

School Improvement Council (SIC) Meeting Minutes

Date: October 14, 2025

Time: 6:00 PM

Location: Virtual Meeting

1. Welcome and Introductions

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 PM by Principal Norman McQueen. Members present included Ryan Carter, Thomas Kellogg, Jamie Carson, Karleigh Watts, Nicole Uphold, Kelli Smith, Sarah Bell, Presley Leopard, Sara Hottinger, Louis Keiner, and Norman McQueen.

Members absent: Chandler Lynam, Joe Oestreich, and Paige Mayhew.

Introductions were made, and members shared their roles and perspectives within the school community.

2. Purpose and Goals of SIC

Mr. McQueen reviewed the purpose and goals of the School Improvement Council. The SIC functions as a communication link between stakeholders, helping ensure that the school continues to meet student needs. Members were encouraged to act as the “eyes and ears” of the program—sharing observations, concerns, and ideas to guide improvement efforts.

3. Elections

Elections were held for officer positions.

President: James Carter

Secretary: Sarah Bell

The group discussed confirming voting membership and including additional alumni representation as appropriate.

4. Committee Role: Book Approvals and Challenges

The SIC will serve as the Book Review Committee for student text approvals and any challenges. The current list of titles will be distributed to members within the week for review.

5. Establishing Meeting Dates for 2025–2026

The council agreed to hold meetings on the first Tuesday of each month at 6:00 PM, with the exception of the meeting that coincides with graduation events.

Bylaws require a minimum of six meetings per year; this schedule will satisfy that requirement. Meetings will be held virtually when possible to ensure accessibility.

The next meeting is tentatively scheduled for November 4, 2025.

6. Principal's Report

Principal McQueen shared school updates, including:

- The school was ranked the number-one high school in South Carolina.
- Release of state report cards has been delayed to early November due to data issues; current data is embargoed but will be shared with SIC when available.
- The school has applied for recognition under the Palmetto Fellows Speciality Program—its first year of eligibility.
- Possible state evaluation visits may occur later this semester, potentially in December. SIC members will receive talking points ahead of any visit.
- Recruiting season has begun, with events already scheduled on the school calendar.
- Students will register for spring classes in early November, and the first nine weeks ends next week.
- Grade-level trips are planned to support student well-being:
 - Freshmen: River Island Adventure for community-building and wellness (reported by Karleigh Watts)
 - Sophomores: Charleston
 - Juniors: College tours
 - Seniors: Disney
- Students have collectively earned over 500 college credit hours with an average GPA between 3.75 and 3.8.
- The AP passage rate stands at 99%, with 93 exams earning scores of 4 or 5.

7. New Business

The group reviewed prior SIC goals. The annual SIC Report and the book voting link will be shared with members soon.

Members discussed applying for the State SIC Award for Excellence, due in December. A final decision will be made at the next meeting.

Because the school uses Coastal Carolina University's library, the SIC will only vote on student self-selected texts rather than maintaining a separate library review.

8. Adjournment

A motion to adjourn was made by Thomas Kellogg and seconded by Kelli Smith. The meeting concluded at 6:38 PM.

Minutes prepared by: James Carter, President

Status: Pending approval at the next SIC meeting (November 4, 2025)