

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

School Improvement Council Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, February 26, 2019

5:30 – 6:30 p.m.

School Conference Room

Members Present:

Sullivan Middle School, School Improvement Council met this date at 5:30 p.m. with members present as follows: Kelly Scott, SIC President; Juan Roldan, School Principal; Shana Hannibal, 7th Grade Assistant Principal; Holly Stuart, teacher; Tricia Crenshaw, teacher; Donna Mack, teacher; Dave Vawter, Community Member; Zes Slater, visitor from DCMS SIC; Laura Lawson, parent; and Mona Letigio, SIC Secretary/parent. Mrs. Kelly Scott called the meeting to order to discuss the following agenda:

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| 1. Approve last month's meeting notes | Mrs. Kelly (1 min) |
| 2. School News | Mr. Roldan (25 min) |
| a. Academics: Literacy schoolwide & Enrichment After School Program | |
| b. Teacher Recruitment | |
| c. Student Life – Math Counts Win & Club updates | |
| d. Guidance | |
| 3. Increase Climate Survey Responses for school | |
| a. Brainstorm for getting 8 th graders and parents in to school between 3/21 & 4/12 | Mr. Roldan (10 min) |
| b. For Climate surveys: | |
| - Maybe show off some 8 th grade projects, or Arts or talents (show) and each class on a team has one entry of something to show off | |
| - Raffle for parents to win Restaurant gift card and invite to school | |
| - Serve pizza and drinks. Turn in survey as "tickets" during homeroom | |
| - entrance = slice + drinks, additional slices/drinks are \$1 each. | |
| - Students have something to win. | |
| 4. Falcons Serve on Saturday, Feb. 23 at Back the Pack Event | Mrs. Kelly (1 min) |
| 5. Rising Middle School Night is Feb. 28 | Mrs. Kelly (1 min) |
| a. Kelly to speak and mention successes together this year (read these) | |
| 6. March 30 th is SC SIC Annual Meeting – Great Place for Networking & Hearing ideas for students and for school improvement. | Mrs. Kelly (1min) |
| 7. Questions (student sports availability) (dress Up days?) | (5 min) |
| 8. PTA Update | Laura (5 min) |
| 9. Set next meeting date (March 19) | |
| 10. Adjourn | |

Mrs. Kelly welcomed Mr. Zes Slater, Dutchman Creek Middle School SIC representative, who joined the meeting to observe and to get some ideas of how SIC functions in the school system.

1. Approve last month's meeting notes – Mrs. Kelly

January meeting notes was approved.

2. School News - Mr. Roldan

a. Academics: Literacy schoolwide & Enrichment After School Program

As Mr. Roldan mentioned, this is the messy time of the school year and change is difficult but looking forward to a positive outcome. At this point in time, teachers are tired and students are fatigued with very little breaks from now on until spring break but still remain resilient.

Last January 4th, the school started a Literacy Schoolwide initiative that was led by a group of trained teachers (Literacy Design Collaborative framework) to give emphasis on Literacy in all content areas from core subjects down to electives. Also, the school has implemented a free four-day After School Program, two days for E.L.A. and two days for Math. Transportation and snacks are provided. The goal was to have 20 students that were identified by their teachers who needed the most help, but it was a challenge to get these students avail of this service for various reasons, like it was difficult to get parents to agree to let the students participate. The school continues to encourage parents to have their children participate in this program. Sullivan also partner with Winthrop University to tutor English Language Learners in school. Furthermore, the school will give emphasis and focus in helping Non-English speaker parents learn English. Programs are in place and will be implemented soon. As stated by Mr. Roldan, this is meeting the adults where they are.

Moreover, Sullivan was the author of the middle school benchmark testing in the district that was first implemented yesterday, February 25th, until Thursday, February 28th, and now all middle schools are adapting this benchmark testing for this week. The purpose of this testing is not to focus on the outcome but on the process and data collections for teachers to use as guide for their classroom instructions.

b. Teacher Recruitment

The school will try to fill-in any vacancies that will arise before the 2019-2020 school year begins.

c. Student Life – Math Counts Win & Club updates

Sullivan students were celebrated during the school board meeting last night for winning the Math Counts competition. In addition, students will have more access to BETA Club and National Junior Society next year. Soaring to Service (S2S) initiative led by Ms. Crenshaw, continues to gain impact to students as well as to the community.

d. Guidance

Last week, the school celebrated Kindness Week with the focus on anti-bullying specifically on cyberbullying. Sullivan is bringing more awareness about bullying and empowering students to be an advocate to self and others. Additionally, the school's future goal is to have a student led campus but for now Sullivan will provide students with the right tools to reach this goal starting from developing their soft skills. More programs will be implemented in the coming years.

3. Increase Climate Survey Responses for school – Mr. Roldan

There will be a climate survey that will be release sometimes between March and April for parents to complete and return. This survey will go to the 8th grade parents asking about their experiences during the school year. Mrs. Kelly mentioned some suggests like having a school event that showcases students' works, projects, Arts, or talents to get parents to come and at the same time encourage them to participate in the survey since this is a paper-based submission. Aside from that, it was suggested that raffle drawings of restaurant gift cards or high school spirit wear will be used as prizes. Many more as reported by Ms. Stuart, as teachers were asked to have their feedback on different incentives that motivate students, it was consistent that dress down day is of majority. Another suggestion was to give students extra credit for turning in their parent climate survey, but it was not

considered as an option as Mr. Roldan have explained that things should be separated from the academics and other aspects in the grading system. Furthermore, many suggestions and ideas were discussed for teachers to make their team decision later on, like having a dress down week if there will be a 100% participation as a school or class (to be decided yet) and have the survey written in various versions (English, Spanish, and French). Mr. Slater, visiting DCMS SIC representative, suggested to reach out to local churches and talk to the pastor in getting the message to their congregation about the need of parent involvement and the importance behind it. Maybe announcing it during or after services, Newsletters, bulletins, and other means of communications.

As mentioned by Mr. Roldan, this is the time of the year wherein many surveys will be sent out and one of those is the student survey that will come out in March 7th for the state requirement. The school will take every effort to have all these climate surveys submitted with full participation from survey correspondents. It is imperative for the school to get higher rating in this category because this is one part that scored low in last year's school report that put the school in high priority status.

4. Falcons Serve on Saturday, Feb. 23 at Back the Pack Event - Mrs. Kelly

PTA, SIC, and faculty served during the Back the Pack event last Saturday, February 23rd at Winthrop Coliseum.

5. Rising Middle School Night is Feb. 28 - Mrs. Kelly

Rising Middle School Night is coming up this Thursday, February 28th at 6:00 p.m. and Mrs. Kelly will speak during the event about parent engagement/involvement as well as successes this year.

6. March 30th is SC SIC Annual Meeting – Mrs. Kelly

This is a great place for networking & hearing ideas for students and for school improvement. Also, this is the time that they will announce the top 5 Riley Award winners.

7. Questions (student sports avail and dress Up days)/open discussion

Ms. Lawson was asking about the different student sports schedules and try-outs dates because majority of the school population is not aware of the specifics of these events. It was suggested to have a whole year calendar list of sports and try-out dates organize per season in the beginning of the school year to be added to the student handbook, school website, Newsletters, and other communication tools.

To cater students that enjoy dressing up, it was suggested to have dress Up days wherein students can dress up in their Sunday finest if they choice to.

Another matter that was also discussed was having a school pep rally to bring the school together and build school spirit. Mr. Roldan expounded that this activity will take some instructional/educational time as well as taking away students' focus in class because they will be hyped-up with the anticipation of the event. The school priority right now is to improve academic achievements and performance.

Ms. Mack mentioned about her experienced with her previous schools and how they acknowledge students' achievement and recognize their efforts and progress. Furthermore, Ms. Mack added that the school is not taking advantage of honoring important events and celebrations, like Black History Month and next month's Women's History, and Hispanic, just a few to mention. To address this issue, a committee, possibly student or parent led, will be created to organize future events. Both Mrs. Crenshaw and Mrs. Stuart agreed this would be helpful to highlight and bring attention to those students who work really hard and do their best and have wonderful questions. Ms. Mona open up the lack of student academic recognition in the school and suggested to have a monthly or quarterly celebration solely for this reason or even a simple intercom shout out. Another way to recognize students is to look at all their potentials using Gardner's 8 (9) Intelligences as a guide. Recognizing student as Interpersonal Intelligent ("People Smart"), Intra-personal Intelligent ("Self-Smart"), Bodily-Kinesthetic Intelligent ("Body Smart"), Existentialist, Linguistic Intelligent ("Word Smart"), Logical-Mathematical Intelligent ("Number/Reasoning Smart"), Musical Intelligent ("Musical Smart"), Naturalist Intelligent ("Nature Smart"), and Spatial Intelligent ("Picture Smart"). Ms. Mack added that maybe recognizing both kinds of students, the one who are making progress as well as those who are maintaining that high expectations as a start.

8. PTA Update

- The Krispy Crème cards and certificates made \$505 after expenses.
- March Teacher Appreciation will be Breakfast on the Go
- Middle School Adventure Air Olympics on March 21st from 6:00 to 8:30 with 4 Sullivan teachers participating. Admission is at \$3.00 and the winning school will receive \$300 or more depending on the number of people coming.
- Hickory Tavern Spirit Night was last week with \$87 proceeds.
- Last selling of Spirit wear will be during the Rising 6th Grader Night, February 28th. Changes will be made next year on the design.
- Promotional Banners hanged on the fence loop.

9. Set next meeting date March 19, 2019 at 5:30 – 6:30.

10. Meeting adjourned at 6:30 p.m.