

SIC Meeting Minutes

Thursday, October 1, 2026

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

Also in Attendance: Principal Gams

Meeting Called to Order: 7:45 a.m.

1. Welcome and Introductions

Principal Gams welcomed SIC members and provided several school updates. Students are celebrating class incentives and taking pride in their accomplishments through activities such as prize boxes and pajama days. School spirit continues to shine, as students are demonstrating enthusiasm for supporting one another and celebrating academic achievement and gator goals.

Principal Gams also shared that Mr. Whitson is serving in place of Assistant Principal Hance during her absence. Mr. Whitson is a veteran educator and administrator, bringing extensive experience to River Springs Elementary School. The SIC expressed its support and noted that letters and emails are welcome as Ms. Hance continues her recovery.

2. I-Ready Results

Principal Gams reviewed the school's I-Ready results. Students will take the I-Ready assessment again in November and in the spring. Teachers use the assessment data to identify student needs, develop appropriate interventions, and provide targeted academic support.

I-Ready also provides a variety of resources to help strengthen students' skills across subject areas. Students spend approximately 30–45 minutes each week working on My Path, which provides individualized practice in areas where additional support is needed.

Parent/Teacher conferences are currently underway. Ms. Giordano and Ms. Coogler were also recognized as valuable resources in supporting both students and teachers.

Upcoming Assessments:

- IOWA Testing: October 7–8 — 2nd Grade
- CoGAT Testing: October 14–16 — 2nd Grade
- CoGAT Testing: 4th Grade — date to be confirmed

3. Strategic Plan 2026–2027

Principal Gams shared selected sections of the draft 2026–2027 Strategic Plan with SIC members and requested feedback. The Strategic Plan is an ongoing document that will continue to be revised and updated to reflect River Springs Elementary School's current priorities, needs, and information.

4. PAC Report

Mrs. Lalah Radney shared highlights from the PAC Report. The district continues to emphasize its commitment to helping students grow and succeed, with a focus on student achievement and data.

The district is closely monitoring data points, particularly in grades 3–8, with an emphasis on strengthening mathematics achievement. Supporting teachers remains a key component of student success, as does preparing students for college and career opportunities as District 5 continues to “Take flight”.

Plans to continue the construction and development of Dutch Fork Elementary School, as well as additional buildings at Irmo High School, remain underway.

5. PTO Report

Mrs. Alissa Cobb shared reflections on the highly successful Gator Crawl, which raised \$60,000 for River Springs Elementary School. These funds will directly support the school through teacher grants, field trip expenses, and classroom resources. Compared to other fundraisers that take about half of the raised amount, the Gator Crawl allows the school to keep the majority of what they raised.

The PTO expressed its sincere gratitude to parents, students, teachers, and administration for their tremendous support of the Gator Crawl.

Upcoming student celebrations include:

- Foam Party: October 30
- Dunk Tank: Upcoming student celebration on the playground
- Top-Earning Classes: In each grade level will receive a party pack with snacks and games.
- Top-Earning Students: High-earning students will enjoy a pizza lunch with Principal Gams.

The Chick-fil-A fundraiser raised \$459 for RSES. The PTO thanked everyone who participated in supporting the school and its students.

Several upcoming PTO events include:

Pumpkin Walk and Tent-or-Treat: Friday, October 23

Parents are encouraged to volunteer to distribute candy at their child’s tent, donate baked goods for the Cake Walk, or provide supplies for tent setup. The PTO appreciates all volunteer and donation support.

Polar Express: The Polar Express event will once again be held at Carolina Wings in Ballentine. The restaurant offers an affordable venue and provides staff to help the event run smoothly. The location will also provide families with additional space and more time flexibility.

Gator Goodies: Gator Goodies continue to be well received by teachers. The September 25 treat featured pink treats in an “Ode to Dolly Parton” theme based on *9 to 5*. A Trail Mix Bar and an Apple Bar have been selected as upcoming Gator Goodies for October and November.

6. Reflections and Discussion

Due to the high number of school events and activities, Grandparents Day will not be held as a separate event this year. Grandparents are still welcome to have lunch with their students, serve as mystery readers in their student's classroom, and participate in PTO-sponsored events.

The school's annual Veterans Day recognition will continue as usual in November.

The SIC also discussed Ice Cream Fridays and noted that the process may need some adjustments to improve efficiency. Principal Gams will explore possible ways to streamline the process and make Ice Cream Fridays run more smoothly.

7. Next Meeting and Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 8:45 a.m.

The next SIC meeting will be held on Thursday, November 5, 2026, at 7:45 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Genevieve Alert
SIC Secretary