

Academic Magnet High School
School Improvement Council
Annual Report, 2013

Academic Magnet High School

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Judith Peterson, Principal

Darlene Rawls MD, SIC Chair (Parent)

David Manzi, Vice Chair (Parent)

Margaret Dobson, Secretary (Community)

Elise Gruber(Student)

Carol Hurt (Teacher/Mentor Group)

Courtland Sutton (Student)

Mini Narayanan (Teacher/Mentor Group)

Michael Finlayson (Parent/25th Anniversary)

Dawn Green (Parent/Mentor Group)

Sue Woods (Parent/CCSD Group)

Grace Crawford (Parent/Guidance Group)

Hallie Siebels (Parent/AMF)

John Rucker (Parent/Alumni Group)

Camille Butler (Booster)

Charlisa Pugh (Parent/Diversity Group)

Renie Miles (Community)

Mary Catherine Dubois (PIE)

Diane Lauritsen (Community)

Review of key SIC issues and actions for 2012-2013. The current year for AMHS SIC was productive with the work of many volunteers, community members, teachers, and parents serving on SIC working groups outlined below. Each SIC member participated in a working group.

- 1. PIE (Partners in Education)—PIE was very successful in the current academic year under the leadership of Mary Catherine Dubois. PIE had many events for community building including: Registration and Orientation, International Dinner, In the Know sessions for parents and students, 25th AMHS Silver Anniversary Auction, Convocation speakers, and Teacher Appreciation.**

2. **Booster Club.** During the year AMHS Booster Club was very actively involved with supporting the increased number of AMHS sports. They spent time creating a structure for funding sports. Under the leadership of Camille Butler and the Board of Directors the BC increased the number of events for AMHS including cookouts, Fall Sports Banquet, Spring Sports Banquet, and Membership Social.
3. **SIC Standing Committees**
 - a. **Freshman Health Series.** SIC developed a lecture series for the Freshman Class to augment Apex Health. The lecturers included MUSC Trauma Surgeons with EMS ambulance and equipment, MUSC Alcohol and Research Division Educator on Alcohol and Drug use, Child Psychiatrist lecturer on Anxiety and Eating Disorders, and Nationally Recognized Wellness Educator on Healthy Choices. The Health Committee also is in the process of CPR classes potentially offered in the Fall.
 - b. **Wellness Committee.** SIC communicated with a very diverse AMHS Wellness Committee composed of community leaders, teachers, parents, and students. The group has implemented a checklist from Boeing/MUSC Lean Team to compete for grant money to increase Wellness in Public schools. The group should receive an award in the next few weeks for their efforts.
 - c. **Diversity Committee-** SIC has a working group to address Diversity at AMHS. During the year the group had several meetings. They sent out surveys, reviewed data from CCSD, and came up with a plan to augment the CCSD Diversity plan already in place. They incorporated individual meetings with Guidance Counselors in CCSD middle schools, church visitations to promote AMHS, book drive for at risk schools, and having an AMHS Ambassador Program to mentor middle school potential applicants.
 - d. **Thinkers in Residence.** Jill Leiber (parent) gave support through SIC and PIE to bring in provocative speakers for the students, teachers, and parents. This years speakers included the President of Furman University, a NASA engineer, and an AMHS graduate for commencement speech. All of the speakers over the years have enlightened and challenged the students and faculty. SIC works with the cooperation of PIE and administration to bring in these lecturers.
 - e. **AMHS 25th Anniversary.** This was a very special year for PIE's Auction. There was tremendous effort to invite the community, future/current/past parents, and teachers. PIE was in charge of the event. SIC gave support to three students on their Senior Thesis to create 25-year history of AMHS in video. The students will have a special event for this year's graduation including interviews of former faculty and students.
 - f. **Guidance Committee-** Grace Crawford from SIC attended the Guidance Committee meetings and reported back their work on Admissions Process, College Application Process, and IPG Process. They are planning a College Career Day in 2013.
 - g. **Mentor/Thesis Committee-**SIC had a productive group of parents and faculty working on informatics for Senior Thesis. The group had several accomplishments including: Survey for Parents to volunteer to become mentors, support for Academic Competitions, Robotics competition support, and a Mentor Database for senior thesis support.
4. **Strategic Financial Planning for AMHS.** The AMF (Academic Magnet Foundation) had a great start this year. Currently the Chair is Cliff Woods. The AMF actively created bylaws, applied for 501C3 status, and elected a Board of Directors after having several open meetings. The Nomination Committee included PIE, SIC, and Administration. AMF is well underway in an exciting year of volunteerism at AMHS.

5. **Ranking by US News and World Report.** The rankings have just been posted and AMHS is nationally ranked number 10 out of over 16,000 high schools. AMHS is also ranked number 1 in SC. SIC will continue to support AMHS students and faculty.

In closing, 2012-2013 was overall a great year for AMHS. In addition, it was a successful year a year of volunteerism from our parents, faculty, community, and more importantly the students. SIC will continue to inform our community, augment the student education, and provide support to the faculty. The 2012 - 2013 school year has been a positive and purposeful one for SIC and for AMHS. SIC thanks its members and the AMHS community for their efforts to aid in the continued growth and development of the academic program at AMHS.

Judith Peterson, principal

Darlene Rawls, MD , SIC Chair