

Notes from School Improvement Committee

January 15, 2026

I. Call to Order

- Meeting Called to Order at 4:30 PM
- Present: Casey McDonald, Kevin Seigmann, Kelly Goudy, Renee Roberts, Pat Rowell, Genie Brainerd, Darla Coleman (Zoom), Corley Hudson (Zoom), Thais Di Lazary (Zoom) were in attendance.

II. Approve Minutes

- Last month's minutes were presented by Genie Brainerd and approved by the SIC.

III. Chair Report

- Genie Brainerd presented the minutes from last month's joint meeting at Okatie Elementary School.
 - Metal Detectors
 - Installation of metal detectors has begun at the high school level, with middle schools scheduled to follow.
 - Each school will have one detector at the main entrance and one at the bus entrance.
 - For schools where detectors are already installed, efforts are underway to improve entry timing and efficiency to ensure students arrive to class on time.
 - Budget
 - Public feedback on the proposed budget will be collected.
 - SIC representatives were asked to provide updates and feedback.
 - Salaries
 - Increased salaries were discussed.
 - Beaufort County School District currently ranks second in the state for salaries, with primary competition from Charleston-area districts.
 - Professional Development & Training
 - Additional training opportunities were discussed for general education teachers and special education aides.
 - Enrollment
 - Enrollment trends were discussed, including competition from charter and private schools.
 - Job Coaches
 - Compensation for job coaches was discussed.
 - Student & Family Support Services
 - The need for increased family support services was discussed, including additional social workers and counselors.
 - Student Supports & Instruction

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- Topics included personal finance education for students, increased housing assistance, and teacher-focused housing options.
 - Technology & Student Devices
 - GPS tracking devices in schools are not currently permitted due to statewide regulations.
 - Mr. Rodriguez will look into available options.
 - Discussion included student devices (e.g., Gizmos) and the use of “school mode.”
 - School Supervision & Safety
 - The possibility of bringing back hall monitors was discussed, particularly at the middle and high school levels, with a focus on bathroom-related concerns.
 - Student Leadership & Service Learning
 - Opportunities for student leadership and service learning were discussed.
 - Ideas included students learning about sensory needs, understanding the purpose of sensory supports, and participating in the creation of these supports.
- Meeting Dates:
 - February 12th, March 19th, April 23rd, and May 21st are the updated dates for the upcoming SIC Meetings.

IV. Principal’s Report

- Passport Day:
 - February 12th is our next Passport Day and our goal is to “Level Up” each day.
 - Parents have been invited to come in if they have a special connection to a specific country that we are “traveling” to.
 - Last Passport Day, some students dressed up like the country that they were “traveling” to which gave us the idea to encourage all students and staff to do so.
 - Our goal with the Passport Days is to increase attendance on half days.
- Budget Update
 - Student Activities Funds
 - Dr. Goudy presented an overview of Student Activities funds (information was previously shared before break).
 - Several categories currently hold surplus funds, and teams are encouraged to thoughtfully spend down balances on student-benefiting initiatives.
 - Media Supplies

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- The Media Center currently has approximately \$15,000 in its account following a successful book fair.
 - Plans are in place to allocate and spend these funds on media and library needs.
- School Pictures
 - A percentage of school picture proceeds were reviewed.
 - \$4,100 has been reallocated accordingly.
- General Fund & Inclusivity Initiatives
 - The General Fund held \$75,000 prior to Boosterthon and now exceeds \$100,000.
 - Funds are being directed toward increasing inclusivity and accessibility for all students.
 - Focus areas include support for K–2 special needs, movement, and sensory-friendly opportunities.
 - An inclusive merry-go-round is planned for purchase (estimated cost \$16,000).
 - Equipment will be wheelchair accessible and usable by all students.
 - The district will select the final model.
 - Installation will be on the playground near the Boosterthon area.
 - Adjustments will be made as needed to accommodate additional student needs.
- Gaga Ball Pit
 - A Gaga Ball Pit will be added for durability and accessibility.
 - Estimated cost is \$2,700 through Blue Playground.
 - A concrete slab on campus is available as a suitable surface.
- Sit-and-Spins
 - Three sit-and-spins will be purchased at \$720 each, totaling \$2,160.
- Projected Playground Total
 - Current estimated total: \$20,724.
 - Additional funds may allow for shaded awnings.
- Funding Clarifications
 - Genie asked about sharing funds; no plans for redistribution were discussed.
 - It was noted that the school does not receive Title I funds, which are typically more flexible and substantial at other schools.
- Sensory Supports
 - Sensory walls/panels and fidget-style supports are being considered for student spaces.

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- Fundraising Accountability
 - All fundraising money will be fully accounted for and allocated toward student benefit.
- Field Trips
 - The school aims to reduce or eliminate student charges for field trips when possible, including transportation costs such as charter buses.
- Bobcat Bucks Cart
 - Funds were spent to support the Bobcat Bucks incentive cart.
 - The system is now operating as a school-wide purchase and incentive program.
 - This supports positive behavior recognition and allows for family volunteer involvement.
 - It also helps students develop an understanding of earning and spending.
- Additional Accessibility Considerations
 - Mrs. Corley emphasized inclusive ground surfaces that accommodate wheels rather than loose chips.
 - Accessibility pathways to playground areas must also be considered.
- Late Arrival Update
 - Ms. Di Lazary arrived late; Dr. Goudy provided a brief recap of playground plans.
- Parent Input
 - The possibility of surveying parents about future purchases was discussed.
 - A walking pad was discussed as a potential purchase.
- Family Night
 - Plans include chorus performances, student artwork displays, and grab-and-go dinner options.
 - Funds have been allotted.
 - Four themed rooms are planned.
 - Take-home supplies for families (e.g., dice) will be provided.
- Winter iReady Data:
 - Standards Updates
 - The district implemented new math standards this year.
 - New ELA standards were introduced last year and have since been re-adopted by the district.
 - i-Ready Alignment

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- It was noted that i-Ready Online is not yet fully aligned to the new math standards.
- Realignment is needed to ensure the program effectively supports instruction and student growth.
- SC READY Performance Data
 - ELA: 81.6%–84% of students met or exceeded expectations.
 - Math: 70%–74% of students met or exceeded expectations.
- i-Ready Diagnostic Data (K–5 Reading, Fall Snapshot)
 - Students performing at or above grade level increased from 63% to 83% (a 20% gain).
 - Middle-level performance decreased from 43% to 26%.
 - At-risk students decreased from 14% to 11%.
 - The long-term goal is to reach 84% in the “green” (on/above grade level) category.
- Discussion on i-Ready Use
 - Ms. Di Lazary shared concerns regarding i-Ready usage.
 - Dr. Goudy clarified that i-Ready serves as one data point and should not be used in isolation.
 - Additional measures include running records and small group instruction.
 - i-Ready was noted as a tool that helps individualize learning paths for students.
- Grade-Level Data Concerns
 - Genie raised concerns about a disconnect in 5th-grade data trends.
 - Mr. Rowell referenced the ongoing academic impact from the COVID years.
- Student Stimulation & Teacher Planning Time
 - Ms. Di Lazary expressed concerns about student overwhelm and overstimulation.
 - Dr. Goudy noted that teachers currently receive 50 minutes of planning time daily, but this is often insufficient to meet instructional and preparation demands.
- Next Steps
 - These topics will remain on the agenda for the next meeting for continued discussion.

V. Closing

- Meeting reminder for next meeting – February 12th.
- Meeting was adjourned at 5:32 PM.