

School Improvement Council
Walhalla High School Professional Development Room
Thursday, September 8th, 2016
7:15 to 8:30 a.m.

1. Introduction and Welcome, Timekeeper appointed: Lorelei Swanson opened the meeting and introductions were made. John Twitty served as timekeeper. In attendance: Steve Garrett, Lorilei Swanson, Patrisha Riser, Meredith Cobb, Zoe Smith, Rachel Twitty, Brij Patel, Elliot Wechler, Hugo Vela, Alex Hernandez, Alex Galvez, Laura Estes, Mike Crenshaw, John Twitty, Carmen Lee, Tricia Burgess, Tonya Massey, Morgan Massey, Amanda Harris, JoAnn Heaton, Lori MacLachlan, Olivia Timms, Emma Saver, Maddy MacLachlan, Paul Holleran, Jessica Duke, Alicia Keys, Dora Leonard, Sandy Prather, Sherri Hopkins, Christie Lee, Katherine Allen

Action Items are highlighted in yellow.

2. Review and Approve Minutes: Katherine Allen read minutes from previous meeting. John Twitty motioned to approve, Tricia Burgess seconded, and minutes were approved.
3. Review and Approve SIC Calendar: SIC Calendar was reviewed and approved with the change of April's meeting being moved to the first Thursday (April 6th). Jessica Duke motioned to approve, Ms. Lee seconded, and the calendar was approved.
3. Principal's Report - Steve Garrett:
 - Students were welcomed to the SIC meeting.
 - Walhalla United Family Night, Friday, Sept. 23rd – this will be the night of the game against Landrum. There will be a Faculty Tail Gate, and they are inviting the community. All students in attendance area will get a free ticket to the game. Elementary and middle school students must be accompanied by an adult. There are plans to have a competition of a cook-off between the schools. Judges are needed for the competition.
 - Homecoming will be the following week. There are plans to bring back the homecoming parade with floats. Information will be coming out to students. Each class will have a trailer/float to be driven by the owner of the trailer.
 - It is almost a month into the school year, and there are a lot of good things happening. New faculty and sports teams have positive things going on.
 - Students are being interviewed to fill ten slots in the Nurturing Oconee's Workforce Program. Selected students will receive special training to help them be prepared for working in local industries.

4. Co-Chair Report -Tricia Burgess and Lorilei Swanson:

Lorilei Swanson:

- Reviewed the purpose of SIC and noted the progress in parental and student involvement and emphasized the importance of increasing community involvement on SIC.
- Bylaws, memberships and SIC minutes are not on the new WHS website. Mr. Garrett will contact Jennifer Crawford to add these items to the school website.
- Two main priorities for SIC are school climate and academic achievement, last year the main focus was on school climate with the idea that improving student and family engagement improves academic achievement. Specifically, SIC focused on building a solid foundation and maintaining compliance with SIC regulations and on improving school climate related to welcoming the TSHS population to WHS.
- Welcoming TSHS students and families will continue to be monitored and serve as a model for welcoming other groups.
- Shared Mr. Garrett's vision for SIC to be focused on visible and tangible activities that help SIC achieve its goals.

Tricia Burgess:

- Suggested that SIC host a family night which would include a guest speaker. We could possibly incorporate the evening with an Open House, distribution of report cards or other events that highlight students and teachers at WHS.
- Recommended Mrs. Kathy Whitmire who had given a presentation at the former TSMHS regarding how the teenage brain works. Tricia would love to invite her to come to Walhalla to give this same presentation.
 - Mrs. Carmen Lee was not able to attend the presentation but had many positive reports on it and thinks it would be a good idea. She feels that the evening would be a good method of sharing the purpose of SIC.
 - Joann Heaton shared how it could bring about a sense of community. It would be a good way to allow families and community members to attend something without feeling like they will be pressured to join a committee.
 - Other parents shared ideas that we could allow students, clubs, groups, etc., to have tables in the commons area and possibly have a group to serve food. Lorelei Swanson shared that perhaps a committee could be formed to make this happen.
 - Lorelei Swanson suggested forming a committee related to this event and add another professional development event for teachers and provide a meal for teachers. Lorilei suggested Miriam Torres.
 - Lorelei Swanson asked the students to think about what type of project they would like to work on to reach out to other students to be a part of SIC.

5. Election of Voting Members for Student SIC:

- 12 members of Student SIC – 2-3 of the students need to be nominated and elected to be voting members of the SIC by the October meeting.

- Mr. Garrett will call a meeting during Razor to give students an opportunity to understand their role on SIC and have regular time to meet to discuss and determine how they would like their voice to impact SIC.
 - Several parents supported the idea of increased student voice on SIC.
6. Student Comment:
- Students were given the opportunity to share information and/or ask questions.
 - Mr. Garrett encouraged students to be comfortable in sharing their thoughts and represent ideas that the student population can get excited about.
 - A parent shared that SIC student members should be public so that other students in the school know who they can contact to share their ideas. Mr. Garrett stated that he would buy t-shirts for SIC student members.
 - Rachel Twitty shared that students might need more incentives to attend a family focus night other than sitting next to their parent listening to how their brains work.
 - Emma Saur suggested that there could be a focus on student achievements so that parents and community members could be aware of accomplishments beyond the sports teams.
 - Olivia Timms suggested bringing in 9th grade student representatives. Trisha Riser will initiate a nomination and election process during HS102 for 9th grade students.
 - Trisha Riser, WHS teacher, volunteered to facilitate the student group during regularly scheduled Razor meetings.
7. Discussion of SIC Focus for 2016-2017:
- Dora Leonard revealed a gift to the SIC of a banner with the school name and SIC description, also note cards with the WHS SIC logo.
 - Lorelei shared that everyone should have a role in SIC. Not everyone needs to chair a committee or be an officer but can participate in a meaningful way.
 - Lorilei emphasized the importance of forming working committees that work on goals in between SIC meetings and report out on progress at each SIC meeting. Each committee will have an appointed Chair. Committees may be temporary or ongoing. For example, Publicity and Member retention/recruitment will be ongoing, while Elections and Report to the Parents will be spring committees.
8. Formation of Committees and Appointment of Committee Chairs:
- Member Retention and Recruitment: Dora Leonard volunteered to serve on this committee with an emphasis on increasing community members. Sherri Hopkins volunteered to serve as liaison with the middle school.
 - Publicity – Jessica Duke and Laura Estes will serve on this committee: creating brochure, sending out information to social media. Important contact information.
 - Newsletter – Sandy Haines
 - Twitter and Facebook – WHS administrators
 - WHS website – Jeanne Craig
 - DO website and newspapers – Sharon Sanders
 - Events/family night(s) for parents, teachers, students: Tricia Burgess-chair, Lorelei Swanson, Olivia Timms, Lori MacLachlin
 - Family Night- Tricia Burgess (Chair), Olivia Timms, Lori MacLachlin

- Teacher Appreciation- PD/Teacher Appreciation: Lorelei Swanson, Christie Lee
- Student Event-to be determined
- Data collection: Bruce MacLachlan (Chair), Joanne Heaton, John Twitty
- Lorelei Swanson will send out a list of committees and who has signed up for each committee.

9. Public Comment:

- Olivia Timms asked if students have been given the opportunity to join clubs. Mr. Garrett shared that there is going to be a club day on Sept. 22nd, 2016 and all students will have the opportunity to participate in an hour long club of their choice.
- Two parents suggested taking advantage of school events to distribute surveys to parents.
- It was suggested that all SIC members should have t-shirts as well.
- It was suggested that students be allowed their full time for comment without adults “filling the silence” during the agenda time for student comments. It was also suggested that students should be made aware of the parliamentary procedures (Robert’s Rules) used in conducting board meetings.
- Dora Leonard shared a concern that teachers and students had to leave the meeting prior to adjournment and led a discussion regarding meeting times and allowing for full participation on SIC by all members.

10. Adjourned: Meeting adjourned at 8:35am