

# Your Viking School Improvement Council

## Report to the People 2015-2016



### **About Your SIC**

Your SIC is part of a state-wide network that is dedicated to helping students succeed. Your SIC is open to all parents, students, teachers, and community members.



In 2015-2016 the Denmark-Olar High School SIC worked hard to improve our school. With this goal in mind, your SIC members participated in the following activities and projects:

#### **Healthy Schools Initiative**

- Parent Nights and Quiz Bowl
- Healthy meals
- Stress Free Zone for faculty

#### **District-Wide Strategic Planning**

- Student Achievement Goals
- School Climate Goals
- Teacher Quality Goals
- School Literacy Initiative

#### **Accreditation Review**

- Self-study
- Interviews with External Review Team
- External Review Debriefing

### **Your SIC Team**

Chairperson - Myrtis Williams  
Vice-Chairperson - Deanna Berry  
Secretary - Anna Martin  
Dorothy Lawton (Parent)  
Mary Moody (Parent)  
Sandra Moody (Teacher)  
Jennifer Sanders (Teacher)  
Alexandra Moody (Student)  
Frankeisha Williams (Student)  
Eartha Atterberry (Community Member)  
Rev, Beverly Brooks (Community Member)

### **Riley Award Recognition**

Each year the South Carolina School Improvement Council recognizes school improvement councils for outstanding projects and activities. The Bill and Tunky Riley award acknowledges the hard work and dedication of these schools.

In 2015, our Denmark-Olar High School SIC decided to apply for the award. We had worked hard over the years and we were ready to brag a little. The application process was not easy, but our records and documentations were in place. After writing a report, organizing our records, collecting letters of support, and obtaining signatures, all we had to do was send it in.

In the end, our entry was recognized as one of the ten top SIC's in the state. While we did not receive the first place award, this was a great learning experience, and one that we will not soon forget. We are proud our accomplishments, and look forward to serving our students and school community.

### **Strategic Planning- Mission and Beliefs**

In April DOHS SIC members were part of a district team that reviewed and revised our beliefs and vision statements. The revised statements appear below:

THE MISSION of Bamberg School District Two is to develop ethical and globally competitive students by providing rigorous, life and career educational experiences supported by innovative, qualified and dedicated professionals.

WE BELIEVE THAT.....

- ...all people deserve to be treated with dignity and respect;
- ...all children can achieve and there is no limit to what they can learn;
- ...excellence is achievable and always worth the investment;
- ...change is necessary for growth;
- ...the most important function of the community is to educate its citizens;
- ...children are our most valuable resource;
- ...high self-esteem is vital to the growth and development of the individual;
- ...the uniqueness of each individual adds to the strength of the group;
- ...each individual has infinite value;
- ...there is a direct correlation between the degree of community involvement and educational excellence;
- ...people are entitled to equal opportunities;
- one has to love students to reach and teach them;
- ...God is love;
- ...each person is responsible for his or her behavior;
- ...high expectations positively impact performance;
- There is a direct relationship between effort and success;
- ...the family is the foundation of our society
- ...hands on experiential learning models foster true learning
- ...a wide variety of STEAM (science, technology, engineering, arts, and mathematics) skills and concepts enable students to complete globally.

### **Strategic Planning - Goals and Strategies**

The School Improvement Council was part of the team that developed our district five year strategic plan. This plan developed goals and strategies that

- A. Support student academic success.
- B. Support a positive and equitable school climate
- C. Support the recruitment, retention, and development of a high quality faculty and staff.

### **Accreditation Review**

In 2015-2016 our SIC members helped our school prepare for an AdvancED external review team visit. As a result of this review, our district achieved accreditation, and will the improvement process. The team identified the following improvement priorities:



- Developing, implementing, and evaluating a systematic method for using data to improve instruction,
- Developing systemic procedures for recruiting, retaining, and developing administrators, teachers, and staff
- Aligning the curriculum across grades and schools
- Systematically collecting and analyzing data from multiple sources, including measures of school climate and stakeholder satisfaction
- Creating a systemic process for providing intervention to meet the social and emotional needs of students,
- Implementing a collaborative process to help leaders work together to support student learning.

Your SIC was proud to be part of the AdvancED team and we look forward to continuing to be part of the improvement process.



## Supporting Student Success



The Center for Rural Education, an alumni group, continued its practice of donating a laptop computer to each of the top 5 male and to 5 female DOHS sophomores. One student noted, "The laptop helps me with my class assignments and homework. Its great to have an up-to-date computer to work with. Pictured above, parents and the delighted students with their lap tops.

**Your School Improvement Council** continued our partnership with the Healthy School Initiative. We continued to focus on improving the health of students, faculty, and staff. We know that students who are in poor health are more likely to experience academic problems. This year's accomplishments include:

- "Vikings on the Move" Parent Night and Healthy School Quiz Bowl (two nights)
- Career Day Healthy Schools Activities
- Maintenance of a stress-free zone for teachers, administrators, and staff.



Above: Mr. Capehart and parents work together to answer a challenging Quiz Bowl question.



The panel of Senior Quiz Bowl contestants



Vikings on the Move at the Career Fair

## Future Goals and Plans

### Our SIC Projects for 2016-2017

Your SIC supports teachers and staff as they help our students develop the world class skills that they will need following graduation. We will focus on those areas where we feel we can help most. With this goal in mind, the SIC will take on the following projects in 2016-2017:

Continue our service as part of the Denmark-Olar High School Healthy School Committee. We will sponsor at least two parent nights that will include healthy meals, activities, and information to help parents, students, and teachers make healthy lifestyle choices. We want to work with partners such as local groceries and pharmacies

Our new initiative supports our school literacy plan. 100% literacy means that every student can read and write at the level required for college or a career. SIC literacy activities will include:

- Communication with parents about literacy
- Sponsoring school literacy events
- Helping parent build at home libraries that meet the needs of students.
- Working with community partner to support literacy.

### How Can Parents Help?

Its easy to become involved! We hope every parent will contribute in some way. To do so, simply fill out the school parent volunteer form and check the SIC box. Return it to the school office. You will receive a call telling you the time of the next meeting, or asking for your help with a special event. All parents are welcome to the SIC meetings, which usually take place on the fourth Thursday of the month. Event if you cannot attend meetings, you can help out in other ways.



For example, you could help collect door prizes for parent events. You could help stock our home libraries, help set up at events, or share your successful experiences in promoting health and literacy at home. For more information, contact an SIC member or leave a message at the school at 803-793-3307.



### Our Partners



The Denmark-Olar High School Improvement Council represents students, parents, teachers, and community members. We meet each month in the high school library. The meetings are open to all, and parents are encouraged to attend.