



SCHOLARS ACADEMY

SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT COUNCIL

Tuesday, December 2 @ 6pm

Virtual (via Google Meet)

Attendees

Sarah Bell (Secretary), Ryan Carter (President), Norman McQueen (Principal), Jamie Carson, Karleigh Watts, Nicole Uphold, Kelli Smith, Paige Mayhew

Absent members: Sara Hottinger, Louis Keiner, Presley Leopard, Chandler Lynam, Joe Oestreich

Meeting Minutes

Welcome and Call to Order

- Meeting called to order by R. Carter; confirmation of quorum
- Previous meeting minutes from November confirmed and accepted

Old Business

- Review of prior Report to Parents documents

Principal's Report

- Recruitment
 - It is recruiting season and middle school visits have been taking place
 - The first informational night took place last week with almost 90 families in attendance
 - Applications open in January and close on February 19, with accepted students asked to commit before the end of March
- Students are preparing to take final exams before winter break
- SA faculty all expected to return next year re: HCS letters of intent
- Palmetto's Finest
 - The judging committee visited in November and shared how impressed they were to see students and staff during a normal school day
 - If SA advances to the next round of judging, another unscheduled visit will take place over the next two months

Meeting Minutes (cont.)

New Business

- Update from SIC Chair training
- Overview of SIC Handbook guidance
 - Meeting minutes and bylaws should be public-facing and added to the SA website
 - R. Carter said he will review and flag documents that are out of date and SIC will discuss during next meeting
- Discussion of 2025-26 SIC Goal: *“Support the recruitment and facilitate the admittance process of 50-60 freshmen for the following academic year.”*
 - The goal of past years was focused on recruitment and retention
 - N. McQueen said the goal still aligns with the five-year plan of SA
 - N. McQueen shared that a successful SIC is one that welcomes input from community members and addresses concerns as they arise; communication is key
 - P. Mayhew shared that she likes the goal remaining somewhat consistent from year to year
 - SIC unanimously voted to accept

Discussion and Member Updates: P. Mayhew shared some online high school ranking websites that she has researched; she will follow up with N. McQueen on how to contact those websites and correct information as needed regarding SA

Adjournment

Next Steps

Virtual meetings will be held on the first Tuesday of each month at 6pm

- February 3, 2026
- March 3, 2026
- April 7, 2026

In-person events:

- Graduation – date set by district office
- Informational Night – date to be determined

Minutes prepared by: Sarah Bell, Secretary

Status: Pending approval at the next SIC meeting (February 3, 2025)