

SIC Meeting Minutes

Thursday, September 3, 2026

Members Present: Jonathan Marin, Jessalyn Smith, Genevieve Alert, Jeffrey Whatley, Krista Martin, Kaitlin White, Alissa Cobb, Lalah Radney, Lesley Snyder, Fred Splittgerber, Lauri Williams, Patricia Norris

Also in Attendance: Principal Gams and Assistant Principal Hance

Meeting Called to Order: 7:45am

- 1. Welcome and Introductions:** Principal Gams welcomed new and returning SIC members. Members introduced themselves, followed by the election of SIC officers for the 2026-27 school year.
 - President: Lalah Radney
 - Vice President: Lesley Snyder
 - Secretary: Genevieve Alert
- 2. Safety Drills:** Principal Gams reviewed the school's procedures for required safety drills, including active shooter, fire, and tornado drills. Teachers and students are familiar with the procedures and expectations. The administration takes steps to ensure that drills are conducted in a manner that prioritizes student safety and helps students feel secure and comfortable. The Crisis Go app is available to administration and staff to assist with communication and coordination during drills. Richland County law enforcement also supports school administration and teachers in conducting drills safely and efficiently.
- 3. School Clubs:** River Springs Elementary School (RSES) is excited to welcome back several student activities beginning soon:
 - Chess Club: Grades 2-5, led by Dr. Sean Yee
 - Drama Club: Grades 4-5, led by Mrs. Genevieve Alert
 - Student Council: Grades 2-5, led by Principal Gams
- 4. Gator Crawl Kickoff** will take place Thursday, September 10th, followed by the Gator Crawl Student Event on Friday, September 18th. Mrs. Alissa Cobb shared information about the upcoming fundraiser.
 - Student pre-registration is now open.
 - Flyers will be sent home in student backpacks, and information will be shared through social media.
 - Volunteers are needed for the September 18 event.
 - Principal Gams highlighted an important benefit of the PTO's Gator Crawl: RSES keeps 100% of the donations raised, allowing the funds to directly benefit students and teachers rather than being significantly reduced by fundraising fees.

Funds raised through the Gator Crawl help offset field trip costs, provide new playground equipment, and fund teacher grants for classroom needs.

The 2025 Gator Crawl raised \$55,000 for RSES. The goal for 2026 is \$40,000 with hopes of exceeding that amount.

- 5. PTO and Community Support:** Mrs. Alissa Cobb shared that the PTO is partnering with community businesses, organizations, and families to provide Gator Goodies for teachers and staff throughout the school year.

Businesses, companies, and families may contribute \$150 to the Gator Goodies fund. The PTO will coordinate the purchase and distribution of snacks and treats for faculty and staff. Teachers have already enjoyed several offerings, including a Dirty Soda Bar and an “Energize Your Year” event featuring energy drinks.

Under the leadership of PTO President Alison Hodge and Vice President Erin Stucky, RSES continues to benefit from strong parent and community support. Community partners include Chick-fil-e, Crosby Roofing, Palmetto Citizens, Kona Ice, BJ’s, among others. Several community supporters also provide meals for teachers on early-release days.

- 6. Strategic Plan 2026-27,** Principal Gams will draft and refine the RSES Strategic Plan for the 2026-27 school year. The plan will establish the school’s vision and priorities in four key areas:

- School Climate
- Student Achievement
- Teacher and Administrative Quality
- Gifted and Talented

Each area includes specific strategies and activities. The SIC will participate in and support the development of the new strategic plan throughout the school year.

2026 SC Ready ELA data reveal a 77.8% score. 2026 SC Ready Math data reveal a consistent effort at 63.1%. 2026 SC Ready Science, represented by 4th grade, reveals a boost to 63.3%. All scores are higher than the stage and district averages.

- 7. Assessments:** Principal Gams and Assistant Principal Hance reviewed the SC Ready Test and i-Ready assessments. Key points included:

- i-Ready assesses student skills in English Language Arts (ELA) and mathematics, three times a year.
- i-Ready was described as more engaging and visually accessible for students than MAP testing and provides individualized learning pathways to support differentiated instruction.
- i-Ready assessments are administered in August, November, and March, identifying grade level readiness and monitoring student growth.

- Assessment data helps identify students who may need additional academic support as well as students who may benefit from academic acceleration.
- November i-Ready results will help identify students who may qualify for tutoring beginning in January 2027.
- There are no time limits for completing the assessments; students must simply test within the designated assessment window. Kindergarten and first-grade students may complete testing over several days, while most other grade levels complete testing in one day.
- Family Reports will be sent home with students on September 25th and be used as a resource during parent-teacher conferences.
- Teachers use Professional Learning Communities to analyze student data and target individual learning needs.
- Teachers also use the Workshop Model, including small group instruction, to address student needs in mathematics and ELA.

8. Next Meeting and Adjournment The next SIC meeting will be held on Thursday, October 1, 2026. The meeting adjourned at 8:45am.

Respectfully submitted,

Genevieve Alert

SIC secretary