Nock, Maureen Whitman, Brian Riden, Annette Orr, Melissa Dempsey, Carrie Dunton, Lorlei Swanson, Dora Leonard, Olivia Timms, Jessica Duke, Laura Estes, Brij Patel, Rachel Twitty, Cooper Timms, Elliot Wechter, Meredith Cobb, Maddie MacLachlan, Carter McClinnis, John Twitty, Kiley Dempsey, Matthew Shannon, Tricia Burgess and by online zoom conference, Raul Chavez.**
 - a. Appoint timekeeper for meeting - **Thank you Dora Leonard**
 - b. Welcome special guests and Sign in
Welcome Dr. Chavez on Zoom conference call
Welcome two new community members; Lisa Nock and Maureen Whitman
 - c. Light Breakfast - **Thank you Mr. Garrett**

- II. Approve October Minutes – Tricia Burgess
Minutes sent out on 10/16/17 for review and corrections.
Corrected minutes sent out on 11/6/17.
Motion to approve minutes, Approved

- III. Community Highlight
Presentation by Brian Riden from the Tutoring Center of Clemson
Contact info: 864-481-0481 and/or Clemson-senecasc@tutoring center.com
1085 Old Clemson Hwy Suite 6, Seneca, SC 29672

- IV. Student and Teacher Comments
 - **Students are working on their Snowball Dance to be held on Dec. 2. Start time has changed from 7:00 to 8:00. They are promoting the event with a powerpoint slide shown in the commons area throughout the school day.**
 - **Grace's closet will be open on November 21st from 11:30 AM to 1:00 PM for students to get clothes for the dance. Grace's closet will be open on the morning of December 2 for hair and makeup.**
 - **Students will send information about the dance to Jessica to promote on SIC social media**
 - **Students are requesting the following help from SIC members:**
 - *Donation of Christmas items for decorations**
 - *Volunteers to work the concession stand and donate refreshments**
 - *Adults to chaperone the dance**
 - *DJ for the evening**
 - **Jessica will create a Genius signup sheet to send out to SIC members**

 - **Teachers reported that the litter free football game was a success.**

- V. Co-Chair Report- Lorilei Swanson & Jessica Duke - **See Report Attached**
- a. Review Bylaws – Adding Parent Liaison as Ex-Officio Member
 - b. Vote on Bylaws change - **Approved**
 - c. SIC 2017-2018 Wellness event in February or April
 - d. Increased community membership to balance elected to appointed ratio
 - e. Membership list due
- Lorilei challenged SIC members to bring a donated Christmas item for Grace's closet to the December meeting.**
- Christmas shopping day for students is December 15 11:00-1:00**
- VI. Committee Reports **See Reports Attached**
- a. Communication
 - b. Wellness – **No report. Have a tentative plan for a meeting Wednesday, Nov. 15.**
 - c. Teacher Appreciation – **No report**
 - d. Parent/Student Engagement
 - e. Data Collection
 - f. Riley Award
 - g. Recruitment, Retention, Elections – **No report**
 - h. Report to the Parents – **No report**
 - i. Latino Outreach
- VII. Principal Report – Steve Garrett
- **Currently establishing a Walhalla Hall of Fame. A committee is being formed to nominate recipients next fall.**
 - **Student exams will be after Christmas break. Teachers are working on giving refresher classes prior to exams.**
 - **Discussed power hour, lunch times and incentive lunch**
- VIII. Public Comment and Discussion
- **Praised Cindy Burnette and all the counselors on their presentation to the Jr. class. Suggested having it every year. Discussed ideas on how to incorporate resources in Spanish for the non-English speaking Hispanic parents at this and every event.**
 - **FAFSA meeting scheduled for Jan. 25. Discussed having Spanish translation information for the meeting.**
 - **Walter Torres shared his experience of advocating for tax reform in Washington DC as a member of the Walhalla Hispanic Chamber of Commerce. Walter shared about his involvement in Latino United a group helping Latino youths go to college or become entrepreneurs.**
 - **Raul Chavez shared his SWU mentoring program at WHS. Link for published article about the program: <https://wesleyan.life/giving-god-your-all>**
- IX. Adjourn

Attached Reports:

SIC Co-Chair Report

Lorilei Swanson and Jessica Duke

November 2017

- Met with Mr. Garrett to
 - Identify and gain approval for inviting new community members to meet SC-SIC membership ratio criteria
 - Reach out to previous community members who have decreased participation and invite them back
 - Establish a monthly meeting with co-chairs to promote and support SIC progress toward goals
 - To discuss concerns regarding changes in Power Hour
- Working on correct and current membership list to be uploaded to SC-SIC on November 15th, 2017

Communication Committee

Jessica Duke - Chair

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

November 9, 2017 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](http://www.whs-sic.com)
- SIC Meeting dates posted to social media.
- Ongoing news articles related to SIC accomplishments being published on SIC social media.

Future Actions:

- Work with school to increase their social media presence.
- 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.
- Work with school to develop monthly or quarterly newsletter.

Parent/Student Engagement Committee Report WHS SIC -- November 9, 2017

The committee has had 2 meetings: Thursday, 10/26, and Thursday, 11/2, both from 7:45 to 8:30 a.m.

- We plan to coordinate a 2nd annual Underclassmen Awards Night this year. A date has already been set on the school calendar -- May 10, 2018. We are following the timeline outlined last year to begin preparations for this event, and currently, so we are communicating with teachers to finalize their list of award titles (but not recipients yet).
- We are going to coordinate morning Canvas help sessions for parents this year. We have tentatively scheduled our first one for **Thursday, 11/16, with a drop-in window from 7:30 to 8:30 a.m. in downstairs computer labs.**
 - We want to help parents get logged in to Canvas for the first time if they have not done so yet.
 - We want to help parents set up their notifications and learn how to use the features of Canvas, so we'll have increasingly advanced sessions available.
 - We have invited Jennifer Crawford and Corey Chitwood from the district office to attend and assist us.
 - We will advertise through social media, phone message, school sign, etc.
 - We will add increasingly more advanced information sessions so parents can get help wherever they are in the Canvas use process.

SIC - Data Collection Committee

Collect Data - From Teachers

Collect Data - From Students.

Utilize parent survey from Last year. Will speak with Lorilei and Jessica, since made mention at meeting to use the survey we have. Will need to clarify if it needs to be tweaked.

Due to health issue both myself and father, I did not communicate with Committee Members, JH

Riley Award Committee

Chair Report: Lorilei Swanson

Members: Jessica Duke, Amanda Harris, Kiley Dempsey

November 2017

Accomplishments:

- Application criteria reviewed by all members
- List of things to do to complete all application requirements generated
- Focusing on membership list and SC-SIC compliance through November 15th
- Identified individuals to write letters of support
- Will use Report to the Parents as the foundation for generating the WHS SIC statement

To Do:

- Write statement with Report to the Parents as a foundation and provide more details
- Invite individuals to write letters of support (they can't serve on SIC)
- Ask Mr. Garrett to write the primary letter of support
- Amanda will edit final application
- Application due by 5:00 pm December 1st, 2017

Latino Outreach Report

Hope all is well. I just wanted to give you an update on the things that we have accomplished in the last weeks.

- I've sat with principals and created our Spanish speaking subgroups for the following schools WHS, OPE, FO and Westminster El. These schools should be using this option when sending out messages to our parents.

- Last night's meeting was very important for our 11 graders. With Olivia's help we were able to reach every 11 grade parents and invite them to attend meeting. Unfortunately we only had 6-7 families but this is a start. (hoping to incorporate this information with our Communication Skills workshops)

- Today we started our Communication Skills workshops with Adult Ed parents at Oconee Academy. Our Communication Skills workshop will provide our parents with important information such as registration, communication with schools, Canvas, information about our Parent Liaisons/Family Liaisons and the schools they serve and how to contact us, etc. We had about 7 moms attend. We will be offering these workshops every month and eventually reaching out to our Seneca and Westminster area.

Going forward and with tremendous help from our liaison's and parent involvement we will accomplish great thing with our Hispanic culture.

Thanks

Esther

Family/Parent Liaison

Walhalla and Westminster Area