

Dreher School Improvement Council Meeting
Minutes
October 24, 2022

In attendance: Debbie Billings (Chair), David Wheeler, John Humphries (Vice-Chair), Cindy Jowers, Kevin Kirkley, B-Linda Rogers (Secretary)

Invited Guest: Tom Hudson

Meeting called to order

Debbie Billings called the meeting to order and introduced our guest, SC-SIC Executive Director, Tom Hudson. We invited Mr. Hudson to hear about SIC's in general and ways in which we can be more effective in our work.

Note from Debbie

Please see South Carolina: School Improvement Council (SIC) for a wealth of resources. [CLICK HERE](#)
[SIC Training Videos](#) (suggestion: all SIC officers complete the training (3-20 min videos); all members being trained would be even better!

Meeting was called to order by Debbie Billings.

Since there was not a quorum present the September minutes can be approved via an online vote or during the November 2022 meeting.

Guest Speaker: SC-SIC Executive Director – Tom Hudson

Mr. Hudson provided a thorough overview of the role and purpose of the SICs in the schools.

- SIC for schools is a state mandate and looks at the big picture regarding policy
- SIC provides input to the School Renewal Plan
- Assists the school with staying on task
- Informs the school community
- Assists the school with parent and family engagement.
- Creates a stronger bond with the community and family
- SIC should consist of old and new members and have representation from parents, community, school (principal, teacher, student if middle or high school)
- Elections should be held no later than October 15th of each year and can occur in the spring before the next school year starts
- There are three officers; Chair, Vice-Chair and Secretary
- Membership information is sent to the SC-SIC office by November 15th of each year
- SIC membership, agendas and minutes should be made public and adhere to FOI laws
- Each SIC should have a set of by-laws
- SIC should use data for decision making and identifying goals
- SIC should identify probably three areas to focus on, committees should be formed for each focus area
- Committees should be chaired by an SIC member, not all committee member have to be SIC
- SIC should have two standing committees: Member Recruitment and PR/Advocacy
- The SIC should provide an annual report to the parent every year and it should be submitted to the SC-SIC by April 30th of each year
- SC- SIC presents the [Riley Award annually](#) for SIC Excellence

English Language Learners and families

Given the discussion presentation and discussion there was no time to talk about the SIC's role with ELL. We will connect with Dr. Rogerson and ask for her input.

SIC General Elections

An official election will be done to include 9th grade parents

Principal's Report

Report for SIC on 10/24/22, 5:30 pm

Principal's Conference Room

- Weapon detectors implemented today. Students returning from Heyward midday will be rescreened and once a School Security Associate (uniformed monitor w/ extra training) is hired, the front door will hold screening all day long for visitors, and late students.
- Our fall athletic teams have had tremendous success – so far all but one have qualified for the playoffs and four have been named region champions – Boys Cross Country, Boys Swimming, Girls Tennis, and Girls Swimming. We also had a Girls Golf team member qualify for the state tournament (first for us).
- Arts programs continue to excel. Marching Band just finished 2nd place in the Lower State Championships and will compete for a state championship this weekend at Westwood High School. Our Theatre Department will present the musical “Carrie” this week and weekend. They also just received a total of 10 superiors during the R1 Theatre Festival.
- Lots of student organizations and activities are engaged in our school community. For example, our Robotics Team finished in the top spot in a recent regional competition, qualifying for nationals. Our Future Business Leaders of America organization has been restarted and is going strong already, complimented by our new chapter of the CTE Honor Society. Our Youth in Government group will compete at the state level in November.
- As per my previous report, we need to better support our ESOL students as the population grows here at Dreher High School. The district has approved my request to hire an instructional assistant to support Dr. Rogerson’s work with our students.
- Still waiting on “official” US History exam results from last year, but our estimate at this point is a pass rate in the mid-60s (similar to math and biology).
- Vacancies remain in Spanish and among Instructional Assistants (Shadow, ESOL). We are also down a Campus Monitor and Instructional Assistant as we wait for Human Resources to process their recommendations to hire. AP Kelley is still on FMLA due to his recent surgery.
- COVID has been a very minor issue as of late. For example, last week we only had one positive student and one positive employee.
- Any questions/concerns?

Meeting Adjourned.

Next meeting is November 21, 2022 at 5:30

Dreher High School, Principal's conference room