

**Dreher School Improvement Council Meeting
Minutes
February 13, 2023**

In attendance: Debbie Billings, David Wheeler, John Humphries, Regina Hailey-Smith, Melonie, Kimberlei Davis, Kevin Hasinger, B-Linda Rogers

Meeting called to order

Debbie Billings called the meeting to order.

Approval of Minutes

December 2022 minutes approved as presented.

Meeting the Needs of English Language Learners (ELL) and Families

Prior to the February 13, 2023 SIC meeting a meeting was held with Dr. Rodgerson (MLL teacher) and Dr. Hodis (Latin Teacher), Debbie Billings, Leslie Roth and B-Linda Rogers. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss the needs of the MLL students and how the Dreher SIC can support them. Information shared during this meeting included show some of the MLL students are unaccompanied minors, educational rights may be given to an aunt or uncle, and there is a tendency to be very family focused. Many of the students are expected to help provide for their family. It is felt by Dr. Rogerson and Dr. Hodis that information should primarily be provided to the students. Helpful information to provide to students would include the steps to graduation, how to choose classes and the importance of a high school diploma. It would also be helpful if MLL students could hear the information from people who look like them and who are bilingual. After this information was discussed by SIC members it was decided that we would provide two sessions with speakers; one in March and the second in April. Dr. Billings shared information about a friend as a possible speaker. Ms. Davis shared resources that are available at the Richland County Public Library.

Dreher Cluster Event

B-Linda Rogers provided an update of the Dreher Cluster event. The event will now be called “Bloom with the Blues “to reflect all Dreher Cluster schools have blue as part of their school colors. The event will be held Saturday, April 22nd from 1:00pm – 4:00pm at Memorial Stadium. It will be an event with performances from the schools, games/field games, community resource area, game truck and food trucks. The Dreher SIC will support an area for MLL families.

Good of the Order

The Annual Report to the Parents is due by April 30th.
SIC Elections will be an agenda item in March

Principal’s Report

Since we met last time:

- Dreher’s Key Club, NHS, and Student Council hosted a Red Cross blood drive at Dreher in January. Very successful, several dozens of pints collected.
- Literary Magazine, Whispers, won the highest honor possible by NCTE.
- Dreher was awarded the 2022 AP Computer Science Female Diversity Award.
- Dreher was one of eight Richland One schools recognized as “One of America’s Healthiest Schools”.
- The National Honor Society’s warm clothes drive was very successful. Multiple boxes of materials were placed in our social worker’s closet as well as donated to the Salvation Army.
- Our FBLA continues to excel at state and regional competitions. It looks like several of our students will qualify for nationals.

- Our visual and fine arts continue to do a wonderful job around campus and in the community. Students are actively engaged, with our most recent activities being the theatre department's Romeo and Juliet (which ended last week) and the Orchestra's Winter Concert this Thursday.
- We had about a dozen wrestlers qualify for the individual state championships. Both of our basketball programs made the playoffs and play in Charleston for the first round this week.
- NJROTC had a wonderful award ceremony and change of command recently. This program continues to grow and interest new students.
- Our student council sponsored multiple activities during Coming Home Week. Student participation was high and attendance at the Coming Home game was outstanding.
- Last week we celebrated National Counselor's Week. This week is National Kindness Week. Throughout the month of February, we will be celebrating Black History Month with events such as two Black History Programs, a Black History Museum, daily Black History Trivia, etc.
- Our Robotics Team is currently sponsoring food collection as part of the Souper Bowl of Caring initiative.
- Congratulations to our ninth and select group tenth grade students on successfully completing their mid-year growth evaluations in STAR Math and Reading. Roughly, 66% of our students met their lofty growth goals in Reading and 60% in Math. Go Blue Devils!
- We currently have roughly 75 students engaged in content recovery in an effort to improve first semester grades to 60.
- EOC Prep/Academic Assistance begins on 03/13.
- Comprehensive state practice exams/benchmarks will be provided to students in late March.

Meeting Adjourned

Next meeting is Monday, March 20th at 5:30 in Principal's Conference Room at Dreher or via Zoom