

**NORTHWESTERN HIGH SCHOOL
SIC – SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT COUNCIL
MEETING MINUTES
September 12, 2016**

The Northwestern High School Improvement Council met on Monday, September 12, 2016 at 6:00 P.M. at Northwestern High School in Rock Hill, South Carolina. The meeting was called to order by Chair Tanya Tucker. It was determined that a quorum of the usual attendees was present to transact the business.

The May 9, 2016 meeting minutes were reviewed. A motion was made and seconded to accept the meeting minutes as recorded. The motion was approved by the Council.

CHAIR REPORT

It is time to nominate individuals for SIC Board Officers. Positions needed include: Chair, Vice or Co Chair, and Secretary. Descriptors of each position's role will be provided by Tanya Tucker to Mrs. Pursley and Mr. Blake for dissemination to SIC Members.

Tanya Tucker provided a review of past accomplishments and projects which SIC has taken on. These included research and input towards NHS's implementation of Response To Intervention which is now known as PEAK time at NHS; providing a legislative voice on matters affecting students in public education; and supporting the Rock Hill School's initiative of 1:1 technology.

It was determined that SIC minutes will be posted on NHS website.

PRINCIPAL'S REPORT

Principal Mr. James Blake thanked SIC Members for their support especially last year in light of some unfortunate events.

He discussed the graduation rate for NHS being down from the previous year (92.1 previously, in the 80's last year). Mr. Blake noted that this decrease reflected approximately 30 students or roughly 16%. He wants the focus to be on that 16%.

Mr. Blake provided a detailed description of PEAK time, noting that it is 35 minutes of focused instruction/re-teaching (not new instruction). He provided a review of the schedule for PEAK time each day noting that there is an attempt to stagger each block's PEAK time so that there is an opportunity to maximize the experiences that students who do not need the extra instruction can have with various clubs and organizations. Canvas provides a schedule of PEAK time by grade level.

Monday is Trojan Way

Tuesday is 4th block

Wednesday is 3rd block

Thursday is 2nd block

Friday is 1st block

Focus is on students who have less than a 75 average in a given class

Less than an 85 in Honors, AP, and IB classes

Students can be required to attend PEAK time due to absence or missing assignments

If students do not report to PEAK time, it will be counted as a cut

Each Monday, students will have a quiz with their PEAK time teacher to report what their grade is, note any missing assignments, or any absences. Mr. Blake shared that he has received a letter from a Freshman student requesting his assistance with one particular class. He reflected on how he will be encouraging students to reach out to teachers for a hand to support meeting student's needs. The feedback on PEAK time so far has been positive both from Teachers and Students. ATC students are provided time to travel back across campus if they have to report for PEAK time.

Mr. Blake informed SIC Members of the new pathway to ATC due to traffic and safety concerns. Using this pathway which is a sidewalk at the back of campus, added about 3 minutes of commute time. Mr. Blake stated that Core classes trump ATC with regard to PEAK time. They are still working out the kinks but so far the feedback has been positive.

Next year schedule building will take into account the need for tutoring with more challenging courses such as Algebra. The goal is to have students work with a course based expert teacher for more focused tutoring.

Mr. Blake informed SIC members that NHS holds its faculty meetings on Wednesdays this year rather than on Tuesdays to avoid athletic and fine arts events.

Information was shared from Dr. Kokolis regarding the proposed religious study elective which will be taken off-site. SIC members were provided a copy of the Policy Handout and the Rule Handout and asked to review and provide feedback via Survey Monkey.

The survey link was sent via email by Mrs. Dawn Pursley.

DISCUSSIONS

SIC Members were informed that there are no Carnegie units attached to the religious study course. It was agreed that lengthy comments would be emailed to the School Board by individual SIC members. The issue of the optional elective course has been tabled in two previous readings. SIC members can attend School Board meetings as individuals with concerns.

Considered moving SIC meetings to a night other than Mondays due to School Board meetings, however decided against that since the regularly scheduled School Board meeting does not conflict with the regularly scheduled SIC meeting.

Question of how other parents are being notified and asked to vote on Survey Monkey.

SIC will hold its next meeting on October 10, 2016. The District SIC meeting will be on October 25, 2016. The agenda for SIC meeting will be emailed to members.

UPCOMING DATES

October 10, 2016 SIC Meeting

October 25, 2016 District SIC Meeting

Respectfully submitted,

Tanya Irby Tucker
SIC Chair