

**Dreher School Improvement Council Meeting**  
**Minutes**  
**September 27, 2021**

**In attendance:** Gloria Washington, Regina Hailey Smith, Debbie Billings, David Wheeler, Michelle McDonnell, Kevin Hasinger, Kevin Kirkley, Karen Robinson-Grindley, Sheila Myers, B-Linda Rogers

**Meeting called to order**

Meeting was called to order by Dr. Gloria Washington. Introduction of new members delayed until next meeting.

**Approval of Minutes**

Minutes were approved as presented

**SIC Officer Elections**

The candidates for officers:

Gloria Washington, Chair  
Regina Hailey-Smith, Co-chair  
B-Linda Rogers, Secretary

Officers elected as presented for the 2021-2022 year

**SIC Goals**

The SIC had three goals last year.

- **Goal 1: School Report Card Parent Survey** – Increase the number of parents who participate in the Education Oversight Committee (EOC) School Report Survey to 75% by 2022 and 85% by 2024
- **Goal 2: Involvement** – Determine parental involvement with the school (open house, parent/teacher conferences, athletics, arts, ROTC, parent associations) for 2019-2020
- **Goal 3: Communication** – Build an SIC presence on the school's website

Goal 3 has been met. The SIC will identify a new goal for the year. Dr. Hasinger identified three areas for improvement.

1. Attendance and tardies continue to be an issue. Attendance in part because some parents are “self –quarantining” their child(ren) as they did not get into the virtual school. Tardies have nothing to do with covid. Both impact seat time and may require Saturday school.
  2. Social Emotional needs related to 9<sup>th</sup> graders. These students have not been in school since the last quarter of their 7<sup>th</sup> grade year. They are struggling with physical science and science labs.
  3. Teacher recruitment and retention. Teachers are scarce. Dr. Hasinger stated he has never seen it this bad. It is a struggle to even find anyone to even interview. Hiring foreign teachers is not an option as there is no one to sponsor them.
- After discussion, it was decided the new goal for the SIC will be student attendance. This will also align with one of the NNPS goals for Dreher. Dreher is working on reducing truancy. There are punitive things in place such as afterschool detention. There will also be incentives for good attendance.

- Teacher retention is also a concern. The SIC will consider doing ongoing teacher appreciation. Debbie Billings will coordinate. Anyone with thoughts or ideas should send them to Debbie. Michelle McDonnell will share some of the things they are doing at Meadowfield.
- Dunkin Donuts recently treated the Dreher faculty and staff with donuts and coffee which was most appreciated.
- It was noted that more and more work is being placed on teachers by the district.
- Teachers are positive but stretched thin.
- Teachers who left Dreher last year was a result of moving out of state or leaving the teaching profession.

### **Principal's Report**

- Newly elected SIC Parent Representative is Mr. John Humphries.
- What are the team members' thoughts about having the runner-up named as a community representative (we have a vacancy)? Ms. Sabrina Hydrick
- Enrollment is the largest it has been in a decade – 1193.
- Significant transitional issues have been noted for both our 9th and 10th grade classes as they readjust to being in school “full time” again. Due to the nature of last year, it feels as if we have two freshman classes. Behavior concerns and socio-emotional immaturity are evident, but we are taking steps to mitigate those issues.
- Tremendously strong start to the year for our Arts and Athletics organizations. Now, many of our Activities (student organizations) are getting started. Vanessa Williams did a “Master Class” and provided encouragement.
- All ninth graders were screened for reading and math proficiency (as per a national norm) using STAR Reading and Math online assessments. Those results were positive for the most part and all students have growth goals set for mid-year and the end-of-the year, gain based on national norms.
- COVID has been a pest and disruptive to the learning process for many students and teachers, but has been very manageable as compared to other locations outside Richland One.
- Dreher has a new school nurse, Nurse Jacques.
- Dreher has four certified vacancies: Counselor, Math Teacher, Latin Teacher, and Special Education Resource Teacher. We have two classified vacancies: Instructional Assistant x2.
- One of the Instructional Assistant vacancies is linked to a temporary (2-3 year position) position funded through ESSR III monies. This position will be dedicated to keeping students in isolation and quarantine caught up with their class work and assignments.
- Standing concerns: attendance/tardiness, meeting the needs of ninth graders that have not been in school full-time since 7th grade, and teacher recruitment/retention.

### **New Topics/General Discussion**

- Regina Hailey Smith asked if schools were doing rapid testing. Dr. Hasinger stated the district was rotating testing at different clusters. He will check about testing at the schools with the school nurse.
- Dr. Washington reported on the 2021 South Carolina Family and Community Summit
- Debbie Billings shared a booster club has been created for the orchestra
- The Athletic Booster Club is getting re-engaged

**Meeting Adjourned.**

**Next meeting is Monday, October 25, 2021 at 5:30**