

School Improvement Council Minutes

May River High School

6:00 p.m., Wednesday, Aug. 21, 2024 in the DLL

1. **Welcome** - all members introduced themselves and how they're connected to MRHS.
2. **Explanation of what School Improvement Council does:** *The SIC is made up of parents, school staff & community members who work together to create a positive learning environment so our students & staff can be as successful as possible.*
Mrs. Jacobi and Dr. Webb explained what SIC is and why it's important.
 - a) Unlike PTO, SIC does not have budget or holds funds. We can apply to PTO if funds are needed
 - b) Students can be involved as student representatives
 - c) Guided by State of South Carolina every public school has School Improvement Council Network
 - d) We are governed by By-laws which we amended last year.
 - e) We support MRHS to help meet goals academics, school climate, teacher and admin quality.
3. **Explanation of Elected Members:** Mrs. Jacobi explained that there are 2 Elected parents, 2 elected students, 2 elected teachers who serve 2-year terms: Chair, Vice-Chair & Secretary offices are 1-year terms and can be held by elected parents, teachers or appointed community members. Elected Student at MRHS already elected via student government class
Chair (creates agenda, works with school board and district at special school board meeting, works with principal and assistant principal, input on 5 yr strategic plan), Vice-Chair (back up to chair, current chair also has more ideas about involvement), Secretary (take minutes, attendees sign in, submit to SIC network and minutes published to website)
Non-elected members have a voice and can attend as the meetings are public. However, if anything must go to vote only official members can vote.
4. **Principal's Report:** Dr. Webb reiterated that the role of SIC is to work closely with principal and admin to create 5-year plan. This is year one of new five-year plan. We will review the plan at a later meeting. One of SIC's goals is to help to draft annual report around April each year. Around December will be revisiting the annual report. The SIC and its members bring ideas, concerns and most importantly potential solutions.
 - Changes from last year were largely focused on safety:
 - a. Heavier emphasis on student ids this year

- b. Identify exterior doors that may create exposure closed majority during school with exception to side extension
- c. Staggered dismissal has been eliminated and has one standard dismissal. This was enacted for improved supervision of early release students. At 3:45 opens doors at end of the day
- d. No cell phone law in SC goes into effect in January so most schools started enforcing ahead of. Only allowable during lunchtime.
- e. Dr. Webb eliminated students' ability to eat lunch outside for safety reasons as community members were walking on property with dogs etc.
- f. MRHS has a Resource officer (Bluffton PD) and Security (3rd party) since last year successful so far.

5. Q & A: Questions:

- a. Is MRHS getting a crossing guard? Dr. Webb said a resource officer and two crossing guards hired for district but he is unsure if MRHS will be getting one of the guards.
- b. Construction to expand the cafeteria will start in December. While construction is being done it can still be used however exterior use and alternatives will be needed.
- c. Hall monitors were submitted in budget but denied. Parent asked if volunteers can be utilized? Shared with board but logistical concerns need to be addressed and tested in schools.
- d. Make up days for storm? School Board has to make that decision. Work session is coming up and hopefully, the decision will be made as soon as possible. Once received, dates will be published.
- e. What kind of issues were worked on last year in SIC?
 - i. Mrs. Jacobi stated we were in transition with Principal and in the last year of the 5-year strategic plan so we took opportunity to revise bylaws of SIC that hadn't been revised in years.
 - ii. We talked much about school climate and noted that one-year grades dropped. Committee spent time evaluating why that may have been and how to analyze address in future.
 - iii. Made information more accessible by increasing access to meetings via zoom, updating the Annual Report to Parents to make it easier to post online (and available in Spanish) and creating a notebook of the year's agendas and minutes to have in the front office.

- iv. Student government spent time analyzing morale, some based on perception efforts beautify the MRHS with hand painted mural.
- v. Increased student involvement in SIC is now official part of student government officer positions.

Discussions

- Big shout out to Coach Bigham for assisting in afternoon school pick-up process.
 - Impact of cell phone policy in classrooms have been favorable with teachers so far
6. **Action steps for next meeting:** Wednesday, Sept. 18 at 6 p.m.
SIC meets 3rd Wednesday of every month in this room and by zoom. Meetings are public, so invite other parents, neighbors and students. By October 15 elections need to be done so elections will be held at Sept. 18 meeting. Email miss Carter of intention to stay on the ballot as a parent representative or interested in officer position.
7. **Adjourn**