



## JSM SIC Meeting Minutes March 4, 2026

Attendees: Anna Claire Day (Chair), Beth Dillenkoffer (Principal), Joni Nelson (Co-Chair), Stacey Bailey, Amanda Bagdonas, Danielle Ramos, Kimberly Gleason, Katie Monoc, Bethany Nemitz, Nathanael Gunter, Jarrett Strickland, Jess Nicoles, Merritt Watts

### School Renewal Plan-

Ms. Beth went over the School Renewal Plan with the updated metrics from the schools latest testing results (from fall) and the School Climate survey results (March 2025). Parents, students, and certified staff each take their own climate survey. These results go on our State Report Card.

Each Performance Goal in the Renewal Plan was discussed. She reminded us that SCReady testing is for 3rd - 8th graders.

1. Goal: By June 2028, decrease the percent of students who are chronically absent from 18.4% to 8.8%.
  - a. We are currently at 14% which is a decrease from last year but still off from our goal of 9.8%.
2. Goal: From June 2022 to June 2028, increase the percent of all Kindergarten students demonstrating readiness on KRA from 90.9% to 95.9%, and increase the percent of Kindergarten students who attended CCSD 4K demonstrating readiness on KRA from 94.1% to 99.1%.
  - a. Discussion: KReady dipped last year, and Ms. Beth mentioned that recently, we switched from a paper test to digital in a large group setting. She said she would look into when that switch happened. She discussed that the high scores our baseline was based off of may not have been realistic. Other factors for the lower scores may include the timing of the KReady test as it is near the windows of iReady and other busy things.
  - b. Ms. Beth had an idea that could help with the testing. Her idea was to have the test be given by the instructional coaches in a smaller setting. She said this would require training for those instructional coaches.

3. Goal: From June 2022 to June 2028, increase the percent of students scoring Meets or Exceeds on SC Ready Math from 51.6% to 61.3% for all students (elementary) from 14.0% to 39.8% for all students (middle), and 16.1% to 32.9% for African American students.
  - a. Elementary scores (3rd-5th grade) dropped from 56.8% to 45.2%. Middle school scores increased from 35.8% to 39.2%. African American students increased from 17.7% to 18.5%.
  - b. Historically, math has been weaker for JSM than ELA and continues to be.
  - c. There was a lot of parent concern over the Elementary math scores falling.
  - d. Ms. Beth mentioned the new Weighted Student Funding numbers have been released but she couldn't discuss them yet with SIC. She has plans to increase the number of interventionists.
4. There was a lot of discussion from parents about Upper EI concerns. Katie Monoc reminded SIC that we need to ask for district resources and encouraged Ms. Beth to let parents know how we can help and advocate for JSM.
  - a. Parents asked if another Upper EL teacher would be added due to additional Mitchell students that will join JSM next year. Ms. Beth said no.
  - b. Anna Claire Day asked about splitting math classes by ability to help those that need more help and those that need to be challenged. Ms. Beth disagreed with that strategy as it is not equitable.
  - c. Ms. Beth discussed her plan to offer GT training to additional teachers so that more are equipped to teach to the spectrum of learning in their classes. Other GT resources are being considered.
  - d. Parents voiced concerns over the lack of seasoned teachers in Upper EI and how JSM needs to add some more. Also, Bethany Nemitz suggested hiring teachers of color in general.

**Review of this year's goals** (not discussed)

- Increasing Math Scores
- Chronic Absenteeism
- Returning to a play-based childhood

**Parent / Student [Montessori Interview](#)**

Ms. Beth mentioned the purpose of the survey. It's always good to engage parents / caretakers and why they send their kids to James Simons. She encouraged us to do the questions with our students if we haven't already.

### **Parent / Caretaker Engagement Survey review - [link / website](#)**

Anna Claire Day mentioned that she and Joni Nelson have created a SIC Google Form for Parent / Caretaker Engagement. The purpose is to learn how parents want to receive communication and see what hinders them from being able to participate in school events, etc. We have gotten a few results in and did not have time to review them. The link is on the school website under SIC. Anna Claire said that they have received about 10 responses and would like to go over those another meeting. She wants to add some printed copies to the front desk.

### **[SC Report Card](#)**

Discussion moved on to the SC Report Card scores, specifically around Teacher Climate. Parents were discouraged by the low scores. This climate survey is taken by certified teachers only.

Ms. Beth discussed how since she received these scores in October, at staff meetings, administration has been talking about it. She asks them, "How can we increase the score of this question by one point? What would that take?" Ms. Beth said they have received some feedback and have worked to achieve those.

Ms. Beth talked about the Safety section and found it hard to believe teachers don't feel safe at JSM. She mentioned someone told her this survey was taken last year after a school shooting and perhaps they weren't in the right mind set. She also mentioned that maybe someone had automatically scored "Agree" but meant to do "Disagree" to a negative question.

Anna Claire mentioned having heard other schools do an Exit Interview to staff that aren't renewing their contracts as a way to get feedback and increase teacher satisfaction. She would like the SIC to do something like that. Ms. Beth suggested doing a Stay Interview instead, where staff that have renewed their contract would be interviewed so we could learn what is working well and what could be better. Anna Claire said the SIC could handle this.

**Peninsula Promise** - We discussed some of the changes to our school for next year, as we will be having new students join from Mitchell. Bethany Nemitz talked about marketing to Mitchell families and making sure they understand Montessori, etc. We want to make sure they feel welcome. Ms. Beth said she has met with some parents recently from that school.

**Next Coffee with the Counselor - Mar. 26, 2026** (not discussed)

**New Action Items:**

- Check when KReady test switched to digital in a group setting (Ms. Beth)
- Put paper copies of SIC Parent / Caretaker Engagement Survey at the school front desk (Anna Claire) DONE
- How to reach out to Mitchell families / welcome them (all)
- Create a Stay Interview for staff to interview them during the school year (Anna Claire)

**Open Action Items:** (not discussed)

- look at offering a second math night where the children can show parents how math works / scavenger hunt (Beth)
- check to see if we can videotape the OGAP math night (Beth)
- see if there are any videos or responses we can share with the parents that can't it to math night (Beth)
- review of SIC members and membership composition (Ms. Beth and Anna Claire)
- create a family survey for communications to go on the back of the Montessori parent interview (AC and Joni) DONE
- collaborate on ideas of how to communicate topics to parents possibly via videos, not just text (AC and Joni)
- clean up website / where the DeBunking series is posted (AC and Rosie) DONE
- work with Shannon on more math games to email out to parents (AC)
- "free range challenge" each quarter in Sunday Message (Beth)

## Next meetings

- 4/29/26
- 5/20/26

Meeting adjourned at 5:45pm.