

Whale Branch Early College High School



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Proud to be a Title I School

Dr. Sonji Leach, Principal

Mr. Amann Holden, Assistant Principal
Mrs. Freda McCanick, Assistant Principal

TITLE I SCHOOLWIDE PLANNING MEETING AGENDA

May 20, 2025

5:00pm

- I. Call to Order – Mrs. Charalene Goodwin, 2nd by Catia Gilbert
- II. Welcome and Introduction of Members, Visitors, and New Officers
 - In-Person Attendance: Yolanda Anderson Miles (staff), Freda McCanick (staff-assistant principal), Jessica Russell (staff)
 - Zoom Attendance: Charalene Goodwin (SIC chair/parent), Carlita Lawton (co-chair/parent), Kristal Graham (parent), CaTia Gilbert (parent), Kelvin Simmons (staff), Anthony Gaskin (parent), Carol Smalls-Jenkins (parent), Marvin Goodwin (staff, parent), Toriaun Rivers (student), and Herbert Abdullah (student).
- III. Review and Approval of Agenda
 - Motion moved to approve agenda – Catia Gilbert, 2nd by Kelvin Simmons.
- IV. Share goals of the School Renewal Plan. Title I Schoolwide schools use the School Renewal Plan as guidance for the use of Title I funds.

Yolanda Anderson-Miles - Dr. Leach submitted the SRP goals before she resigned. She received input from staff and parents. Assistant Principal McCanick and I will do our best to address the items on the agenda as best as possible.
- V. Review of current School Renewal Plan
 - Yolanda Anderson-Miles – Dr. Leach did not share the 2025-2026 SRP with me nor the assistant principals before resigning. Therefore, a copy was not available for review. As soon as we access the SRP, we can address the goals for next school year, 2025-2026 with staff and parents.

a. Results of Needs Assessment

i. What is working?

Yolanda Anderson-Miles – Based on last year’s School Renewal Plan, funds for staffing such as Parent Liaison, teachers, instructional coaches, funds for materials, Fall & Spring Events, academic instructional supplements like IXL and Reading Plus, funds for field trips such as college/ university tours, afterschool programs, and funds for STEM activities.

ii. What needs improved?

Yolanda Anderson-Miles – Based on what we know from the last SRP, we will continue to improve academic performance, instructional strategies and materials for teachers, and improve the school’s climate.

iii. Will our plan look different for the next year?

Yolanda Anderson-Miles – As far as I know, the SRP will look the same for the most part. There may be a different need for staffing and academic programs to supplement instructions. We will take a closer look at the 2025-2026 School Renewal Plan to compare it to this past year to note changes and improvements needed.

b. On which strategies in the School Renewal Plan will Title I Funds be used?

Freda McCanick – Funds will be used to improve academic achievement, close achievement gaps, strengthen instruction and technology through professional development, increase STEM instructions, enhance family and community engagement, and support students’ social-emotional development.

VI. Program Evaluation

a. What initiatives funded with Title I were the most successful

Yolanda Anderson-Miles - Funds for staffing, materials, and events, parent resource center, after-school, and college trips.

b. How will we upgrade the educational experience for all students?

Freda McCanick – We plan to upgrade the educational experience to our students by continuing to offer after-school tutoring for each core subject. Provide evidence-based instructional resources to improve academic support and intervention. Improve the training of teachers in differentiated instruction, classroom management, and literacy strategies across the curriculum. Providing more support to prepare students to be college and career ready by providing various workshops for scholarships, college applications, ASVAB, SAT, and ACT. Increase the social-emotional support for all students by providing workshops or lesson on self-management, responsible decision-making, relationship skills, etc.

c. Areas for improvement

Freda McCanick - Improve the Parent Resource Center by providing various trainings for parents such as the use of computers, checking students grades on PowerSchool.

Continue to provide support to the History department to increase student achievement.
Continue to increase positive school climate.

d. Complete the Program Evaluation Form

Yolanda Anderson-Miles – Mrs. McCanick will complete and forward to me.

VII. Parent and Family Engagement

a. How was the input received on the Parent and Family Engagement Policy?

Yolanda Anderson-Miles - The survey was shared through a BrightArrow parent alert, on our website, and at the Spring Into Good Health event. Input was received on paper and through Google docs online. Also, the Title One Survey was sent to parents the same way.

b. What were the results of the survey?

Yolanda Anderson-Miles - There were about 122 people that completed the Title One Survey and only a few Parent and Family Engagement surveys completed. Some feedback from the Parent and Family Engagement surveys: create a quarterly calendar and publish, monitor attendance and behavior closely, communicating when grades are below 60 (or the district required grade), provide lessons that have connections to the real world, teach beyond the standards, conference with students concerning grades, attendance and behavior, improve last minute schedule changes.

c. Evaluation of effectiveness of activities from the Parent and Family Engagement Policy

Yolanda Anderson-Miles - The Fall Trunk-a-Treat and Spring Into Good Health Event was very successful. We plan to have those events next year and use the post event surveys to improve.

Carlita Lawton – I think they are great events and should continue for next year. It was welcoming to parents. Having the events together with the cluster schools was a great idea for parents like her who have 3 kids at different schools who may have events at the same time. Being in one place at one time for all the kids, collaborating with the other schools was a great idea. It was helpful to the community.

d. How should the Parenting Set-Aside funds be used?

Yolanda Anderson-Miles – Funds will be used for materials and food.

Kelvin Simmons - Improve the parent resource center, provide on certain days parenting activities. We have a huge coming Hispanic population and we can have activities or skills to help them with different things, different parenting classes which will better support students for their academic success.

e. How does parent involvement affects student achievement?

Yolanda Anderson-Miles – Parent participation shows investment in their child.
Charalene Goodwin - Think when the parents get involved, it helps the student to feel like they're being recognized and represented by the parent being there.

- f. What are the barriers that keep parents from participating in involvement activities?

Yolanda Anderson-Miles – Some barriers were the time and/or day of certain events, late notifications for events and meetings.

Catia Gilbert - Having a quarterly calendar to share with parents so they can plan ahead of time.

- g. What are strategies to increase parent involvement?

Freda McCanick – Providing a calendar to parents at the beginning of school.

Kelvin Simmons – Take activities to the community

Catia Gilbert - A collaborative event from different organizations and clubs. We can have a parent night where the kids invite their parents to come out to an event. Every club sponsors an event to get parents involved.

Jessica Russell – Suggests a parent prom, date night with your child.

Yolanda Anderson-Miles – Suggests a Father & Daughter Dance and Mother & Son Ball

Freda McCanick – Have an all-inclusive event as to not alienate anyone, extended family event, an entire community involvement event such as a Community Prom.

- h. Are there any changes to the Parent and Family Engagement Policy Parent Involvement policy (review and revise)

Catia Gilbert – add information about vaping, update the school on changes to contact information such as address, phone numbers, email.

VIII. School Compact

- a. How was the input received on the School Compact?

Yolanda Anderson-Miles – Input was received from surveys on paper and online through Google docs. The School Compact survey was posted on the website, sent via BrightArrow alert, and on paper at the Spring Into Good Health Event.

- b. What were the results of the survey?

Yolanda Anderson-Miles – Some parents suggests monitor progress reports better, make real world connections, make lessons relevant, improve expectations of students, improve overall achievement, showcase art and other curriculum, monitor input of grades, etc.

- c. Are there any changes to the School Compact?

Catia Gilbert – Add as a responsibility for students and parents to monitor progress reports on PowerSchool for grades and attendance. Add to teachers to make real

world connections, make sure their content is a real world aspect versus the kids just sitting there and knowing they have to just pass the class, if they can provide meaningful conferences, making sure that they make it relevant to what their standard is versus just saying, I have to pass this class, because the State of South Carolina says, I have to. If they can really make it relevant or tell the kids why they need the information.

Kelvin Simmons – Suggests adding to the teacher to attend at least one athletic student event

IX. Professional Development Goals

a. In what areas does professional development need to focus?

Catia Gilbert – Training on how to send BrightArrow alerts from teachers to parents.

Freda McCanick – Trainings on making real-world connections across the curriculum.

Kelvin Simmons – In our CATE department, trainings on bringing in businesses and people from various disciplines so that kids can see the real connections and the jobs that are available. Have more than one career day a year almost like a summit.