Meeting Minutes (11/29/2023) - Approved 1/16/2024

with time ( ) and *action expected*

School Improvement Council
Edith L. Frierson Elementary, virtual Zoom Meeting
Wednesday, November 29, 2023
5:00 to 6:00 p.m.

1. Welcome & Introductions – Members and Guests (5)

Principal Smalls, introduced herself and kicked off the meeting, introducing new chair elect – Ms. Kristina Harvey. Principal Smalls announced that the meeting would be recorded.

Recorded meeting link:
https://drive.google.com/file/d/1y7gjG3uh8I_JpAetJdIvzl02h09GQ4EB/view?usp=drive_link

Attendees: Jill Cheney, Rev. Gertie S Ford, Brad Kolata, Bethany Burnsed, Nicole (Thirdserve), Tori Hennis, Bridget Beggs, Lindsey McCoy, Nicole Barnes, Tameka Smalls Robinson, Audrey Mack, Melissa Reese, Katie Pfeninger, Ann Miller, Latrice Smalls, Pat Cline, Josh Roberts, Kristi Harvey, Ashley Carragin, Deborah Grant, Monica Smith

2. Appreciation of Outgoing Members (2)

Thank you to all the outgoing board and SIC supporters for passing the torch, and for those who are continuing their work.

3. Election of New SIC officers for current year (5)

The current, outgoing chair – Ashley Carrigan joined the meeting. Discussion occurs on the appointment of a new chair of the SIC, and new SIC members in a group vote. The following new members were presented for appointment:

Motion: Ms. Ashley Carragin makes a motion to approve a new SIC board. A vote was made.

Motion: The motion is approved

Kristi Harvey – Chair, Parent - V
Josh Roberts – Parent - V
Ross Anderson – Vice Chair, Parent - V
Mellissa Reese – Teacher - V
Bethany Burnsed – Teacher - V
Dana Platt – Teacher rep elect - V
Audrey Mack – Community Member – V
Pat Cline – Community Member – V
Monica Smith – Community Member – V

Latrice Smalls – Ex-officio member – Principal - V
Brad Kolata – Ex-officio member - PTA Chair, Non-Voting
Tameka Smalls-Robinson Ex-officio – TOY, Non-voting

4. Schedule and location for regular SIC meetings for current year (3)

A Motion was made by Mr. Josh Roberts for SIC those meetings be scheduled on the 2nd Tuesday of each month at 5 O'clock pm, with attendance virtually. Motion is seconded by Ross Anderson. Discussion followed, and concluded.

Mr. Josh Roberts revised his motion: Regularly scheduled meetings will occur virtually on the 2nd Tuesday of each month at 5PM (Feb 13, Mar 12, Apr 16, May 14), with the next meeting (January 9th) being in-person with a time TBD, potentially with a later starting time in order to accommodate for travel time. Motion is seconded by Ross Anderson.

Motion: The motion is approved

5. Reminder of "SIC Basics" trainings and resources sc-sic.org (2)
   a. Distribution of School SIC Bylaws, 5-yr School Renewal Plan, & SIC Handbook

Ms. Harvey attended SIC Training. How to drive improvements. How to monitor, to push us towards our goals. Identify strengths and weaknesses. Review, make changes to the action plans. Referenced attached ppt slides and sc-sic.org resources.

6. Principal's Report (10)
   a. School Report Card Overview-recap

Ms. Latrice Smalls provided an update on the State of the school report, which she mentioned was already addressed to a much larger audience during literacy night, and in a presentation made to the district.

In brief: Current status is Unsatisfactory (32) in grades 3-5. The SC Ready Test is the standard for the report card. The standard looks at Grades 3-5 and evaluates Culture & Climate, Academics (32) and a few other points. She stated clearly that this is not where we'd like to be but that she, and others don't feel it matches with the actual situation now. Regardless, it is top priority to improve the current results, which are currently only 37.8% meets or exceeds in Literacy. Currently only 20% of grades 3-5 Math meets or exceeds on SC Ready.

Current actions being taken are with PLC's – Privete learning coaches - a reading coach, and a math coach are working with staff regularly to improve instruction with and by teachers. We are increasing walk-throughs and providing feedback in the classroom. Climate and culture is change work in process, however it was noted that teachers are engaged, accepting, committed to, and working on closing this gap.

Discipline issues so far this year have – last year there were a total of 72 by this time of year, this year there is only a total of 8. In comparison, there are over a hundred positive referrals in the system this year. The priority Focus for this year is on instruction which has been clearly communicated to staff and incoming SIC members. Some current initiatives include after-school tutoring, targeted between March and May, to prepare for SC Ready test and Kiawah Cares just provided funding for transportation for tutoring for math and literacy.

Question: Does Montessori vs. traditional effect the results of the report card?

Ms. Smalls: We are Public Montessori, we still need to meet the standards. There are other Montessori schools with same Montessori beliefs but are meeting or exceeding. New materials and resources are being applied including EL Cirriculum. Such as O gap training, etc. We are sticking with the Montessori tools to teach the fundamentals and adding additional resources and tools to the mix.

Question: Are scores a mix of both Montessori and Traditional?
Yes, however it is noted that this is the first full year where all the school is full-Montessori.

7. Update on status of SIC goals and activities from previous year (5)

Previous years, Title 1 and SIC meeting was merged. At the time it made sense however there is reason to separate them this year, with the new Assistant Principal leading Title 1 meetings.

a. Gymnatorium

An inquiry was made this fall to CCSD with the response being inconsistent with previous information reported. This led to strong recommendations on pursuing clarification from CCSD by our staff, D9 constituent board members, and parents.

- Mr. Ross Anderson reported on email communication with the CCSD Capital budget and COO officer, Jeffrey Borowy. It was stated that there is no plan or budget allocated for such an investment, and that compared to other schools is low on the priority list.
- Ms. Audrey Mack: The request for plan and funding was submitted and already approved during a previous budget cycle, and before the new CCSD board has transitioned. The request was made and accepted, possibly even before the school transitioned to Montessori. Question – what happened to the approved funding and plan?
- It was suggested that the D9 constituent representative and community members to send an email to Anita Huggins, the interim Superintendent and Mr. Borrowy COO. Clarity should be provided why or how did this item get removed from the budget.
- Response: Plans have already been drawn up for a multi-use space off the cafeteria, and another for off the media center.
- Ms. Deborah Grant: The multi-purpose room was already in process and had a plan. Mr. Borrowy was aware of that. She's concerned that the parents be misled as to what is happening with the multi-purpose space.
- Ms. Monica Smith: Before the new board transition, the previous board already agreed and approved it. Many new things got pushed with the new board. It was stated that it was already approved to be on the next amendment. It was advised that concerned members or persons should sign up for the CCSD meeting of the committee of the whole, to get the gymnatorium back on the agenda and answers to funding, plan, and allocation. Monica Smith was the D9 board chair, and she spoke with Ms. White. D9 Board Chair was present for the vote, and EL Frierson was in the top 5, at that time.
- It was noted that one of the reasons there is not a gym is it's a historically and predominantly.
- Question: Can we initiate fundraising for the effort of a Gymnatorium? Answer: SIC is not approved for fundraising activities as there is no treasurer, and there is no fundraising allowed.

Action: Ms. Mack will send a request for budget for 2024 – 2025 school year.

Action: Ms. Smalls requests documents and information on the funding approval and application from Dr. Cummings. Darlene Dunmeyer Roberson is also making the request. Consider making a Freedom of information request.
Action: Ms. Bridgette Beggs to research relevant minutes, budgets, and available information from previous board meetings and report back. (see below for information)

Action: An ad-hoc committee should be formed to find any records and details related to the Gymnatorium funding request and budget year '24 from public records.

b. Historical Marker:

Rockville Elementary School – Ms. Audrey Mack had an application is being prepared by community members who've already met with previous superintendent Dr. Gallian. Was provided training for how to apply and provided contacts in the district of how and who to apply there to. The new contact, Mrs. Denny is the correct person and they are in contact for the application now. There are 3 different types of markers, so we need to determine which are appropriate. District agreed to provide funding for it, as well. There are 3 levels of historical marker, for County, State, and National recognition. In the 90's it was denied due to the addition and improvement of the school being a significant modification. However the site itself has historical significance. It was suggested to follow the county, state, national hierarchy.

8. Committee Reports

a. Garden Committee – Hope Ivanova (Not in Attendance) This is moving forward consistently on a monthly basis and with very positive feedback. Hope Ivanova was not in attendance.
    i. *Information:* Green Heart, Clemson progress

b. Tennis – Afterschool Director: Tenesha

c. Thirdserve Foundation: Present for the call was Nicole Grogan – Asst Director from Third Serve Foundation. Nicole Grogan spoke with Elizabeth Poole, founding committee leader and former ELF SIC chair who initiated the relationship and established the program. It was a top initiative of former SIC work, to improve sports programming and this is where the program started from.

d. Third Serve has provided bus transportation and coaching through generous funding from Kiawah residents and USTA (US Tennis Association) and it has been, in their eyes, a very beneficial partnership, which is making a big impact in the community and in which could be expanded further, with additional funding and support. 20 – 30 students currently from ELF are involved in the program, as well as students joining from other schools, on Tuesdays and Thursdays, weekly.

e. Curriculum for literacy, math, and other, to support the school renewal plan, can be funded and supported by the USTA. Additional curriculum is available, provided through the USTA, however teachers need to be provided to go on the bus as well. Funding from Thirdserve can pay stipends for tutoring, mentoring, or other. It can be used as a stipend to pay teachers or community chaperones / mentors who would ride along on the bus. 45 minute bus ride each way is a great opportunity for mentoring. It was mentioned that other schools in D9 will also benefit from the Tennis program. Haut Gap and St. Johns HS, for example, offer program continuation which teaches students sportsmanship, relationships, and other life skills. Nicole mentioned that Barth tennis founders have followed the progress of ELF students who now play through Haut Gap. Bruce, from Thirdserve, has been talking to and advocating for the USTA Foundation, responsible for all funding related to facilities, has shown interest and may provide private funding for a tennis court facility, and perhaps it could be an indoor facility. This is a real possibility and something currently under discussion. This could be another source of capital to fund a Gymnatorium, as long as Tennis courts can be part of its planned use. Fundraising effort would be led by Third-Serve and provided by USTA.

Question: Can we allow bags on the bus, help them do their homework. It was discussed that the bus may not be a conducive environment for tutoring and mentoring work. A question was asked if the buses could be secured during play so that Iready lessons and iPads could be used on the bus for study time. Third Serve would be willing to pay for Wifi enabled bussing if that is possible and would assist in making positive use of the time for instructional needs. Tennis program is currently offered for K-5 grades. Pre-k could be coached at Frierson.

Reading: An Idea was presented by a community member that reading done over holiday break, could be recorded upon return at the library and could be provided a reward for their efforts.

Action: Nicole from Thirdserve will inquire about Wifi and Secured buses.

Action: Form an Ad-hoc team to further investigate Esser funds related to tennis activities – Tennis, what happened to funding related to Tennis Court.

f. **Salt Marsh Education, Restoration, & Recreation** – Taylor Bensinger (not present) (5)
Nothing to report without attendance from the committee representative, however the program is moving forward.
   i. *Information:* program update

9. Public Comment (5)
   a. Trailers: D9 chair has requested learning cottages to be put on campus for private intervention areas. Montessori supports "learning pockets", however for interventions, space is needed for privacy and to reduce distraction. Preferred strategy is for interventionist assistants to be pushing into classrooms, rather than pulling them from the classrooms so that instruction time is maximized while interventions are still made as needed. Question: What about next year when those classrooms are used for new classes? Answer: With 4 kids enrolled for the new grade level 7, only 1 classroom would be needed. However the ½ of the existing PE classroom (2 rooms) would be lost. A learning cottage could be a quick-fix. For example, a learning cottage could be used for new classroom of 4 peoples and the PE space could be preserved.

   b. Proposed new committee – mentoring:
   Mr. Ross Anderson reported on an effort to evaluate different mentoring programs and models which could be implemented or adapted for Edith Frierson. The purpose is to provide, especially for young male students who could use someone in their corner, guidance and development of life and behavioral skills. Call Me Mister, FBI Dads, and Mount Zion Mentors Matter are all models considered. A pilot program for spring of 2024 is being discussed and drafted for a small group in order to match some students with mentors and learn about the needs and how to best administer. The overall program development is being guided by the Elements for Effective Practice of Mentoring (www.mentoring.org). We are seeking public comment and input.

10. Announcements (3) tabled

11. Review assignments and agenda for next meeting (5) tabled

12. Motion: to adjourn the meeting at 6:36pm, unanimously approved.

Next Meeting: ~~*Tuesday, January 9, 2024, 5:00 to 6:00p.m., Zoom Meeting*~~

Action: Time Revised to: Tuesday, January 9th, 2024, In-Person Meeting, time TBD.

Bridget Breggs forwarded information According to Boarddocs.com

Featured - Charleston County School District BoardDocs® Plus

ATTACHMENT - FCO 24.pdf (boarddocs.com)

Referenced email from research on motion

Good evening Principal Smalls,

Thanks for hosting the SIC zoom meeting tonight! Afterward, I searched the CCSD website for updates on the gymnatorium. Also, please feel free to forward this to the new SIC board members; I didn't have their email handy to include them.

- But first I need clarification on the following: is the gymnatorium and "multipurpose space" the same? I'm assuming so, but wanted to verify since the terms are being used differently by the CCSD board vs. our SIC and public comments.

- It appears that the CCSD board approved a $5 million multi-purpose space for Frierson during the 2/27/23 Trustees Meeting under the Fixed Cost of Ownership (FCO) FY24 Project List. The project number is listed as "RAR - WO #539611". Unfortunately minutes from this meeting are not available online. But BoardDocs verifies that the motion passed to approve the projects in this attachment. An unofficial recap of the meeting is also available online.
- <Monday, February 27, 2023 Board of Trustees - Regular Meeting .pdf>

- If it is the case that Frierson's gymnatorium/multi-purpose space project is approved and part of the FY24 project list, perhaps a next step would be to ensure that the Audit & Finance committee doesn't reallocate the funds for this project or cut it from the FCO list? I spent a bit of time perusing Audit & Finance Committee Agendas from 2021-2022 when I first started looking for our gymnatorium project, didn't find it listed anywhere, but I did notice lots of reallocations!

- Perhaps this information may be beneficial when reaching back out to the chief operating officer of capital projects at CCSD? I hope the project hasn't been cut since the 2/27/2023 meeting. If so, that could explain the response that Mr. Ross Anderson received about the gymnatorium being a low priority due to enrollment numbers and other schools having submitted similar requests. I didn't search for updates on the FCO FY24 project list since the 2/27/23 meeting, but that may be an important next step?

- <Screenshot 2023-11-29 at 10.23.17 PM.png>
- Prior to this meeting, the only thing I could find regarding the gymnatorium was in the district 9 meeting minutes and the CCSD board public comments which were unfortunately never directly addressed during session.

  My notes are below.

- District 9 meeting on 9/7/2022: https://www.ccsdschools.com/cms/lib/SC50000504/Centricity/Domain/102/090722%20-%20D9%20REGULAR%20MEETING%20MINUTES.pdf
- <Screenshot 2023-11-29 at 5.52.46 PM.png>
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- District 9 meeting on 4/5/2022: https://www.ccsdschools.com/cms/lib/SC50000504/Centricity/Domain/102/040522%20-%20D9%20-%20REGULAR%20MEETING%20MINUTES.pdf

- <Screenshot 2023-11-29 at 5.59.42 PM.png>
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- District 9 meeting on 10/19/2021: https://www.ccsdschools.com/cms/lib/SC50000504/Centricity/Domain/102/101921%20-%20D9%20-%20REGULAR%20MEETING%20MINUTES.pdf
- <Screenshot 2023-11-29 at 6.01.05 PM.png>
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- CCSD Board Meeting 11/15/2021 public comments: https://go.boarddocs.com/sc/charleston/Board.nsf/files/C8SRSQ6E9F6B/$file/CCSD%20Board%20of%20Trustees%20November%2015%2C%202021%20Regular%20Meeting%20Public%20Comments.pdf Youtube session fails to address this comment at all. Instead, the spark states that mask requirements, vaccine mandates, etc are the main focus of the public comments: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6CN2TiyWVMk
- <Screenshot 2023-11-29 at 10.04.52 PM.png>
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- CCSD Board Meeting 12/13/2021 meeting public comments: https://go.boarddocs.com/sc/charleston/Board.nsf/files/C9NQKS69512B/$file/CCSD%20Board%20of%20Trustees%20December%2013%2C%202021%20Regular%20Meeting%20Public%20Comments.pdf Youtube recap of online comments mentions vaccine mandate, reimagine schools, fails again to address Frierson's request: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Cx7GCv_PS0U

Thanks so much,