

SIC Minutes

Monday, Sept. 9, 2019

- **Overview** of the minutes from Monday, May. 13, 2019
- **Intro of Jessica Adamson** – local rep for state SIC’s. Suggested visiting website. SIC.sc.gov.
 - **What are some of our focus areas?** Curriculum, classes offered. Security, we created a security, safety group. Ideas from SIC helped form this group.
- **Teacher Retention:**

26% of the certified staff left: 7 retired, 4 moved, 2 are out of education, 4 changed schools within district, 6 changed within the state

Teachers when leaving have an option to do an exit interview by Mr. Massey. Salary was a large issue – there is a larger salary in the Ft. Mill and Clover areas. RHS has created an “incentive pay” for Math and Science areas. Longevity incentive has also helped retain staff. **Discipline was also a large issue.**

Susan Snyder works with supporting 1st year teachers. This group has expanded to include teachers with 1-3 years at NHS. New teachers meet with mentor teachers – this time is built into their schedule. Several new teachers have appreciated social events, group bonding, etc. Mr. Massey has “get to know” talks with new teachers.

Social events, gift cards, boos, etc. for all teachers last year boosted team spirit, bonding, etc.

- **Classes/Curriculum**

40 students have registered for service-learning class by Christy Smith; 15 businesses all non-profit have agreed to work with the students. Speakers have come in every Monday to talk with students.

\$150 was spent to buy T-Shirts for the students. Looking into creating a new class with Mr. Coburn involving STEAM.

Principal’s Update:

- **Safety** – at Open House we showed the *Avoid, Deny, Defend* video. Had a question/answer session following each showing of the video. Students also received a lesson plan and training after viewing the video during Trojan Way.

Reactions by SIC students: agreed overall video was beneficial. Problem areas include: propping open a door – could be better clarified. Video doesn’t clarify what people outside the buildings should do – need more info to address this.

Safety change to the bus dismissal area. 22 busses pick up our students. We could load 3 busses at one time. 80% would have to wait. This caused problems, safety concern. We now line up as many busses as possible in the bus lot. Students are able to board their busses immediately. 90% are on their busses within 12 minutes. Made a large difference with the climate, overall attitude of the students waiting.

Random weapon screening is continuing. Parents are notified of students who are screened. Takes approx. 10 minutes to screen 30 students; use metal detector wands and total of 5 staff members with the SRO are present for that search.

- **Athletics** – We have had turn over. Dr. Sparks is the interim director as the position is still available. Trojan Club is back. All money is used to support the school.
- **School of Choice** – Ms. Grant was named as the new director of Arts and Technology. There are plans to focus on growth in high level courses in our district. The board has approximately a month to decide about School of Choice for the high school level.

Chinese was added to our World Language department. Students from all 3 high schools arrive to take this course. We feel we can serve students without specializing to one thing.

- **Enrollment** – We have 1,850 students this year, 1,873 students last year. Our numbers did not drop significantly. We have only seen a slight bump in numbers. We have seen several students return from Legion Collegiate to NHS.

- **Branding** – we are in the process of having a new digital sign and 3 flag poles placed in front of our school. We are in the process of deciding where to put the sign. Feedback is welcome. SIC Parents suggested that sign not be jarring and be able to read. We have started working with a branding company – company will provide expert advice that will make our campus “pop”. Painting of the trashcans last year, added color, enhanced view.
- **Summer Bridge program**

Amanda Baer and K. Castillo worked on the program. Asked counselors from middle schools to nominate 9th grades for the program. Teachers from several departments helped designed the program. Reached out to 80 students, about half responded. Overall students enjoyed the program – positive feedback. Field trip was conducted to Winthrop. The goal is for these students to be leaders and encourage good behavior, no referrals, etc. Other trips are planned in the year.

512 freshmen enrolled this year. Suggestion from parents is for schedules to be looked at more carefully so that this program doesn’t interfere with band or football.

District may have it earmarked for budget for next year.

- **Safety concern** for dismissal time in the Senior lot. Need to have staff presence, supervision.
- **Wrap Up**

Homecoming game is against Clover.

PSAT is being offered to 2nd year/Sophomores.

Oct. 18th marks the end of 1st 9 weeks.

There is a District SIC meeting at Oct. 22nd at CO.

Safety meetings will continue this year.

Oct. 16th - College or Career visit day for Junior/Seniors. Job Shadow day for Freshman (Day of the PSAT)

ACT is Feb. 25th

SAT Mar. 4th

WIN Testing Mar. 25th