

Academic Magnet High School
School Improvement Council
Annual Report, 2014

Academic Magnet High School

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Darlene Rawls MD, SIC Chair (Parent)

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Carol Hurt (Teacher/Mentor Group)

Cassidy Rindge(Student)

Jamie Corson (Teacher/Mentor Group)

Michael Finlayson (Community)

Guerry Kirkland (Parent/Mentor Group)

Ann Kulze (Community)

Grace Crawford (Parent/Guidance Group)

Mark Peterson (Community)

John Rucker (Parent/Alumni Group)

Camille Butler (Booster)

Charlisa Pugh (Parent/Diversity Group)

Christen Hall (PIE)

Review of key SIC issues and actions for 2013-2014. 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 Christen Hall. PIE had many events for community building including: Registration and Orientation, International Dinner, college awareness sessions for parents and students, Dream Big: Celebrate Magnet, 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. This year the Booster Club initiated two awards, named for athletic director Curtis Hoffman, and awarded to a male and female athlete.
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 Leber (parent) gave support through SIC and PIE to bring in provocative speakers for the students, teachers, and parents. This year's speakers included the Jennifer Pharr Davis, hiker and writer, Elizabeth Wissner-Gross, author, 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. **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 2014.
 - f. **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, acquired 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 fundraising at AMHS and are working to support the AMHS Summer Scholars' Program, to bring a course in Chinese language to the school, and to explore option in connect AMHS with the local "waterfront" and maritime issues/studies.
5. **Ranking by US News and World Report.** The rankings have just been posted and AMHS is nationally ranked number 16 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, 2013-2014 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 2013 - 2014 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