



HILTON HEAD ISLAND HIGH SCHOOL
SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE MEETING
November 18, 2021



May 1, 2021, HHI High School's School Improvement Council was named the recipient of the South Carolina School Improvement Council's fourth annual Award of Merit for SIC Report to the Parents Excellence. This award is intended to recognize Report content, clarity, and design appeal, as well as to stress the importance of the SIC Report to the Parents to school communities. HHI HS SIC received the award "for its outstanding efforts to excellently fulfill this required aspect of SC state law." HHI HS SIC was previously ranked as one of five finalists for the SC-SIC's annual Riley Award for School Improvement Council Excellence in both 2019 and 2018.

NOTATION: Immediately before the SIC Meeting, the HHI HS SIC sponsored a free hour-long Parents/Guardians Workshop on College Financial Planning / FASFA [FAFSA= Free Application for Federal Student Aid form completed by prospective college students in US to determine their eligibility for student financial aid.] Todd Rhine (one of our previous SIC Chairs) conducted the annual informative presentation which was very well attended and was held in the Media Center.

SIC Meeting called to order at: 6:35 pm.

In Attendance: **31 attendees – including 3 Hilton Head Island Beaufort County School District (BCSD) Board of Education members and BCSD Chief Instructional Services Officer. Steve Schidrich, Jen Fielding, Selby Basciano,*BOE Member-Ingrid Boatright, LJ Bush,*BOE Member-Mel Campbell, Jeanine Clark, Audrey Clayton, Monique Dobbelaere, Marvin Cohen, Jan Davis-Vater, Carole Korner, Buck Edwards, Andrea Grant Guess, Kristen Hamilton, AP Kristen (Karzes) Austin, Kristen Keller, AP Mike Lorenz, Bill Payne,*BOE Member-Cathy Robine, Tina Rohr, Jackie Rosswurm, Patty Schoelkopf, Dr. Mary Stratos (BCSD-*Chief Instructional Services Officer) Josh Wall, MaryBeth White, HHI HS Guidance Counselors- Cheryl Dopson & Julie Markel

Important Note: SIC Chair Jen Fielding, together with Principal Steve Schidrich invited our Beaufort County School District's Chief Instructional Services Officer, Dr. Mary Stratos to attend this meeting and listen to our HHI HS issues and ideas for academic improvement. Due to the important focus of this meeting (i.e. our HHI HS Students' Academic Achievement and efforts being made to improve our students test scores) as listed on the below Agenda Topics the approval of our amended September 16, 2021 SIC Minutes, October 21, 2021 SIC Minutes and tonight's' PTSO Report were postponed until our next SIC meeting.

AGENDA

- (1.) Data presentation on test scores.
- (2.) How do our HHI HS students compare to the Bluffton High students? (Bluffton High-12 miles away on mainland /21 min drive) BCSD school with similar demographics/ethnicities to our school)
- (3.) What programs are currently in place by our school to improve our test scores?
- (4.) What programs have historically made a difference in test scores? How is this accurately measured?
- (5.) What are some of the "new" ideas that are being considered by the HHI HS faculty to increase performance?
- (6.) What programs are currently being offered by our school district? And what future programs will be launched with the additional funds received for education?

AGENDA ITEMS – Discussion of each item listed above was led by Principal Steve Schidrich

Below are some key points from our productive and worthwhile discussion:

*End of Course Test Results Percent Passed-school year 2020-2021 were presented:

Algebra I: HHI HS 70% (highest in District) Bluffton HS: 61.8% Biology Bluffton HS: 71.1%; HHI HS: 58.5% Difficult to fill Math and Science teaching positions. Pool of talent to hire qualified teachers in these two subject areas for HHI HS is low. English II: Bluffton HS: 85.7%; HHI HS: 82.2% U.S. History: HHI HS 67.3%; Bluffton 65.5%. Note: Above EOC test results occurred during COVID year.

[10/21/21 SIC Meeting (Noted in Minutes) – HHI HS’ MAP Scores and GAP Mean Scores were presented, reviewed and discussed.]

Efforts to Narrow Achievement Gaps; ILT=“Independent” Learning Time was initiated a number of years ago at HHI HS with intention of students using this time in middle of day to get help from teachers, work on project assignments, study, complete homework, etc. Due to students not using this time effectively ILT has been changed to SLT= “Structured” Learning Time. Students must be in a classroom with a teacher using this time to get help from teacher, work on an assignment, study for an exam, etc Student “roaming halls” is not allowed.

Tutoring: after school tutoring (3:35-4:45 pm) has always been a struggle and difficult to get students to participant after school. Principal now has funding of \$33,000 to spend on tutoring. 1st quarter grades are in – and a number of students are failing Math.

New Tutoring: Robust Math Tutoring has just been implemented - Four mornings per week from 7:15 am-8:15 am with our great Math teacher Jeremy Willard.

Dr. Stratos: tutoring funding can be available – monitor dollars used, based on utilization -number of students actually participating in teacher led tutoring sessions.

Grades are academic matter under the purview of the individual teacher who assigns them. Grades demonstrate mastery/proficiency of the course. State does not allow grades to be changed.

Other incentives for “partnership” to help students learn are needed.

We must focus on relationships between teachers and their students.

Principal Steve Schidrich’s Vision – all his teachers *must build relationships to help students be successful throughout high school.*

Several parents commented how a particular teacher(s) at HHI HS made all the difference with their child successfully passing courses and graduating.

Question asked: “How are you, as principal, ensuring this is happening with all of our teachers?”

Principal: through observations of all teachers, how many referrals are being written by individual teachers is looked at.

*Comments: COVID and schools going to Virtual Teaching—has impacted so many students...

*Many students have developed: “I’m failing, and I don’t care attitude....”

*AP & teacher commented: Many of our HHI HS students are behaving “at 2 years behind --- 9th graders are behaving like 7th graders... 11th graders are behaving like 9th graders.

*Long time/well respected teacher: “We (as educators) must focus on relationships with our students .. Peer coaching of each other (teachers).. We have a hill to climb... Kids were disconnected these past two years...

Students’ “phone addiction” is big issue ... We are trying to get our students to ‘have fun again.’”

*HHI BOE Member: Is working for “mental health” help for our students.

Mental Health Issues/help: Our school district (BCSD) will now pay for this help – through Coastal Empire... Our Guidance Counselors play a key role in getting Mental Health services

started for our students... Students' 1st and 2nd meeting MUST go through the Guidance Department's office.

*Vaping: Increased student vaping – is another issue being seen by teachers and Administration. If drugs found on student while student in school - student get referred to program through Beaufort County Sheriff's Dept.

*BOE Member/long time HHI HS teacher: Is HHI HS serving the right kids? *ALL students need a "go to" person.* Students have varying degrees of needs. The skills of our teachers need upgrade (to be able to effectively deal with students' new challenges.)

Principal Steve Schidrich: We are doing this (helping teachers) thorough "District Mentoring" Program – and building Teacher Mentors. Formal observations of our HHI HS teachers are being done.

Teachers are being evaluated by our Administration ---- and are put on an "Improvement Plan" if necessary.

*Community member/parent of 3 HHI HS grads: Years ago – we use to have a "*Home to School Liaison*". There are "gaps between the school and the home". We need to open and develop these

relationships for the success of our HHI HS students. Some parents need help to do this!!

A bridge from Home to School is needed.

Students need to learn and own WHY is it important to go to school. All kids need a plan.

Principal Steve Schidrich: "*Adopt a Senior*" program has been implemented. Class failure rates for our students are looked at... those classes that are imperative to graduate .. Currently there are

forty-four (44).. Intervention is needed NOW.

FIVE Guidance Counselors – [Our SIC recommendation/request from last school year] were approved for HHI HS this year. Two of our Guidance Counselors were in attendance – Counselors are assigned to students alphabetically by "last names". Our students now have a "Graduation Contact"/Guidance Counselor. Counselors are being trained to better deal with the problems that are being seen with our students.

*BCSD Superintendent Rodriguez – supporting Career Development Facilitators in our high schools.

*HHI HS Career Development Facilitator for all our HHI HS students is Angie Williams (now Dr.) who is well known to HHI HS – as a previous teacher, etc.

School Counselors are becoming better educated in order to become "licensed and certified." 113 additional hours of education is necessary to get licensed.

SIC Chair – Jen Fielding:

*Issue-question from 10/21/21 SIC Meeting:

*Federal & States' Government require public schools' testing results to be recorded/reported/analyzed by race, ethnicity, gender. (i.e. It's the law.)

*SICs on our HH Island – elementary schools (2), middle and high school need to have conversations and work together—Parents working together with our public schools is the main issue.

*What is HHI HS (and our other schools) doing with practices to talk with parents?

*Has a Parent Tutorial been developed?

*How can we improve?

*Are we communicating with the right people?

*Communicating with parents in a useful and meaningful way is necessary. We need to "drill down" on the issues.

Jen and Dr. Stratos talked tonight before start SIC meeting about the following:

- *We need “Extended Learning Groups within our local communities.
- *What are our BCSD schools North of the Broad doing?
- *We need to: involve churches, Boys & Girls Clubs, Promote Parent Involvement
- * How do we do this on HH Island and reach into the community?? Communication, promotion efforts

Other SIC members’ comments:

- *Students need to learn and see academic success for themselves. And learn IF they graduate high school they can experience financial success (and pursue trade school, profession, and/or go on to local college.)
- *Empowering parents is important.
- *SIC needs to reimplement “Career Day at HHIHS and the Reality Store event” ... which has been not happening since COVID.

Many positive comments about our meeting were given at the conclusion of this meeting! 😊

Meeting Adjourned: at 8:00 pm.

***** NOTE PLEASE: Next scheduled SIC Meeting:** *Third Thursday – December 16, 2021 in Seahawk Cultural Center (SCC)*

2020-2021 SIC Meeting Schedule: 9/16@1pm, 10/21@5pm, 11/18/21@6pm-Parent Workshop@5:30pm, 12/16/21@6pm, 1/20/22@6pm, 2/17/22@6pm, 3/17/22@1pm, 4/21/22@6pm, 5/19/22@6pm

*Minutes recorded and
Respectfully submitted by:

*Jan Davis-Vater,
HHI HS School Improvement Council (SIC) Secretary 2021-2022*