

Minutes of a Meeting of the Board
Carolina School for Inquiry
Richland County, South Carolina
December 18, 2006

Place and Time of Meeting

The regular meeting of the Carolina School for Inquiry Board was held at Carolina School for Inquiry, 7405-A Fairfield Road, Columbia, South Carolina, on Monday, December 18, 2006 at 6:35 pm pursuant to notice having been duly given to the media and to all members of the Board in accordance with the rules of the Board.

Call to Order/Roll Call

The mission statement was read by Jeannie Eidson. The following members were present: Jeannie P. Eidson, B. Quinton Epps, Jonathan L. Moreno, Julie M. Barichivich, Darlene S. Bell, and Laurie Bell.

Members Absent: Mark A. Roberts

Additional Attendees: Victoria Dixon-Mokeba, Stacie Mandrell, and David C. Virtue, PhD., Assistant Professor, Department of Instruction & Teacher Education, University of South Carolina

Approval of Minutes:

A motion to approve the minutes from the December 5, 2006, meeting was made by Jonathan L. Moreno and seconded by Darlene Bell. The motion was approved. Director and Curriculum Coordinator's reports for December are attached.

Financial Statement:

Julie M. Barichivich recommended that the Board approve the financial statements submitted by Bill Moser, CSI accountant. It was noted that Bill Moser's company has been charging \$32 per returned check that CSI receives. Mrs. Mokeba-Dixon informed the Board that she and her staff always seek to recover any returned checks received by CSI. It was the recommendation of the board that either Bill Moser's company reconsider its charge or CSI front-office change its policy and efforts regarding following up with returned checks. Additionally, it was noted that most Board members did not receive a copy of the financial report prior to the meeting. Therefore, the financials will be brought back up for approvals at the next Board meeting.

New Business

Middle School – Dr. David Virtue and Stacie Mandrell presented options for a Middle School program. Quinton Epps moved that CSI propose the addition of a 6th grade to

Richland School District 1, contingent on due diligence regarding CSI's feasibility and financial capacity. Ms. Gantt seconded. It approved on unanimous consent.

Student Assessment

Stacie Mandrell provided the next installment of her presentation on CSI student assessment. The Board recommended that additional graphs and compilations of statistics by grade level be created. Quinton Epps indicated that he would assist Stacie Mandrell in this effort.

Position Titles

Stacie Mandrell requested that the board look into an issue regarding the title of Lead Teacher currently held by Mrs. Dixon-Mokeba. Quinton Epps moved that Julie Barichivich and Jonathan Moreno form a subcommittee to review and make a recommendation to the full Board. Laurie Gantt seconded this motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Grievance Policy

Jeannie P. Eidson requested that the Board review and be prepared to vote for or against the Grievance Policy as written in the Employee Handbook draft at the next board meeting.

Teacher Survey

Jeannie P. Eidson requested that Victoria Dixon-Mokeba prepare a draft of an anonymous teacher survey to be administered before the end of January for review and approval by the Board by January 16, 2006.

Next Board Meeting

The next board meeting is scheduled for January 16, 2007, at 6:30 pm, at the Carolina School for Inquiry.

Executive Session

The Board entered Executive Session at 8:52 pm. Executive Session ended at 10:40 pm.

School Concerns from Curriculum Coordinator

Quinton Epps moved that written concerns on school issues be submitted to the director and the proposed policy protocol listed in the employee handbook be followed. Lauri Gantt seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

The Board meeting was adjourned at 10:45 pm.



Carolina School for Inquiry

Director's Report

December 18, 2006

School Improvement Advisory Council

This council is now under the education committee. Mrs. Lauri Gantt chairs this committee. The December meeting was canceled due to conflicting schedules. Mrs. Gantt and I will touch base in the coming weeks to establish a meeting date. Mrs. Gantt suggested at the last meeting that we continue to focus on the four areas that were originally decided upon when the council was separate from the board. The four areas include: Student Achievement, Family/Community Involvement, Safe School Climate and Culture and Recruitment.

PSTA (name change)-Friends of CSI

January

Wednesday, Jan. 10 – Friends of CSI Newsletter will go out.

Thursday, Jan. 18 - Curriculum Night: We will again do brief Friends of CSI updates.

Tuesday, Jan. 23 - Friends of CSI Board Meeting in CSI Library 6:30-7:30

We hope to present our "final" draft of the bylaws for approval/feedback on this night.

February

Thursday, Feb. 1 - Friends of CSI Meeting/Chili Cook-off Night 6:30-8:00.

In addition to the Chili Cook-off (a fundraiser), we will give all CSI parents and teachers an opportunity to ask questions, give suggestions, and tell us what they think regarding the Friends of CSI. We will also present the Friends of CSI by-laws (hopefully completed and passed by the Friends of CSI Board) for review and approval by the Friends of CSI total membership. It will also be our Harvest Hope kick-off (month of Feb.).

Monday, Feb. 5 - Friends of CSI newsletter goes out.

Thursday, Feb. 15 - Curriculum Night 6:00-7:30 (with brief Friends of CSI updates)

March

Monday, Mar. 5 - Friends of CSI newsletter goes out.

Tuesday, Mar. 6 - Friends of CSI Board Meeting 6:30-7:30

Thursday, Mar. 15 - Curriculum Night 6:00-7:30 (with brief Friends of CSI updates)

Saturday, Mar. 31 - 10:00-2:00, SPRING FLING (festival that will be our biggest fundraiser for the year).



April

Monday, April 2 - Friends of CSI Newsletter goes out.

Thursday, April 19 - Curriculum Night 6:00-7:30 (Nominee process will begin for next year's officers.)

Monday, April 23-27 - Friends of CSI Officer Elections

May

Tuesday, May 1 - Friends of CSI Newsletter goes out (with results of the Officers election)

Thursday, May 3 - Friends of CSI Meeting (general membership) 6:30 to introduce new Officers.

Parent University

The first sessions of Parent University went well. I will coordinate and lead these sessions. The focus of session one was to gage parents about how reading begins in the home. Parents were naturally immersed in the conditions for learning, a theoretical concept researched by Brian Camborne.

Richland County Recreation Commission provided childcare for the evening session. They also provided snacks for both sessions. The literature that each participant received included two children's books, More Than Anything Else and Silver Packages. They also received an adult book Reading Magic by Mem Fox.

Lisa Michaels an editor with the State Newspaper was present to obtain data to hopefully cover a story about our school. She was very interested in the partnership between our school and RCRC. The story will hopefully be published Dec 23rd or 24th.

Teacher Evaluations

Responsive Teaching Cycle

Observation	Meaning	New Plan
I write down what I actually see the children and teacher do. This observation is filled with talk from the teachers and students. It also includes what a child does when writing, reading or doing mathematics, etc. (a form of kid-watching)	This is where I give feedback to the teacher of what I think the learning means. For example if Johnny wrote an observation in the science journal by drawing a picture this may mean that he is expressing his learning in a style that is best for him. I will check to see if he really understood or mastered the concept through the information that I gain in the artwork	Since Johnny seems to strong at expressing himself artistically, I will scaffold and proved more opportunities to do so. Johnny didn't quite understand the concept of the science experiment so I will go back and re teach for understanding I leave this part open for the teachers to stretch their thinking and come up with

new ways on their own to improve/enhance instruction.

Recruitment and Retention

RETURNING STUDENTS TO DATE

Name	Current Grade	Anticipated Grade	New Sibling Coming In
Jerry Thomas	5	6	N/A
Rayshawn Thomas	4	5	N/A
Kaylyn Gantt	5	6	Yes
Amber Gantt	3	4	Yes
Solomon Goodwin	3	4	N/A
Michael Hilton	1	2	N/A
Maurio Hilton	3	4	N/A
Kaylee Mickle	4	5	N/A
Madison Drayton	K	1	N/A
Michael Bookert	1	2	N/A
Tarlon Stewart	1	2	N/A
JaQuari Jones	K	1	N/A
Jordin Bell	1	2	N/A
Thales Glass	1	2	N/A
Katie Tuten	5	6	N/A
Logan Etheredge	2	3	N/A
Alex Maxfield	K	1	N/A
Grayson Maxfield	2	3	
Jamaal Davis	4	5	N/A
Richard Rouse	2	3	Yes
Delson Coward	2	3	N/A
Oscar Ives	2	3	N/A
Kenneth Jones	2	3	N/A
Emmanuel Washington	4	5	N/A
Gabrielle Washington	2	3	N/A
Rebecca Washington	K	1	N/A
Jada Cochran	3	4	N/A
Jaris Cochran	4	5	N/A
Katraia Taylor	4	5	N/A
Carson Mosteller	K	1	N/A
Billy Gonzales-Barnes	2	3	N/A
Miguel Gonzalez-Barnes	K	1	N/A

Kaleb Brannon	1	2	N/A
A.J. Moreno	1	2	N/A
Christian Price	1	2	N/A
Preston Price	1	2	N/A
Benjamin Eisdon	1	2	N/A
Mark Thomas	3	4	N/A
Charlamane Brown	3	4	N/A
Jalen Brown	4	5	N/A
Anastasia Laughlin	2	3	NA
Jalen Speights	1	2	N/A
Jaya Geter	3	4	N/A
James Geter	2	3	N/A
JaCoree Geter	K	1	N/A
Shelton Goodwin	K	1	Yes
Darius Turnipseed	2	3	N/A
Michael Turnipseed	1	2	N/A
Angel Jacobs	1	2	N/A
Evan Venable	1	2	Yes
Alexandria White	3	4	N/A
Emery Freeman	K	1	N/A
Thomas Flowers	1	2	N/A
Kayla Johnson	1	2	N/A
Blake Lomas	5	6	N/A
Cherease Williams	4	5	N/A
Darius Palmer	3	4	N/A
Hunter Hartley	2	3	N/A
Winston Rogers	1	2	N/A
Christian Thomas	4	5	N/A

*Forms will go out again to the students who haven't returned the initial form. I will have Chantel and Kathy follow-up with phone calls.

I have created flier that will go out to district schools, churches and day care facilities to promote recruitment. There will also be a blurb in the state newspaper about open enrollment.

We have tentatively planned a CSI recruitment Night for January 9, 2006 from 6:00-7:00 pm.



New Applicants

Name	Gender	Sibling Here	Grade
	Male	N/A	K
	Male	N/A	K
	Female	N/A	2
	Female	N/A	K
	Male	N/A	2
	Female	N/A	2
	Male	N/A	1
	Female	N/A	1
	Female	N/A	5
	Male	N/A	3
	Female	N/A	2
	Male	N/A	K
	Male	Yes	5

Laptops and Printers

The laptops and printers arrived on Friday, December 15, 2006. Dr. Darko will install the virus protection when he comes back from Ghana in the New Year. Six laptops and printers were ordered for regular ed. classroom teachers only. This does not included teaching assistants.

Student Discipline

Since the November 21st meeting I have had a total of six discipline referrals to my office. All teachers are doing a good job with in class discipline procedures as well and management. When students do come to my office we talk about the issue at hand, brainstorm various alternatives, and sometimes I will call the parent depending of the nature of the referral. We have been very fortunate not to have any strenuous incidents referred to my attention.

Possible After School Cooking Class

Didi Doggette our Yoga teacher is interested in teaching a cooking class after school. I broached Linda with the idea about purchasing a stove to place in the kitchen. To date RCRC has no funding for this as it would cost about \$3, 500.00 to include a ventilating system. I asked if the school purchased could it possibly happen. She is touching base with the proper personnel at RCRC. In the interim we are checking to see if we could use hot plates or the like. Didi has already started raising money for this new venture.



Professional Development

- Chris Richards attended a conference with Frank Baker on media literacy (cost free)
- Terri Washington attended the reading conference in Charleston. (cost \$250.00 from professional development budget line item.)

Teachers/Students events after the Holidays

Teachers return on January 3, 2007.

Students return on January 4th.

January 9th is tentatively a recruitment meeting night.

January 10th-I will take a personal leave of absence

January 15th is a School Holiday

Principal Administrative classes at USC to begin in January



Curriculum Coordinator's Report December 18, 2006

Dominie Assessments- All information has been entered in the graphs and will be made available at the December 18th meeting. Thank you Quinton and Jeannie for the graph help!

Math Assessment – I have received information from many sources regarding assessment possibilities for mathematics. The bottom line is that there really isn't anything out there in line with what we are looking for. Hard to believe but I have asked everyone from publishers to professors to teachers to math consultants and they all say the same. There just isn't anything available that will look at kids as individual learners and help us see where we can move them forward. (Similar to Dominie). I will spend time over Christmas Break creating an assessment that we can administer in January and then work on perfecting during the summer.

Curriculum Night – Our November 30th Curriculum Night was super. We had a great turnout and the kids did wonderful presentations. I think parents enjoyed the informality and ease of the evening. Our January meeting will be about assessment. I will be using some of the information that I presented to the board at our last meeting

Book Fair – The Book Fair was a great success. Briddie Robinson really made it all happen! She made it look beautiful and ran it most mornings and lunch times. Ms. Gus also worked a few mornings for us. Teachers worked each afternoon and the Family Night. We took in a total of \$2500 which was a profit to the school of roughly \$750 in cash and or 50% in free books.

Jack Frost at the Koger Center – After a rocky start we finally made it to Jack Frost on Friday. The kids thoroughly enjoyed the ballet even though we were in the top tier of the balcony. Surprisingly you could still see and many children are now ballet fans and want to go to Pocahontas in the spring.

South Carolina Readiness Assessment – Our Primary teachers have completed SCRAPI as per Richland One guidelines. The district requested that we complete the winter assessment by December 19th although the state deadline is February 28th. This does concern me as it is not a true collection of data in representation with other students in the state if our children have 2 less months to grow and change. I would like us to approach the district in future years with this concern and follow the state guidelines in the future.

Reading Materials- After a long wait our reading materials have arrived and I will be in over Christmas break to organize them for teacher checkout as soon as we return from break. I will host an information session for the teachers so they can gain a preliminary understanding of how to use our new materials.

Text Book Caravan – Lauri Kemmerling will accompany me to the science text book caravan on January 3rd. We will share what we learn with the Board in February.

Professional Development Plan – I have attached a PD plan for the remainder of the school year. Rather than focus on one area all year we will be looking at different curriculum areas. We have spent this first half of the year focused on literacy. As you can see from the plan we will cover all other subject areas the remainder of the year. During the summer we will engage in PD with Investigations trainers. We will also work on curriculum mapping of some sort. These will all be items that need to be budgeted for as we will need to pay teachers for their time.

Highly Qualified Coursework – Although our school does not have to meet HQ status I felt it important that we did and I have spent the semester taking two courses and the PRAXIS last summer in order to reach HQ status. I have completed one course and received an A, and will complete the other course (with an A) by Friday. This will give our school a staff of 100% HQ classroom teachers. The cost to me to take these two courses was \$1800.

Meetings with Teachers – I meet every Wednesday afternoon with Lauri to talk curriculum with her. I also meet on the occasional weekend with teachers if that fits their schedule better. This option to meet is open to all teachers as they see fit.

Classroom Visits – In the spring I will visit classrooms more often. This is a difficult thing as I have to leave my own classroom to make that happen but I am in the process of setting up a schedule with each teacher.

Community Impact Grant – After much delay I have completed and mailed our Community Impact Grant Report. You will see that we have made some additions based on the “extra” money that we received. Monica Estabrook (one of our art teachers) will be conducting an after school art program each Thursday for 3 hours. We are very excited about this new offering and hope that it along with Dr. Darko’s Move Troupe will move us in a grand direction with after school offerings. The grant report is attached.

Standards Based Report Card – Our next report card is attached. It will go home with students accompanied by a curriculum report that I am creating, on January 10th. All teachers have an electronic copy and are aware of how to complete the report. We discussed possible changes but decided to stay with this form for now.