

# SIC Meeting Minutes



## **Cotton Belt Elementary SIC Meeting Minutes**

Thursday November 2, 2023  
School Media Center  
York, SC

SIC members present: Megan Hoyt (Principal), Heather Montgomery (Assistant Principal), Virginia Jablonski, Delandris Jones, Christal Black, Ashleigh Erb, and Beth White

Absent: Shelly Oliver

The meeting began at 5:00 pm by Megan Hoyt.

Mrs. Hoyt

Welcome and Introductions

Purpose of SIC: advisory council to the principal and school on issues related to school improvement. SIC provides input and feedback during the development of the school's five-year renewal plan and annual updates. The council will also assist in implementation of school improvement programs and activities, monitor and report on progress toward improvement goals in the annual SIC Report to the Parents, and assist the principal in drafting the narrative to the SC School Report Card. They will also provide other assistance as requested by the principal.

SIC Handbook: Notebooks were provided that included the SIC handbook, school renewal plan and draft by-laws.

Report to the People 22-23: Created by Mrs. Jennifer Bolin, former principal of CBES, was distributed.

SIC By-Laws (Draft): The framework of the by-laws was found on the SIC website. Basic factual information was added where applicable while other information needs to be decided upon by the council. These items will be discussed and finalized at the next meeting.

CBES 22-23 State Report Card: Overall rating is Average which indicates that Cotton Belt meets the criteria to ensure all students meet the Profile of the SC Graduate. A link was provided to the SC Education Oversight Committee to explain the State Report Card in further detail.

- Academic Achievement: Scored as Average. The purpose of this indicator is to determine if students are meeting state standards in ELA and Math. Our performance in ELA is a strength compared to Math. The scores come from grades 3 and 4 on SC Ready, but Cotton Belt Elementary focuses on improving all grade levels since responsibility relies on 4k through 4<sup>th</sup> to ensure students are successful.
- Preparing for Success: Scored as Below Average. The purpose of this indicator is to determine if students are meeting state standards in Science. Since we have new Science standards, this indicator may not be scored this year. We were in a transitional phase last year. This section does not consider ELA or Math.

- Student Progress: Scored as Average. The purpose of this indicator determines if students are growing academically in ELA and Math and how the lowest performing 20% of students in the school are growing academically.

Mrs. Jablonski asked if standards were adjusted after COVID. Mrs. Hoyt informed the council that the year following COVID we were given essential standards as a focus. However, we now focus on the full scope of our state standards. Curriculum maps are being adjusted and will reflect new Science and ELA standards. New math standards are also in progress with full implementation during the 25-26 school year.

Mr. Jones asked how teachers were chosen to attend training on new standards. Mrs. Hoyt informed the council that Mrs. Nivens was selected to attend Science training due to her interest and strength in Science. Updated curriculum maps should be completed by the 24-25 school year. The plan is for Mrs. Nivens to complete the professional development and then to conduct a training on Science standards during the second semester to our staff members. A district committee is being developed to unpack the Science standards as well.

Mr. Jones asked about the level of support teachers receive during their planning and in execution of curriculum from administration. Mrs. Hoyt directed him and the council to our school focuses of 23-24 to answer his question.

#### CBES Focus for 23-24:

##### Strategic Change Agenda Goals and Commitments

Student-Centered Learning Practices and Framework- Instructional Practices is our school goal but each team, interventionist, and administrator have identified a stretch goal to meet their professional needs as well.

Adoption of (and Preparation for) New Standards- discussed earlier

High Quality Tier One Instruction- Through focused grade level planning, learning walks, and working alongside our instructional technology specialist, we are unpacking standards for depth and rigor, ensuring quality work and collaborating to elevate our Tier One instruction.

Personalized PD Sessions with Instructional Tech Specialists- Delora Idehenre is our Instructional Technology Specialist who helps coach our teachers and staff on implementation of technology in the classroom.

New MTSS Process Adopted Schoolwide- Mrs. Montgomery has begun the implementation process of looking at the whole child and their areas of growth or how to provide enrichment for those whose needs are beyond their grade level classroom.

##### Stretch Goals for Grade-Level Teams

Increased Usage of Exact Path and Mastery Connect Programs- Exact Path creates a personalized pathway for students to meet the skills they have been deemed ready to learn. The district expectation is for students to spend 40 minutes per subject area per week using Exact Path. Mastery Connect provides teachers a rigorous question bank to create assessments, exit tickets, morning work, etc. in order to assess students' knowledge on standards. This allows students the opportunity be exposed to various questioning techniques and levels of rigor that are required of our standards.

Focused Planning Opportunities- Every grade level chooses a targeted goal as their singular focus during this time. Mrs. Erb shared what the first-grade team has done during grade level planning. Mrs. Montgomery and Mrs. Hoyt also shared examples of the focus of other grade levels.

Small Groups for Intervention and Extension- Small group instruction in ELA and math provides students with instruction that is customized to their needs.

Learning Walks – Instructional team from the district office will be at CBES conducting learning walks from 12-2pm on Monday November 6<sup>th</sup>. Principals will be at CBES on December 19<sup>th</sup> for more learning walks during the day. The goal for the school year is to implement teacher learning walks to occur throughout the building in order for teams to learn from one another.

Growth Celebrations - In January, we will have a growth parade. We will fill the hallways with the community and the drum line from the middle school to cheer for every student and staff member. This event is intended to celebrate the growth of all students and staff members.

#### Demographics for 23-24 school year as of 11/1/23

- 451 Students enrolled
  - 6 Asian
  - 106 African Americans
  - 33 Hispanic
  - 45 Multi-Racial
  - 252 White
  - 9 Other
- 79 Staff members
- 1 Reading Recovery teacher
- 1 Reading Interventionist
- 1 Literacy Coach
- 1 Behavior Interventionist
- 1 Mental Health Therapist
- 1 MERIT Teacher
- 4 Self-Contained Classrooms

PTO Updates were provided by Mrs. Erb who also serves on the PTO. The Hall Crawl was this past week and the PTO profited almost \$700. Cookie Dough fundraiser was sent home yesterday. Delivery day will be December 11<sup>th</sup>. Morale boosters will be provided for the staff each month. This past month each staff member received a “Make Your Mark” pin to wear proudly. The PTO also recognized the custodians and cafeteria staff with a luncheon on October 6<sup>th</sup>.

Upcoming Dates- Flyer provided for informational purposes.

#### Questions:

Mrs. Jablonski: Is there a parent-teacher resource center in YSD1? Parenting partnership is for our younger students.

Mrs. Hoyt stated we can gather additional resources for you upon request.

Mr. Jones: What about the students who do not have access to extra resources? Mrs. Black stated we always try to identify those students who may not have connections to those resources so we provide extra assistance during the day.

Action item(s) for administration: (1) Add a second group of safety patrol to push into the classrooms to help with students who need a reading buddy, academic practice or review, etc. (2) Create an email group for SIC members.

Election of Officers- officer responsibilities were discussed and everyone agreed with those who volunteered. These officers were confirmed through unanimous decision.

Chair – Mr. Jones volunteered

Vice-Chair- Mrs. Erb volunteered

Secretary- Mrs. Jablonski volunteered

#### 23-24 Meeting Schedule

November 30<sup>th</sup> at 5pm

January 25<sup>th</sup> at 5pm

February 29<sup>th</sup> at 5:30pm

April 18<sup>th</sup> at 5pm

Reminders for before next meeting

Review SIC handbook

Review draft By-laws

Review 22-27 School Renewal Plan

Reach out to Principal and Chair with information requests in advance of next meeting

Goals for next Meeting

Finalize and Approve By-Laws

From 5-year plan, determine focus area(s) for 23-24 school year and course(s) of action

Set any additional goals for the SIC

Meeting ended at 6:30pm.