Richland Northeast High School SIC

Monday, December 1, 2025

6:00 pm

Richland Northeast High School Media Center & Virtual

Columbia, SC

SIC officers/members present: Ms. Erica Serbin (Chair), Dr. Marlon Thomas (Principal), Dr. Pamela Williams (Faculty), Dr. Melissa Myers (Assistant Principal), Ms. Tinika Pierce-Boney (Assistant Principal), Mr. Donald Byrne (Faculty), Mr. Wardell Rouse (Faculty), Ms. Sonja Merriwether-Hawkins (Magnet Director), Ms. Derrika Thompson (Faculty), Ms. Alexis Black (District Member), Ms. Elisa Diaz (Richland Library), Mrs. Michelle Morrison (Parent), Ms. Jeanna Smith (Parent), Ms. Jessica Brandes (Parent), Ms. Courtney Robinson (Parent), Ms. Danielle Whaley (Parent).

Call to Order:

Ms. Erica Serbin called the meeting to order at 6:04pm. Title I Disclaimer was read by Ms. Tinka Pierce-Boney. There were no corrections to the October minutes. A motion to accept October minutes was made by Ms. Jeanna Smith and seconded by Ms. Alexis Black.

Student Representative Report:

Ms. Malia Johnson spoke to the group about Hope 360. She explained the purpose of this campaign is to help the community through programs such as adopting a family, can good drive, sock drive. The “hope” is to collect 10,000 can goods. You are encouraged to ask friends and family to help. The items may be dropped at the front office. Black socks are preferred for the sock drive. Mock Trial organization is requesting any gently used clothes by December 12, 2025. Ms. Elisa Diaz is going to share these wonderful opportunities at the Richland Library. On December 19th, there will be an assembly to celebrate all the progress made for these programs. This is not

only going to be an assembly, but there are also going to be presentations by the Fine Arts department. Parents are more than welcome to attend.

Administrator's Updates:

Dr. Marlon Thomas: The EOCs (End of Course Exams) are beginning. Richland Northeast High is bringing everything together. They are offering labs, boot camps, and tutoring.

All students need to use a common language at this time. Students can make sure they are doing everything that needs to be done, such as making up assignments, make up seat time, and tutoring. Also, don't forget there is credit recovery. EOCs are from December 9th – 12th, 2025. This is 20% of their grade.

December is a very busy month. Not only are the students participating in the EOCs, basketball is also in full swing and wrestling takes the mats. There are also Orchestra Winter Concert (December 4th), Winter Choral Concert (December 9th), and Winter Band Concert (December 10th).

Ms. Tinika Pierce-Boney: Students should focus on their EOCs. There are make-up days for final exams if a student is in need. The exam schedule is now out for the students to see. Be mindful, if the student exempts an exam, YOU MUST STILL ATTEND SCHOOL. Links to the December 18th and 19th schedules are now out for students to look at.

Ms. Sonja Merriwether-Hawkins: Wednesday, December 3, 2025, is the Fall 2025 Magnet Shadowing. There are 26 8th graders signed up to shadow. Wednesday, December 17th, 2025 is the Richland Northeast High School and Magnet Information Night. This is from 6pm – 8pm. A table for the SIC was offered and accepted. Ms. Danielle Whaley and Mrs. Michelle Morrison have both volunteered to manage the table.

SIC Goals & Committees Report:

1) Parent Involvement (Ms. Jenna Smith-Chair): This committee met by zoom.
    (a) This committee identified possible barriers for parent involvement: time, jobs, activities.
    (b) Try to get parents involved during the student's 9th grade year.
    (c) Community dinner was successful. Great time had by all. Student performances were excellent.
    (d) Looking into getting the Ed Foundation up and running

(e) Thinking of possibly in the Spring, having a Big Event dinner. Having sessions for parents, such as college choice. Childcare is possibly provided by Student Government, so the parents can attend the sessions. Possibly invite the rising 8th grade parents.

(f) Having parent ambassadors for each grade. Possibly a bilingual parent to help, making sure to reach everyone.

a) Before next meeting, try to meet Dr. Thomas to inquire about the Ed Foundation
b) Plan the Spring event
c) Discuss more about the parent ambassadors

2) **School Climate (Ms. Danielle Whaley):** This committee did not have a chance to meet. They will try to meet before the next SIC meeting and decide upon a monthly meeting date.

3) Attendance/Student Engagement (Ms. Erica Serbin): This committee met on November 10th, 2025, by zoom.

a) Discussed about how to engage attendance
b) Mentorship: "On Track Together" is a study that Ms. Alexis Black is participating in.
   i) All teachers involved have been trained. Currently, there are 12 volunteers.
   ii) On Track Together starts on January 26, 2026. This program will run through the beginning of May 2026. The teacher will meet with the student for 20 – 30 minutes. During these meetings, the discussions will consist of behavior, tardies, absences, and tracking their "sense of belonging."
c) Decker Collective may be interested in recruiting volunteers for the mentorship program.
d) Incentives for competition between classes (Moments of Joy)
   i) Advertise on News Show
   ii) Prizes such as chips and candy
   iii) Food tucks, extended lunches, no ID check for a particular time
   iv) Program: NFL (Never Found Late) NBA (Never Been Absent)
   v) Teacher of the Month
      (1) Student council assist
      (2) Parents nominate teachers
   vi) Ms. Elisa Diaz suggested possibly silent disco and gaming system from Richland Library.

New Business:

No new business currently.

Questions/Concerns:

A follow up question about the “On Track Together” attendance and mentor program. Ms. Black will work hand in hand with Ms. Clark (RNE’s attendance clerk) and decide which students are in need. The sample size with be 12 students, targeting 9th grade students. Trying to start with 9th grade to prevent excessive absences in years to come.

Reminder: Next meeting will be on Tuesday, January 13th, 2026, at 6pm

Dr. Thomas thanked all the parents and staff for giving their time to help move Richland Northeast High School forward. It takes everyone coming together to make changes.

Adjournment:

Without any further business, the meeting was adjourned at 6:45pm by Ms. Serbin. The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, January 13th, 2026, at 6:00pm at Richland Northeast High School media center.