



Sullivan SIC meeting minutes
September 21, 2021, zoom

Members Present: Mary Ann Kennedy, Chair, Holli Yi, V. Chair, Alice Davis, Recording Secretary, Matt Blackston, Juan Roldan, Principal

Others Present: Julia Beaty, Carolina Family Engagement, Kelly Scott, past-parent, Stephanie Peavy, Teacher, Megan Woodall, Teacher, Suzanne Ringer, Oakland Baptist, Gwen Lindsey, V. Principal, Kellie Cromer, Teacher, Rebecca Wrenn, parent

Welcome and Introductions- Mary Ann Kennedy, SIC Chair

- Review of agenda
- Introductions
- SMS Website has a place under families that links to the SIC homepage
- Review of mission

**Our vision is to create a culture in which the school and community foster academic excellence
and the social development
of all students in a safe and inviting environment.**

State of the school / Principal Updates- Dr. Juan Roldan

- Blessed with more challenges and SMS led the way with “all things COVID”
- Seeing more fatigue in adults, school and parents
- Staff is doing great at what they have been challenged to do, building relationships, discovering kids abilities, understanding what is being brought back into schools from virtual schools
- Beginning to test students for a baseline in ELA and math and seeing patterns that are not overly positive. Many 6th graders reading at 2nd and 3rd grade level. Trying to get kids caught up. Math is similar. They were scoring in 200s, now in 180s. We need to know what we are dealing with.
- We are being asked to carry out a normal school year with very abnormal circumstances. We need help, there are only so many hours in the day.
- 1 positive student is affecting 12-20 kids. Extending to the end of Sept to get kids MAP tested.

- Teachers are trying many ways to engage kids.
- Doing dual modality in teaching, focusing on a classroom and zooming kids. Kids are not logging in, canvas is presenting a barrier in how to access things. Kids are creative in figuring out a way not to go to school on zoom.
- Technology is tough, it's not in good shape, no loners, maybe 1 classroom spare at most, we have let the district know. This is our hardest challenge because we rely on it for everything. We want to make things accessible for all – equity is important!
- 619 have been in quarantine at some point this school year.
- Cancellation of sports is impacting students, concerning parents.
- Can't get clubs off the ground.
- We are seeing less positives among staff and students.
- Shout out to our teachers, admin, support staff, etc. Everyone has had to be teachers at some point, or absorb kids, we have had more teachers out than other schools.
- Current enrollment is 924. Still adding students, normal in first 45 days. Several families took them out of SMS and put in virtual academy, it's not linked to SMS this year, but they belong academically, we are responsible for their academics

Review & discuss SIC goals- Hollie Yi

- Last year goals were:
 - Improving communication and parent perspective
 - Teacher climate
 - Improvement in ELA and math
- Possible new ones
 - Safety in schools
 - Technology
- Can volunteers come to help kids academically?
 - Can find a place for any tutor that is qualified and vetted to work in the schools. We have one right now through Kelly Services from WU, up to 25 hours a week. We are paying her.
- Teachers, how can we support you?

- Stephanie – 6th Grade ELA, been at SMS 4 years. Sent a survey to staff to learn concerns to share. Teachers – it’s a tough year, tougher than last year. Many virtual are behind significantly as a whole child. Kids are doing what they can to “not do work”. Teachers are worried about these kids that are very much behind.
- After-school programming for help with those that are much behind.
 - Did this a few years ago for an hour after school. Teachers paid, M-Th, snacks, and transportation, but already 4 drivers short at SMS. Spring semester - \$17,000ish. Dr. R asked for the use of ESSER funds In 2nd-3rd week, not given opportunity yet (5th week).
 - Can WU tutors help with a part of this? WU doesn’t give credit and we can’t employ them without going through a 3rd party.
 - Julia: can you use older students for younger students? Megan: We don’t have time in the day to implement those type things during the day to implement it. Mary Ann: Can you do that after-school. Dr. R – at a normal year it could prob be done, transportation is the hardest issue.
 - Suzanne will check with a church in Nashville about how they do zooming tutoring with kids by zoom.
 - Darlene: when we can get volunteers in the school we need help getting the 6th graders to “6th grade” when it comes to maturity and academics. Would like to see volunteers come in a mentor and teach them how to be young adults, communicate, manage conflicts, show them how to be successful. Teachers can’t do it all and keep their heads above water at the same time. Teachers are struggling, they are tired. Social emotional need is greater than ever before. Dr. R – difficult to move a child forward academically when they are struggling socially and emotionally. Tools we could use in the past are not there anymore. Needs are nothing like we have seen in the past 3 ½ years. We need to bring the parents into the equation.
 - School counselors are overwhelmed, extra staff for this department. We will be fully staffed at the end of the month.
 - School is overfull, classrooms are in places that aren’t classrooms. Back of auditorium, Cherry park, Media Center, etc. Two world language teachers splitting Casa-Maison, one in cafeteria.

Family engagement ideas- Julia Beaty, Carolina Family Engagement

- This is no longer acute trauma it’s developmental trauma. Relationship is key to get past this and your hands are tied so it’s almost impossible to survive. Amazed at all you

have done teachers and educators! Thank you to the teachers for sharing so candidly. can we create a grassroots afterschool program in the community. Parks? Churches?

- Building relationship is important.
- Primary ask is if you have an interest to do this without adding anything to your plate is can a couple of you walk through this assessments with me before the next meeting to help us have benchmarks of strategies of where we need to be and bring the results back next week.
- Stephanie, Darleene, Hollie volunteered to help Julia.

Upcoming Events:

- a) Blood Drive information- October 15th- Darlene Del Vecchio
- b) NAMI walk- Oct 9, meet at 8:30am to walk around Cherry Park once, or twice, it's not a race, but awareness and a time to gather. Ms. Del Vecchio is getting info out to staff and families. Good place to get together, good cause.

How can we help you teachers? Feed us, Thank you cards, adopt a teacher, love the cart, etc.

Roundtable: hear from parents, teachers, staff, and community members in attendance

Dr. R: It's always about students first! We need to come up with ways to bring parents into the equation and help the social emotional need.

Suzanne finding out what other churches are doing on a mentoring level and how OBC can help and will let us know.

Julia working with committee on assessment.

Hollie, Matt, Mary Ann, Alice will try to gather other parents to help do some things.

Teachers want to hear the good things we are doing, only getting the negative stuff. In media, from parents, district, etc.