MEETING AGENDA

Tuesday, February 13, 2024 at 5:00 p.m.

with time ( ) and *action expected*

School Improvement Council
Edith L. Frierson Elementary, virtual meeting
charleston.zoom.us/j/81591420696 , ID: 81591420696, passcode: 609691

1. Welcome & Introductions – Members and Guests (3)

2. Approval of Minutes (2)

3. Principal's Report (8)
   a. *Information:* School update, including Title 1

4. D9 SIC Collaborative post-event update (5)

5. Committee Reports
   a. Historical Marker – Audrey Mack (5)
      i. *Information*: application status update
   b. Gymnatorium Multi-Purpose Room (ad hoc) – Ross Anderson, Bridget Beggs, Monica Smith (12)
      i. *Information*: update
   c. Reading Goals, Literacy Plan – Samantha Kurtz, interim Crystal Blue (2)
      i. *Information:* reading materials & goals update
   d. Salt Marsh Education & Engagement– Taylor Bensinger, Lisa Vandiver (2)
      i. *Information:* program update, scheduled events
   e. Garden Committee – Hope Ivanova, Katie Pfeninger, Kristi Harvey (2)
      i. *Information:* Green Heart & Clemson school garden update
   f. Tennis – Ashley Carrigan (2)
      i. *Information:* participation update, transportation
   g. Mentoring – Ross Anderson, Josh Roberts (2)
      i. *Information:* preparation update (3)
   h. Report To Parents, begin drafting for March review
      i. *Information:* link to previous Frierson 2022-2023 Report to the Community

6. Public Comment (5)

7. Announcements (5)
   a. PTA upcoming events

8. Review assignments and agenda for next meeting (2)
9. Adjourn

   Next Meeting: Tuesday, March 12, 2024, 5:00 to 6:00p.m., Zoom Meeting

2023-2024 SIC Members

Parents
Kristina Harvey, chair
Ross Anderson, v-chair
Josh Roberts

Teachers
Melissa Reese
Bethany Burnsed
Dana Platt

Community Members
Audrey Mack
Pat Cline
Monica Smith

Ex-officio
Latrice Smalls, Principal
Tameka Smalls-Robinson, Teacher of Year
Brad Kolata, PTA Chair

2022-2023
Annual Report to the Community

GROWTH AND STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT

This year we opened with a newly renovated Elementary Hall, complete with 2 beautiful Upper Elementary classrooms, Art, Music, Resource, and Intervention rooms. The Highlight is our beautiful Calming room. We are proud to be District 9's only Montessori School. The 2022-23 school year was our first year as a full Montessori School and our sixth year as CCSD's newest Montessori School. For the 23-24 school year, we anticipate an attendance of approximately 190 students. Next year we will have 3 Primary Montessori Classrooms, 3 Lower Elementary Classrooms, and 2 Upper Elementary Classrooms for grades 4th-6th. All of our Montessori Instructors undergo a 2-3 year extensive training in the Montessori Theory, Methodology, Curriculum, and Instructional practices beyond their Bachelor's or Master's Degrees. This training is supported through funding from the commitment of our school district and its partnership with Lander University.

Our PK4 students take an assessment called "My Individual Growth Development Indicators" (myIGDIs). This test is an assessment given to all 4-year-old students in our district's PK4 programs. MyIGDIs assess both Early Literacy and Early Numeracy skills.

Our district's Montessori programs show some of the highest percentages of students scoring in Tier I. In MyIGDIs Early Literacy, 68% of our students scored highest in Oral Language. In MyIGDIs Early Numeracy, 80% of our students scored highest in Quantity Comparison. We are very proud of the progress our students are making. Kindergarten students take the Kindergarten Readiness Assessment (KRA) to determine readiness. Overall, 65.2% of our Kindergarten students demonstrated readiness on KRA, and 68.4% of the Kindergarten students who attended our 4K program demonstrated readiness.

We received a score of "Unsatisfactory" from the South Carolina Department of Education Report Card and earned 32 out of 100 points on our school performance. It is important to note that all schools with less than 20 students in a grade will receive a score of "Not Rated." However, these scores are based on the 11 4th-graders and 18 5th-graders whose results were calculated into our overall score. There were fewer than 20 students in 4th and 5th grade at Frierson, which skewed the results and provided little opportunity for subgroup analysis. As a result, on the 2022 SC Ready Reading assessment, 30.6% of students in grades 3-5 scored Meets or Exceeds, and 22.4% scored Meets or Exceeds on SC Ready Math. We know that the continued growth of our student body and their work in this Montessori environment will strengthen and improve student achievement.



2022-2023 Teacher of the Year,
Mrs. Tameka Smalls-Robinson

School Improvement Council Members

Chair:

Ashley Carrigan - mrsashleycarrigan@gmail.com

Vice-Chair:

Lisa Gilpin - aelisabeth2@yahoo.com

Parent Representative:

Nicole Edwards - nicole_edwards@charleston.k12.sc.us

Teacher Representatives:

Katherine Simmons - katherine_simmons@charleston.k12.sc.us

Nadezhda Ivanova - nadezhda_ivanova@charleston.k12.sc.us

Community Members:

Patricia Miller - annmack2345@gmail.com

Audrey Mack - audreymack@bellsouth.net

Deborah Grant - deb.7@att.net

Ruth Flynn - rf126tu@gmail.com

Patrikina Cline - patcline@earthlink.net

Linda Geronilla - lindageronilla@gmail.com



Our new pavilion



Newly Renovated Upper Elementary Classroom



Dr. Cummings, the Clemson students, Kiawah Cares, and the Kiawah Island Club, and benefactors, Mr. and Mrs. Sig and Anne Weiler at the Ribbon-Cutting Celebration



New Calming and Intervention Room



Frierson Montessori School
Dr. Deborah Davis-Cummings, Principal
deborah_cummings@charleston.k12.sc.us
6133 Maybank Hwy, Wadmalaw Island, SC 29487
843-559-4500

SCHOOL RENEWAL GOALS FOR 2022-2023

In the 22-23 school year, we chose to train our staff in grades K-5th in the EL Modules Curriculum. As a result, we saw great success for the 22-23 academic school year. After implementing EL, Frierson had a growth rate of 100% for their annual typical growth from fall to spring testing. Our second-grade students grew at a rate of 94%, our third-grade students grew at a rate of 203%, our fourth-grade students grew at a rate of 104%, and our fifth-grade students grew at a rate of 90% from the fall to spring testing of 22-23. It is also important to note that when we looked further into our data, our students with IEPs, 504s, ILAPS, and Gifted and talented students all grew from fall to spring. This is evidence that this curriculum and the instructional practices embedded into the curriculum impacted all of our students positively. Additionally, we chose to train all instructors in OGAP, the art, and science of teaching math. Future efforts in the instruction of our tested grades will continue to focus on the Montessori curriculum, the EL Reading curriculum, OGAP assessments, and Bridges and Montessori Math, which will help to close achievement gaps between our students and others in the District.

Using ESSER funds, we hired two support staff to directly assist our students who were experiencing trauma at any point of the day. We are proud that our staff had intense training in the Restorative Practices social-emotional learning model. Our goal next year is to ensure the school-wide use of this model for the social and emotional growth of our students and staff.

The readiness of our kindergarteners is partly a result of the success of our Montessori implementation. To better assist our Primary learners, our teachers in the Primary and Lower Elementary classes will focus on the Montessori curriculum, the EL Reading curriculum for our K students, OGAP assessments, and Bridges and Montessori Math. Utilizing all these strategies, we believe we will help to close the achievement gap between our students and others in the District. We anticipate good growth in the future.



The South Carolina Department of Natural Resources has partnered with SeaGrant and Seeds to Shoreline to allow Frierson students to learn about the marsh in their backyards. Students keep a nature journal, and read books about the marsh and the living organisms found in the marsh. Students have had hands-on experiences exploring oysters and many organisms they have read about in class. They have found mussels, crabs, worms, and amphipods. They also met Diamond, a terrapin, whom they look forward to seeing each time DNR visits. DNR brought an environmental model to teach our students how everything impacts the marsh and how we can help.







We restored old crab traps with Upper Elementary students, who then got to deploy them into the marsh at Cherry Point Boat Landing. We grew spartina from collected seedlings in our greenhouse at school. All students had the opportunity to transplant the spartina into the marsh. One student who lives by the marsh overcame her fears of the marsh as she made her way through the pluff mud to plant her marsh grass! Students also learned how the marsh and the Wadmalaw culture are connected.



In PE, students have also discussed many options to participate in recreational activities that benefit their physical, mental, and social health. We will be having lessons on fishing, crabbing, and other activities in the month of May. This will prepare our Upper El students to finish the year with a crabbing experience with "Crabbing with Tia" and a charter fishing trip with gear and knowledge to continue fishing beyond the school.

Our first year of implementing this program has gone so well; students were able to make connections from their reading in the classroom to the hands-on activities. Students have been excited and enjoyed participating in this beautiful and enriching opportunity from the South Carolina Department of Natural Resources!





What's Growing?

Green Heart Program:

We have started our partnership with the Green Heart Program. They are providing in-school garden lessons to our students.

Primary garden:

Broccoli, Strawberries, Snow Peas, Carrots, Mustard Greens, Cilantro

Main garden:

Cabbage, Onions, Kale, Collard greens, Spinach, Mustard Greens, Carrots, Strawberries

The Solar Well Pump and Irrigation System:

Our solar well pump is running thanks to our amazing volunteers Ralph McCarter and Bo Burnett!

Butterfly Rain Garden:

Thanks to the Kiawah Conservancy for helping us plant our new rain garden in collaboration with our upper elementary students.

Pavilion

Frierson would like to thank Mr. and Mrs. Sig and Anne Weiler, Mrs. Ruth Flynn, David Pastre, Director of the Clemson Design Center, Charleston, and his three semesters of architectural students, the Frierson Garden Committee and Volunteers, Kiawah Cares, the Kiawah Island Club, The Frierson PTA, students and staff, and the numerous community members of Wadmalaw Island for their help in creating Frierson's shared vision of providing students with a beautiful outdoor learning environment.

Part outdoor classroom and part gardening center, the project combines two covered pavilion areas that join at the corners. The covered pavilions are arranged to accommodate separate activities and toward a shared focal point, giving the space versatility for multiple uses.

Our new Pavilion was “revealed” on April 26th, 2023.