



**Johnsonville High School  
School Improvement Council  
Report to the Parents 2014-15**



**Mission Statement of the 2014-15 School Improvement Council:**

To address goals for current school year, complete surveys for the 2015 Spring AdvancEd visitation, and promote additional programs for success at JHS through a variety of Focus Groups made up of students, teachers, parents, and community leaders.

**Introduction**

The 2014-15 JHS School Improvement Council held meetings throughout the year to set and implement goals to improve the educational opportunities for students of JHS. Meeting minutes may be viewed on the JHS website at <http://jhs.flo5.k12.sc.us/> under the School Improvement Council tab on the left-hand menu. This report is a summary of these meetings.

**2014-15 SIC Members**

<b>Elected Parents</b>	<b>Elected Students</b>	<b>Appointed Members</b>
Kathy Brown	Elizabeth Jane Daniel	Terry Davis
Wanda Gaster	Briley Lawrimore	Joe Eaddy
Brenda Hannah	Jakob Marlowe	Raymond Haselden
Connie Long	Macey Walter	John Hohmann
Glenn Nations	Savanna Young	Cassandra Matthews
Shirley Poston		Monica Richardson
Shannon Prosser		John Rogers
Kerry Squires		John H. Wilcher

<b>Elected Staff Members</b>	<b>Ex-Officio Members</b>
Barbara Chandler	Jessica Harrelson
Denise Floyd	Lewis Lineberger
Gay Lawrimore	Diane Prosser
Amanda McKee	Renee Sanders
Susan Welch	Sam Tuten

## **Summary of Monthly Meetings**

**October 23, 2014**

The Johnsonville High School SIC (School Improvement Council) met in the JHS Library on Thursday, October 23, 2014, at 6:00 pm, for the first meeting of the 2014-15 school year. Mr. Sam Tuten, principal, welcomed all SIC members, as well as introduced the new members. He reminded everyone that Florence School District Five would be going through AdvancEd during the Spring of 2015 and asked members to be available for possible interviews. A JHS data update was given via PowerPoint on the school's End-of-Course testing results and results from the Federal Report Card (ESEA). All were excited to hear that JHS went up from a grade of C to a B. Changes in state testing were also discussed. South Carolina will be using ACT and Work Keys for eleventh grade testing across the state for this school year.

Mrs. Renee Sanders, assistant principal, reviewed the positive results that came from changes the SIC addressed over the 2013-14 school year. Data shows that there are less discipline referrals related to tardiness due to these changes.

Mrs. Cassandra Matthews, SIC president, divided the committee into Focus Groups. Each group got together to brainstorm possible ideas for potential objectives to work on throughout the year.

**SIC members were assigned to the following Focus Group committees for 2014-15.**

### **Academic/Instruction**

Members will work to develop and implement initiatives to enhance academic progress at the high school.

#### **Members:**

Briley Lawrimore

Brenda Hannah

Shannon Prosser

John Wilcher

Kerry Squires

John Hohmann

Diane Prosser

Renee Sanders

### **Student Life**

Members will work to develop and implement exciting and fun student activities in an effort to improve attendance at the high school.

#### **Members:**

Elizabeth Jane Daniel

Connie Long

Glenn Nations

Joe Eaddy

Monica Richardson

Denise Floyd

Susan Welch

### **Community/Parental Involvement**

Members will reach out to parents and community leaders to work toward increasing involvement from both groups with mentoring and supporting our students.

#### **Members:**

Jakob Marlowe

Macey Walter

Raymond Haselden

Wanda Gaster

John Rogers

Gay Lawrimore

Amanda McKee

Lewis Lineberger

### **Staff/Teacher Recognition and Appreciation**

Members will organize and implement special activities and functions to show our teachers and staff our appreciation for their hard work.

#### **Members**

Savanna Young

Kathy Brown

Shirley Poston

Terry Davis

Barbara Chandler

Jessica Harrelson

Sam Tuten

**November 18, 2014**

Mr. Tuten gave members a copy of the JHS SC Annual School Report Card Summary. JHS received an absolute rating of "Good." The school received a growth rating of "At-Risk," and Mr. Tuten explained that this usually happens after receiving an "Excellent" rating the year before. He reminded members that they may view the full report on the SC State Department website. JHS will not receive another report card for two years.

Mrs. Sanders gave members a copy of the JHS Pupil Discipline Code. She asked members to review the policy and suggest changes where possibly needed. Mrs. Sanders praised the JHS Student Body for improvement with tardies due to current policy changes suggested by the SIC committee last year.

Members met with their Focus Groups to discuss possible goals/objectives for the current school year. Each group presented their ideas.

**Student Life:** 1. Possibility of moving towards school uniforms 2. Possibility of dividing US History into two courses to begin in the tenth grade and finishing in the eleventh grade with the End-of-Course test

**Academic Instruction:** 1. Discussed school uniform debate 2. Possibly redirecting SSR time next year to Tutoring

**Community/Parental Involvement:** 1. Reach out to create a better school and community/city environment by getting students involved with city council—possibly through Student Government or Government/Economic classes

**Staff/Teacher Recognition and Appreciation:** 1. Provide special lunches throughout the year

**January 27, 2015**

Mr. Tuten presented a JHS Data Review Presentation to members. Members were excited over the many gains obtained by JHS students with EOC testing.

**EOC First Semester Totals:**

-**Math:** 100% passing rate with a 2 point gain

-**English:** 97.62% average passing rate with a 27.62 point gain

-**Science:** 90.63% average passing rate with a 3.02 point gain

-**History:** 76.92% average passing rate with a 34.3 point gain

(Students who passed the History EOC were rewarded with a field trip to the State House.)

**2015 Overall: 90.10% average passed with a 14.4 point gain**

### **Passing rate has continuously improved over the last five years.**

In order to commend students and teachers for their hard work, a school-wide celebration was planned for a future lunch to include special music by DJ Tron and a special luncheon for teachers.

A previous goal set by the SIC to help make the transition to high school less stressful for students is still being implemented. Freshmen mentees meet with their mentor throughout the school year. The next Freshmen mentee/mentor meeting is set for January 28, 2015.

Spring testing dates and AdvancEd were also discussed. Mr. Tuten reminded members that the Advanced team may want to speak with a few SIC members.

Mrs. Sanders asked members to help continue to monitor the discipline policy to make sure changes are effective. She emphasized again that tardies have decreased by almost 50% since the policy change of counting tardies by semester instead of by nine weeks. She said the top four discipline problems at JHS are tardies, dress code, phone violations, and failure to serve after-school detention.

Mrs. McKee, teacher member, asked if school uniforms could be a possibility for JHS. Members discussed the idea and agreed it would help students become work ready after high, provide equality among students, and solve dress code problems. Mr. Tuten asked members to conduct research on school uniforms and find policies used by other school districts for our next meeting.

### **March 10, 2015**

Members were given the following AdvancEd items: *AdvancEd Standards for Quality Schools*, *AdvancEd Executive Summary*, *AdvancEd Self-Assessment*, and *AdvancEd Stakeholder Feedback Diagnostic*. Members were given time to look over each document. Mr. Tuten then summarized each document and answered any questions members had. He reminded members that AdvancEd accreditation will assure that our students receive the credits they need to go on to higher learning facilities. Mrs. Gay Lawrimore, teacher member, elaborated on the use of Data Notebooks kept by JHS teachers to track students' strengths, weaknesses, and growth. This is the schools second year using these notebooks, and teachers feel they are beneficial in helping monitor students' progress in order to promote success with all students.

Mrs. Barbara Chandler, teacher member, shared information regarding student uniforms. She found the following positive results: improved behavior, improved academics, improved attendance, and positive influence on some safety issues. The negative result that she found is that some feel it takes away

individuality of students. However, in her research, she found the fact noted that athletic teams have always worn uniforms with pride. Mr. John Rogers, appointed community member, reported that Marion County School District implemented school uniforms recently district-wide with positive effects. Overall, members feel this needs more thought before implementing next year.

Mr. Kerry Squires, parent member, asked if it could be a possibility next year for recent JHS alumni to participate on the SIC. This was a question asked of him by his daughter who graduated in 2013. This item will remain open for future discussion. Specifics to think about are the availability of these students, who may be attending college far away, during meeting times with available technology.

### **April 28, 2015**

Two sections in the Student Handbook were discussed: Absences and Dress Code. A parent asked about excused absences. Once a student misses five days of school, even if they are all with a doctor's excuse, the sixth day missed is automatically unexcused unless with a bereavement or doctor's excuse. Mrs. Matthews suggested changing the policy to be written that each student can miss five "unexcused absences" during the semester. Therefore, if a child has a doctor's excuse for the first five days, the sixth day would be the first unexcused day. The committee voted to reword the policy for the 2015-16 school year to say a student can miss five unexcused days. Mrs. Lawrimore asked to also amend the number of after school makes-up days from five to three with the policy change for absences. This change was also approved for the 2015-16 school year.

Mrs. Sanders asked the committee to study the Dress Code policy. It was decided to change the "dollar bill" rule in addressing length of shorts, skirts, and dresses to placing the dollar bill at the bottom of the knee and measuring up the knee using the dollar bill length-wise to determine appropriate length. Also, the committee decided to take out jeggings and yoga pants as not being allowed. These changes will take place for the 2015-16 school year. With the discussion of the Dress Code policy, the idea of switching to school uniforms was brought up again by a parent member. Shannon Prosser said that as a parent he is in favor of school uniforms. Many of the committee members are in agreement, but feel it would be best to implement them district-wide. It was decided that this idea be proposed to the JES and JMS School Improvement Councils to get their thoughts on the subject.

Florence County School District Five received AdvancEd Accreditation. A summary of the AdvancEd visit and findings was presented by Mr. Tuten. The following are Opportunities of Improvement the county must address over the next two years:

1. Use pre and post tests
2. Develop and implement an advocacy program where each student has at least one adult mentor in the school (JHS does this with Freshmen)
3. Formalized written processes for all schools
4. System wide training for use of data to inform instruction (JHS is in its third year of doing this)
5. Establish a professional development plan (the county is lacking in this area due to funding)
6. Utilize data to define district-wide comprehensive assessments system to monitor curriculum, instruction, and assessment practices
7. Expand district advisory council to include parents and community members to increase stakeholder involvement
8. Increase the level of technology in the instructional program within the classroom for students of all levels
9. Develop a district strategic plan (Long Range Plan)

Mr. Tuten said the AdvancEd rated us higher than we rated ourselves. He also stated that the Florence Five teachers had the highest rating across SC on the ELEOT Tool used for teacher observation.

School Improvement Council member nomination ballots for the 2015-16 school year will be sent home with all students. New members will be presented at the first SIC meeting of the new school year. Officers will also be elected at that time.

The **2014-15 SIC Report to the Parents** was presented for approval. A motion was made and seconded to accept the report. All members voted in favor of the report. It will be posted to the JHS web site.

Mr. Tuten will honor teachers and students on Friday, May 8, 2015. Teachers will be given a duty free luncheon. Students will have a First Semester Celebration during lunch with music and fun activities.

This was the last SIC meeting for the 2014-15 school year.