

**Lady's Island Middle School
School Improvement Council (SIC)
Minutes of Meeting held Tuesday, November 19, 2024**

Attendees: Chavon Browne, Pretel Simmons, Scott Shipsey, Priscilla Drake, Kimberly Flick, Geneva Young, Keith Weaver, Melanie Martin, Caroline Nichols, Jessica Blackman, Karin Lynch, Jason Cox, Natalie Hill, William Smith, Leslie Roldan, Anna Beatty, Ashley Bissell (Zoom)

The meeting began at 6:00 P.M. C. Browne welcomed all to the meeting. Pledge.

S. Shipsey gave the Chair Report

- The traveling Anne Frank exhibit will visit Lady's Island Middle School beginning January 13, 2025. The month-long exhibit is based at the University of South Carolina. Fifteen 7th and 8th grade students will be trained by USC staff as docents to explain the exhibit to students and our LIMS community. Guest speakers that are familiar with the Holocaust will attend and speak to our students during the month. A community night will be held at Lady's Island Middle School January 28, 2025, from 6:00pm-7:30pm. In addition to the exhibit, our City Council will proclaim Anne Frank Proclamation Day at city hall the night of January 14, 2025. Docents, parents, and LIMS staff will be in attendance.
- USCB has agreed to host our LIMS girls' and boys' basketball teams at their college, in Bluffton. The students will have an opportunity to watch the teams play at the USCB auditorium as well as get an overview of college life at USCB. Date/time TBD.
- The BCSD will host a joint SIC/BOE meeting on December 5, 2024. The meeting will be located South of the Broad River. SIC members are asked to email any questions or concerns that they have. LIMS administration will review questions to be presented at the meeting. Questions will be emailed to the BCSD.

J. Blackman ABC curriculum update

- J. Blackman discussed the mission of the ABC curriculum. She reviewed how LIMS integrates the arts into academics. Our school is Cognia certified, certification lasts five years. LIMS receives \$12,500 through the ABC grant, items funded include books, cameras, artists in residence, performance supplies and conferences. LIMS is now preparing for recertification status. Current ABC projects at LIMS are Hispanic Heritage and Mask Making. Visit the ABC website, (<https://www.abcinstitutesc.org>) and see three BCSD art teachers lesson plans. A lesson plan accepted to the ABC site was created by LIMS art teacher Ms. Coleman.
- All are invited to the LIMS annual Visual Arts department showcase on December 17, 2024, at LIMS.

C. Browne gave the Principals Report

- C. Browne presented the SC underperforming schools community awareness report to the members. During October 2024 LIMS received a below average rating on the school

report card. An action plan is underway, and C. Browne is seeking stakeholder ideas and support to help move us to a higher rating. C. Browne reviewed the five categories that are associated with the Continuous Improvement Plan. C. Browne will report to the board of education periodically throughout the school year on the status of improvements. C. Browne reviewed the last three years of SCReady data. Our multilingual student population has grown in the past three years from 5% to 12%. Overall student population has declined during the last three years from 434 students to presently 341 students. All students now receive free lunch.

C. Browne reviewed our school support plan which is presently underway. We have an afterschool program called the Cougar Curriculum Catchup program. The program consists of twenty-five students who have been identified to receive academic help after school.

- The floor was opened for discussion:

Board of Education representative William Smith talked about ways LIMS can get students to return to our school that were present in the past years. (*parents and community need to get behind our school and show support*).

Mrs. Martin asked why the decrease in student enrollment at LIMS over the past three years. (*charter, parochial, and private schools are part of the reason*).

Mr. Cox suggested that a collaborative working environment be considered with LIMS students to help those in the C3 program in need of improving scores become part of the action plan. (*administration will take suggestions under advice*).

S. Shipsey commented based on William Smith's remark about current data showing a projected increase in enrollment including increases in our multi-language (ML) students at LIMS. With that projected increase LIMS needs added resources to accommodate the ML students. If LIMS is underperforming in a subgroup, resources must be made available to move underperforming students to the next level.

Mrs. Lynch said that her son needs a full-time math teacher. He has not had one for two years at LIMS. (*Mr. Smith invited Mrs. Lynch to a BOE work session to voice her concerns*).

Mrs. Drake mentioned that there is a national teacher shortage – LIMS is not alone in not being able to fill staff positions. Mrs. Drake asked, how can we get parents involved in the lives of our children? How do we gather the vast resources we have in our community and put them to work in our schools? Mrs. Drake asked how can we get retired teachers back into the classroom.

Mrs. Martin agreed that getting our parents engaged in the schools is a big part of the solution.

Next LIMS SIC meeting: December 10, 2024 @ 6pm in the library.

Next BOE meeting: December 10, 2024

BOE/SIC chair/cochair meeting: December 5, 2024

The meeting adjourned at 7:35 P.M.