

Attendees: Beth Dillenkoffer (Principal), Anna Claire Day (Chair), Katie Monoc, Chris Monoc, Maria Nestleroad, Ben Cash, Ellie Quinn, Julia Brandel, Kimberly Gleason, Bethany Nemitz, Saurikhane Konekeo, Joni Nelson

Next Meetings:

February 26 at 5:30pm

March 26 at 4:30pm / Friends of James Simons at 5:30pm

April 30 at 5:30pm

No May meeting

January 15, 2025 Minutes -

Beth talked about the progression of our SIC over the past few years as we moved out of Title 1 status. At that point, most of the SIC work was focused on that funding. During COVID, the school then received ESSR funds. Now we have WSF which is Weighted Student Funding. Beth is hoping to hear soon on our WSF funding for next year.

(We did not cover this in the meeting, but this is what Beth has used the WSF for on this year: .5 Literacy Interventionist; School Counselor for upper el and middle school; special education resource teacher; special education teacher assistant.)

Beth then reviewed our current 5 year School Renewal Plan which includes a number of performance goals for James Simons. We looked at student data and where we are currently from last year. Overall, most data is trending upward.

This year, for SIC, we will be focusing on 2 of those goals for now.

1. **Math Goal** (58.2% of students will score Meets/Exceeds on SC Ready Math in 2025)
2. **Chronic Absenteeism Goal** (decrease the percent of students who are chronically absent. Last year, we were at 10.8% and our goal for 2024/2025 is to be at 10.3%)

Math Goal - Beth discussed the ways the staff is making progress on the Math Goal which includes 5 OGAP trainings a year for teachers, Math PD for teacher assistants, and hosting Math Night for parents this fall. Since the staff is doing a lot to increase math skills, we asked ourselves how can we help continue math at home?

We discussed sending out links in Beth's emails that would include math games as a way for students to continue their math work at home. It would be broken down by age group. We talked about possibly having an incentive to complete the math work / turn in the answer or photo that you did it. Possibly for extra credit?

We discussed also possibly sending extra math worksheets to be included in this effort, but felt like offering games (as opposed to more work at home) to do as a family or individually was more aligned with Montessori values.

We talked about how we can engage the middle school and older students in things like this. Anna Claire is going to reach out to Ms. Shannon, the math specialist, about this.

We talked about having periodic SIC newsletters in a series called "Debunking"...things about school that continue to be confusing for families. Examples are iReady, absenteeism / truancy, Beanstack, Upper Elementary, Adolescents.

Ben brought up offering a survey to families about what works best for them, ideas they have, how they are most successful, etc.

Reading Scores in Beanstack

We briefly talked about how to encourage students to log minutes in Beanstack as they get older (it significantly drops off from Lower EI). Could we offer a reading challenge for Upper EI and middle school? pizza party? Read more than the Principal? These minutes count towards our school's Read to Succeed Plan.

We did not get to the agenda item about Chronic Absenteeism.

Helpful SIC Information (in case you're new to this!):

Each SIC elects its own officers annually – a Chair, a Vice Chair, and a Secretary. SICs do not hold funds, so there is no Treasurer. It is the responsibility of the elected SIC Chair to preside over SIC meetings and to work with the principal to develop meeting agendas.

Required SIC duties include:

- Reporting its SIC membership information to the state using the online SC-SIC Member Network by November 15 each year (principal's responsibility)
Assisting in the preparation of the five-year School Improvement Plan and annual updates;
- Assisting in monitoring the school's progress under the Plan;
- Consulting with the school on the development of the family engagement portion of the School Reading Plan as required by the Read to Succeed Act;
- Writing the annual SIC Report to the Parents (distributed by April 30 and posted to online SIC Member Network by June 1);
- Assisting the principal in writing the narrative report for the annual SC School Report Card.

SIC Membership:

Parents are nominated and elected by the parents at their child's school.

Teachers are nominated and elected by teachers at their school.

Students elect student representatives in schools serving grade 9 or higher.

Elementary and middle school SICs may include student representatives.

Community member representatives are appointed by the principal to the SIC. Interested community members should contact the school principal or SIC Chair for more details.

Other items not discussed:

- Debunking Upper EL and Middle School - what is expected, how to access things, etc.
- Planners for 4th grade and up / communication on this
- SIC Bi Laws
- Upcoming SIC Report to Parents (April)
- forming small committees to focus on each goal

TO DO:

- send agenda / links to the group (Beth / Anna Claire) ✓
- ask Ms. Shannon about middle school aged math games (Anna Claire) ✓
- send list of math games to families once finalized (Beth) ✓
- create a "Debunking" flyer template (Anna Claire) ✓
- list of "Debunking" topics (Beth / Anna Claire)
- plans the rest of the SIC Spring meetings (Beth / Anna Claire) ✓