

April 30, 2013

Dear Parents, Guardians, Faculty and Community Members,

School Improvement Councils, (SIC), are made up of parents, teachers, administrators, volunteers and community members who are committed to assisting the ongoing improvement of the school and student achievement. Together, the members are an impartial voice for the school as a whole, for the entire student body.

Each school in the Beaufort County School District is represented by their own School Improvement Council. At the start of the year, the SIC is responsible for setting goals that support their school's five-year School Improvement Plan and developing strategies to reach those goals.

For the past two years, your SIC has been committed to improving the overall health and wellness of the students and faculty at IB. Specifically, we wanted to help the members of our school learn to "Eat Smart and Move More". We believed this goal was so important to the well-being of our school family that we used a multi-faceted approach to ensure our success.

First, we recognized all of the work currently being done at IB to promote health. On behalf of the school, the SIC wrote a grant to apply for "The Whole Child Award". This award is presented each year by the ASCD, (formerly the Association for Supervision and Curriculum Development), to recognize schools whose culture exemplifies one or more of the five tenets of The Whole Child Initiative: Healthy, Safe, Supported, Challenged, Engaged. Last Spring, we were notified that Hilton Head Island IB was one of only five schools in the state of South Carolina to win this award.

With this recognition, our school was identified as a leader in the state in their approach to education. We were awarded \$1,000.00 and asked to present at the annual ASCD conference in February. We plan to use the money from this award to construct a fitness track on school grounds that can be used by students, classrooms, teachers and administrators! We are in the approval process now and hope to be "breaking ground" soon! The school also purchased exercise and fitness equipment that can be used by students and faculty;

Next, we wanted help our faculty and students become more involved in making healthy meal choices. We worked with our 5th grade Student Council to construct a student survey so that we could engage our students in the meal choice project. We also worked with our teachers and faculty to learn about their healthy choice preferences.

Your SIC took that data, along with recommendations for improvements, to the leaders at Sodexo. Their response was fantastic! We quickly set up a taste test and invited our 5th grade Student Council to decide which new snacks, entrees and side items should be added to our menu. As a result, the following changes have been added to our cafeteria:

- new entrée and side items as well as healthy snack options were added to the monthly menu;
- more fresh fruits and vegetables have been added to the menu;
- a fresh soup and salad bar to our daily lunch options, (this has been very popular with our faculty, visitors, and students);
- improvement of healthy breakfast choices available to students;
- implementation of a new card swipe system to be used for meal and library accounts.

Finally, the School Improvement Council works to provide effective communication, report school progress, distribute information and act as a liaison between parents, teachers, community members, the district and school administration. We understand the importance of keeping parents informed so we will continue to post meeting dates, agendas, and approved minutes from our monthly meetings on our school's website. It is our hope that everyone will be able to follow the SIC progress and look for ways to support our work.

We believe the success of our school is a direct result of the power of the International Baccalaureate framework, the strength of our curriculum, the commitment of our students, teachers, administration, parents and community leaders. Together, we will continue to work to enhance the learning environment and opportunities for all HHIES IB students. I hope you will join us to help build a stronger foundation for their future.

Sincerely,

Diana B. Magnan

President, SIC, 2011-2013

Hilton Head Island Elementary

An Authorized International Baccalaureate School