

Sullivan Middle IB
1825 Eden Terrace, Rock Hill
South Carolina 29730

School Improvement Council Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, February 18, 2020

5:30 – 6:30 p.m.

Conference room

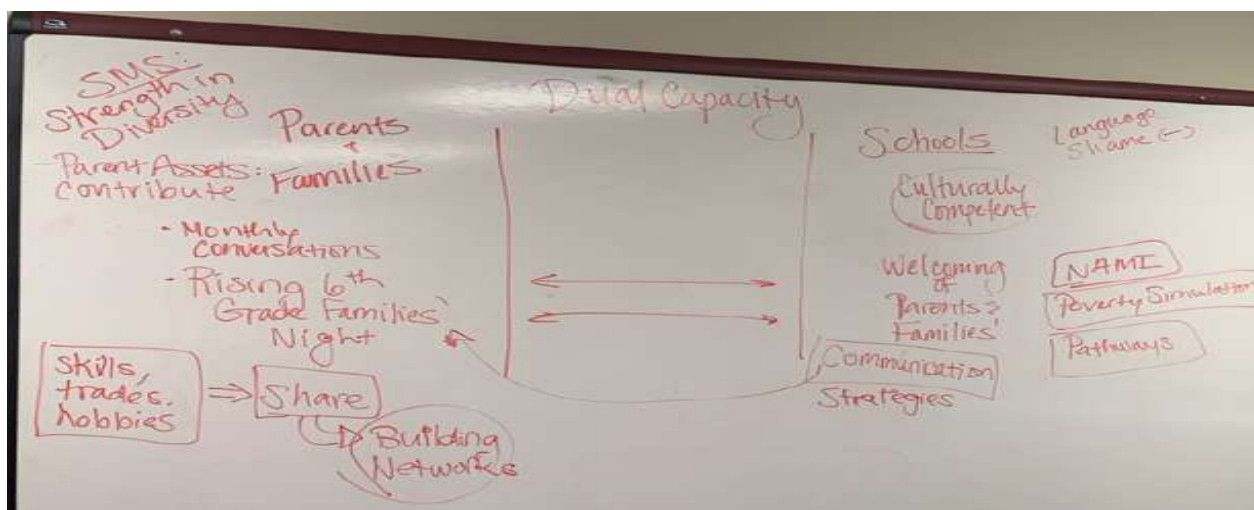
Members Present:

Kelly Scott, SIC Chair; Juan Roldan, School Principal; Holly Stuart, teacher; Darlene Del Vecchio, Transformational Coach; Donna Mack, teacher; Starr Lee, teacher, Laura Lawson, parent; Mark Shumpert, parent; Montrie Belton, parent; Izabela Haas, parent, Rev. Suzanne Ringer, Community Member, Dr. Kelly Costner, Community Member; Julia Beatty, CFEC Representative and Graham Thomas, 7th gr Assistant Principal. Mrs. Kelly Scott called the meeting to order to discuss the following.

Last month's meeting notes approved.

SIC status towards Family Engagement mid-year check:

Julia Beatty, CFEC Liaison presented to our group and started by drawing out a summarized version of the Harvard Framework model: The Dual Capacity-Building Framework for Family-School Partnerships towards “Effective partnerships that support student and school improvement”(see below for the drawing) (Official model also attached at bottom) on the white board to the SIC members present. She explained about the two sides, Parents/Families and School. In the middle is where they intersect.



Both of these sides need to be “worked on” to be ready for the intersection and in order to be successful at the end, bring about family and school partnership. Julia shared that on the school side, there needs to be cultural competence (an acceptance and understanding by the faculty and staff that students, other faculty and staff and parents/families come from different backgrounds and cultural), we must be familiar or aware and have understanding of each other in order to get along and be successful together. Some things that Sullivan’s faculty and staff have participated in so far are the Poverty Simulation and follow up learning session about Pathways. They have also heard a presentation from NAMI (Natl Alliance on Mental Illness) called “Ending the Silence” regarding awareness of mental illnesses and how they are sometimes not diagnosed and so go untreated. Communication between school and families has been improved with a weekly newsletter and active social media channels and consistently updated school webpage. SIC has contributed to communication as well, with article links or event info about things that can help build community between school and families. Examples of barriers between families and school can be language or shame. Families can have a language barrier if they don’t speak English as their primary language. Families can also feel ashamed or embarrassed to engage with school if they did not have a good school experience themselves or their own education didn’t go beyond a high school level.

On the Parents and Families side, work can be done to build relationship between parents and families so that they can be strong when the opportunity comes for them to intersect with the school side. For example, when parents get together with each other, they form stronger relationships, they talk about similar issues, school or other, and they can talk about ways to volunteer or engage in school or engage in their children's lives.

One example of building relationship with parents is to organize a "parents helping/engaging with other parents project". At one school in SC, parents were surveyed at the beginning of a school year about their skills, knowledge of certain topics, hobbies or trade. Then those that wanted to share their subject matter expertise with others, were invited to come to a parent led informal event where the parents shared with one another and got to know each other better. These parent to parent meetings eventually led to teachers engaging in the parent nights and then parents being invited to classrooms.

Kelly then asked the SIC what have we done as an SIC at Sullivan towards the Parent/Families side and what else can we do. All agreed that our SIC has held monthly discussions that have been helpful, participating and being involved in rising 6th grader night, we partner regularly with PTA and there is communication among families on social media.

One of the strengths at Sullivan, on our families side, is our diversity.

Kelly asked the SIC group would we like to try to do a parents engaging parents project, to help build community and relationship between our many diverse parents and families?

The SIC group seemed to be interested, but no vote was taken officially or informally. Kelly can send out an informal question by email to group and those that missed the meeting. If there is consensus, planning can begin in future meetings.

Intro new member

Dr. Kelly Costner, Faculty in Residence from Winthrop University, joined our SIC meeting tonight and he expressed interest in attending SIC meetings at Sullivan.

Mr. Roldan and Faculty, Student Life, Athletics update:

Academics-There are 3 weeks until the end of the 3rd quarter. Interventionists, tutors and the Transformational coach are all working directly with students, as well as the teachers to bring students up to desired levels. PLC's are still meeting as much as possible. Still looking for after school transportation for students who will do after school tutoring. IB and Dual Lang curriculum nights were schedule for last week. Dual language night will be rescheduled for February 27, 2020.

Testing for ESOL students began in January and will continue. Sullivan is hoping to graduate several students from the ESOL classes. This will be a focus for next school year.

MAPs testing will be April 20-21st. State testing will be May 19th. Only 6th grade will be taking Science. Alg 1 EOC will be on May 27th.

Mr. Roldan stated that he asked IB North America for an extension of our 5 year cycle to give our school and faculty/staff a little more time before starting the next cycle in IB accreditation. He is also working on school wide IB training next year.

Rising 6th grader jump up day and night was great success for future students and faculty and staff. Kelly Scott asked if the presentation given to families can be posted on the Sullivan webpage. Mr. Roldan agreed to do this.

Student life-In athletics, wrestling and basketball have ended. Softball team is chosen and season begins soon. The track and field team is holding tryouts this week.

Teacher Retention-Right now, there are a few teachers who have expressed that they will be leaving Sullivan next school year. Otherwise, faculty and staff set for next year.

Important date coming up: February 27th is district SIC night. SICs are invited to hear from district staff.

Mr. Roldan and Faculty, Student Life, Athletics update:

Mr. Roldan updated us on the poverty simulation that took place for the faculty and staff in January. Faculty and Staff were engaged and learned several applicable things about what it is like to be in poverty and live day to day with little resources or help. This gives them perspective when interacting with students who might possibly come from a less than desirable financial background or who has a family that is temporarily struggling with financial issues. Kelly Scott is going to ask Pastor Jeff from OBC, whose church provided several volunteers for this exercise, if he can come and do a follow up presentation about the Pathways Organization. Pathways Organization is a one-stop location for many agencies to be in the same location to help those in need within our community.

Student Life -The students have had a couple of assemblies about character building and making good decisions and consequences of our decisions. –The hope is that this will have a positive impact on their classroom and school behavior as well as at home.

Academics- Quarter 3 is super important for focusing on student growth in every content area. Our IB, Transformational Coach and Interventionists are working directly with the students and PLC's to impact our growth goals. Tutors have been working with our students as well.

Athletics-There is some upcoming spring sports athletic tryout info on the website.

PTA report: PTA update from Laura Lawson included that PTA will have their next meeting on February 27th at 7:30am. Penn Station will be the next spirit night fundraiser on March 10th. The next teacher appreciation event will be March 12th. The one big fundraiser for our school will be called Step It Up on March 23rd. Hoodies are for sale in the school office. They are \$25 each in 4 different colors and select sizes.

NEW BUSINESS:

Ms. Starr Lee, elective teacher, made a comment to the group that there are students at Sullivan who break the rules consistently with regards to wearing hoodies. They wear the hoods on their head in the building and carry things in their pockets, like cellphones, that should be in their lockers. This can be disruptive to the educational environment and be a safety concern. Ms. Lee asked if the SIC would look into the possibility of removing hoodies as approved dress code if the students don't improve their compliance with the hoodie wearing policy (no hood on head and nothing in pockets).

Led by the chair, SIC members and group discussed the issue with different viewpoints mentioned and group came to consensus that a plan going forward would be to let the school start with communicating to students and families a reminder about the hoodie wearing policy at Sullivan, as well as other dress code policies. Then the SIC will follow with communication to families about the hoodie & other dress code policies reminder. Reminder can also be in daily announcements, FNN and through Canvas announcements. Possibly a call home to families and students. Students who are not following policy will be given an opportunity to improve behaviors. Perhaps a record can be taken of the students that are violating for tracking similarities or consistencies or patterns of who the violators are and maybe why or what can be done to address issue with those repeat violators.

If policy violations do not improve, next steps are to take polls of the stakeholders: Sullivan families, students and faculty and staff, to see how they feel about removing hoodies as approved dress code wear because of the continuous violations that lead to behavior and school safety issues.

The SIC would be responsible for conducting these polls, collecting results and discussing next steps towards giving a recommendation to the Principal and school regarding the issue. These steps would take place over the next three months. No recommendation should be expected before May 1, 2020. If a recommendation is made at the end of the school year, the school and SIC will collaborate on how any announcements will be communicated.

Next meeting is March 17th (St. Patrick's Day) 2020, 5:30-6:30pm.

Meeting adjourned.

See attachment below for Dual Capacity-Building Framework

The Dual Capacity-Building Framework for Family-School Partnerships (Version 2)

