School Improvement Council (SIC)

The school improvement council is an advisory committee to the principal and school leadership comprised of parents, educators, and community members. Working together collaboratively, our SIC reviews and monitors school initiatives, student data, and programs to focus on the success of students and the school.

SIC extends an invitation to all parents to take an active role by attending as many monthly meetings as possible.

Members

Dr. Sonji Leach, Principal
Charalene Goodwin, Chair (Parent)
Carmilita Lawton, Co-Chair (Parent)
Marvin Goodwin, (Parent)
Geri Henderson, Community Member
Priscilla Drake, Community Member
Ramon Karney, Community Member
Connie Singleton-Murphy, Staff Member
Isabel Smith, Staff Member
Barbara Holmes, Ex-Officio Member
Jessica Russell, Ex-Officio Member
Alani Crawford, Student Representative
Ashlyn Morris, Student Representative
Medicus Watson, Student Representative

BEAUFORT COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT
MEDTech 7
MAGNET SCHOOLS ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

WBECHS receives funding for emerging cybersecurity, IT, and arts integrated focused pathways through the MedTech 7 grant.

School Improvement Council

Report to the Parents
2024 - 2025

BlueRIBBON Schools of Excellence

Principal
Dr. Sonji Leach

SIC Chair
Charalene Goodwin

Mission Statement

The mission of WBECHS is to develop our community of learners into responsible, world class citizens through diverse curricula that fosters creativity, collaboration, critical thinking, and communication.

2024-2025 at Whale Branch Early College High School

From the SIC

Each month, the SIC convenes to discuss and present various initiatives aimed at enriching our students' lives. These initiatives are based on needs identified in the strategic renewal plan. This year, our focus areas were:

- **Supporting School STEM/STEAM Initiatives:** Involving the community in monthly events and activities to expose parents and community members to STEM/STEAM lesson taught to students.
- **Enhancing SIC Effectiveness**: Establishing a highly effective SIC through parent/community survey input, collaboration, and protocols to help WBECHS achieve its goals.

Advancing STEAM Education

While WBECHS has been a proud recipient of the MedTech7 grant for the past two years, we are committed to furthering our STEAM education efforts. To ensure cohesive curriculum implementation, we aim to:

- Complete the STEM certification process.
- Train all teachers in STEAM education.

Certification as a STEAM school is crucial, as the MedTech7 grant funds teacher positions, instructional materials, and training. This ensures our students have access to high-quality STEAM instruction.

Cybersecurity and IT Focus

Our funding emphasizes cybersecurity and IT, providing students with instruction and hands-on learning opportunities. These experiences can lead to valuable IT certifications, preparing students for jobs in the field after graduation.

Interventionist Support

The SIC made recommendations to have interventionists support to help students improve their math numeracy and reading literacy skills. This year, WBECHS partnered with Catapult Learning to hire a math and reading interventionist to work one-on-one and in small groups with students.

School Sponsored Activities & Programs

WBECHS Community Engagement – Dr. Leach worked with the Parent Liaison, Mrs. Barbara Holmes to organize two major community events that also involved the participation of the elementary and middle school. The Fall Event was a Trunk-or-Treat and Health Fair; the Spring Event was a Spring into Good Health with STEAM/STEM activities and much more.

All WBECHS students attended a **Career Fair** where they received information from over 30 vendors. Students got to net-work with future employers and learn about position requirements.

WBECHS Theater - Students in the theater program put on a great performance in the One Act Play, *Absolutely True Stories.* Theater students also created a scary haunted house for the fall community event, and served as actors in a safety demonstration and presentation regarding drunk and reck-less driving for the Prom Promise. State Troopers and the Burton Fire Dept made a presentation to all Juniors and Seniors after the accident simulation.

Community Engagement - WBECHS clubs worked collaboratively with BJHCHS to provide a Trunk-or-Treat Fall Event and Spring Into Good Health Spring Event to provide healthcare services and information to community members. Students from WBES and WBMS were in attendance and had the opportunity to receive treats and win prizes in the games and activities provided.

Afterschool Tutoring and EOC Bootcamp kicked off this semester Monday through Thursday including transportation, an afternoon snack, and quality instruction.

Community Service Initiatives were completed throughout the year including Principals Ambassadors participating in district feedback focus groups, Community Cleanups with National Honor Society, and produce drive-thru food distri-butions.

STEM/STEAM Night - Parents and students were given the opportunity to participate in STEAM/STEM activities hosted by our teachers to showcase the types of lessons students are doing in class. The design process is a schoolwide initiative implemented in each class to help students use critical thinking skills to solve real-world problems.

Scholarship Application Day, HBCU Day, and College Decision Day continued to educate and engage students in postsecondary dialogue. Students were able to receive information in addition to having hands-on assistance with applications.

2024 - 2025 Warrior Accomplishments

2023 - 2024 School State Report Card Overall Rating of Good with a score of 61

Malik Moultrie competed at the 2025 2A Boys Individual Wrestling State Championship! He placed 4th overall at the State Championship!

Trystin Rogers, submitted a scholarship application through the SC Associate of Title I Administrators and placed 1st in the District and then the application was forwarded to Region and was awarded 3rd place which is a $1000 scholarship.

Ediel Gonzalez-Rodriquez and Christan Vasquez got into the River of Words publication (a publication of Art and Poetry from Beaufort County students).
Ediel Gonzalez-Rodriguez and Nadija Peterson got their art into a juried art show in downtown Beaufort.

The Whale Branch Warroir Cyber Patriot Teams have qualified for the US Cyber Patriot Tier Ranking for State Championship Two Teams qualitied GOLD tier and Three Teams qualified for top three positions Silver tier.

26 1st Semester Students OSHA Industry Certifications
19 1st Semester Students BLS Industry Certifications

Maiya Carter selected to represent the BCSD for the prestigious 2025 Presidential Scholars Award

Moving into 2025-2026, focus areas will include:

Academic Excellence – Staff will be intentional with providing rigorous instruction with targeted interventions to improve achievement scores, and reading and math skills for all students.

School Culture – Celebrations of student success and teacher excellence will continue to be a focus with appreciation and celebratory activities throughout the school year.

Pathway Opportunities - We will begin the process to implement the new pathway for students called Global Logistics and Supply Chain Management, as well as creating an eSports lab for students as an interactive club that will eventually become a competitive sport.