GEORGETOWN MIDDLE SCHOOL

Georgetown County School District • Georgetown, South Carolina

School Improvement Council (SIC) Bylaws

Date Revised: 9-9-26 **Date Approved:** __9-9-26_____

Article 1 - Name of Organization

The name of the organization is the **Georgetown Middle School Improvement Council (SIC)**, operating within the Georgetown County School District, Georgetown, South Carolina.

Article 2 - Purpose

(A) Pursuant to South Carolina Code § 59-20-60, the purpose of the Georgetown Middle School Improvement Council is to:

1. Assist in the development, implementation, monitoring, and evaluation of the five-year School Improvement Plan (also known as the "School Renewal Plan" or "Strategic Plan");
2. Assist in the preparation of yearly Plan updates;
3. Assist the school in the development and implementation of the School Reading Plan as required by the South Carolina Read to Succeed Act;
4. Write the annual SIC Report to the Parents, which is to be distributed no later than **April 30** of each year;
5. Prepare, together with the Principal, the annual narrative for the SC School Report Card;
6. Provide advice on the use of school incentive award expenditures (if allocated by the legislature and awarded to the school); and
7. Provide other assistance as requested by the Principal or the Georgetown County Board of Education.

(B) The Council will not have the powers and duties reserved by law or regulation to the local school board.

Article 3 - Number and Type of SIC Members

(A) The SIC will be made up of the following representatives:

1. **Two (2) parents** elected by parents/legal guardians of students enrolled in the school.
2. **Two (2) teachers** elected by teachers assigned to the school.
3. **Two (2) members of the local community** appointed by the Principal. The Principal will make these appointments from the non-parent portion of the community and will strive to make appointments that reflect the diversity of the student body and local community.
4. **The Principal**, as an ex-officio member of the SIC.

5. **Two (2) ex-officio members** in addition to the Principal: the current **Teacher of the Year** and the current **PTA/PTO Chairperson**. If an individual holding an ex-officio position is unable to serve on the SIC for any reason, an appropriate substitute shall be named by the organization that individual represents.

(B) Per South Carolina state law (§ 59-20-60), the SIC shall at all times be made up of at least **twice as many elected members as appointed members** (4 elected : 2 appointed, so elected members comprise at least two-thirds of the elected and appointed membership). Ex-officio members are not counted in this calculation.

(C) Each elected and appointed member of the SIC shall have one vote. The Principal, as an ex-officio member, shall also have one vote.

(D) Ex-officio positions in addition to the Principal may only be created by the SIC through a properly adopted amendment to these bylaws. These additional ex-officio members have a voice but shall not be voting members of the SIC.

(E) No SIC member may vote by absentee ballot or proxy.

Article 4 - Nomination, Election, and Appointment Procedures

(A) Nominations and elections for SIC parent and teacher representatives will be held each year no later than **October 15** (or September 30, per local school preference, provided elections are completed prior to the state reporting deadline). The specific date, time, and location of SIC nominations and elections will be determined by the SIC each year and publicized in advance within the school community. The Principal will appoint community member representatives, in consultation with elected SIC members, prior to the first regular meeting of the school year. Council members will assume their responsibilities immediately upon their election or appointment.

(B) The SIC, in consultation with the Principal, will develop and approve procedures for parent nominations and elections that are fair and encourage participation by all parents. The SIC and school will communicate information about SIC parent nomination and election schedules and procedures to all eligible parents in a timely manner, using the most effective methods of communication reasonably available.

(C) Teachers will nominate and elect their representatives to the SIC during a regularly scheduled faculty meeting.

(D) The SIC will keep the results of SIC parent and teacher elections on file, including the vote totals for all candidates, for a period of at least two (2) years.

(E) To comply with state law reporting requirements (§ 59-20-60), the Principal or his or her designee will enter the names and contact information for the current school year's SIC members into the online **SC-SIC Member Network no later than November 15**.

(F) The SIC Chairperson will ensure that the names of all SIC members for the current school year are posted on the Georgetown Middle School website and/or published in the school newsletter.

Article 5 - Terms of Office

(A) The term of office for elected SIC members is **two (2) years**. For appointed SIC members, the term of office is **one (1) year**. Terms will be staggered so that the terms of half of all SIC elected and appointed positions expire at the end of each year.

(B) The term of office for an ex-officio member of the SIC will continue for as long as that individual holds the position or office that is represented on the SIC.

(C) There is no limit on the number of terms that an SIC member may serve.

Article 6 - SIC Officers

(A) The officers of the Georgetown Middle School Improvement Council will consist of a **Chairperson**, a **Vice Chairperson (or Co-Chair)**, and a **Secretary**. The SIC will elect these officers from among its elected and appointed members. Officer elections will be held during the first regular meeting after the SIC has completed its elections and appointments for the year. The term of office for SIC officers is one (1) year.

(B) Any elected or appointed SIC member is eligible to run for SIC office, except that all three officer positions may not be held at the same time by the same type of elected representative (e.g., all parents or all teachers). Ex-officio members, including the Principal, are not eligible to serve as, or vote in the election of, SIC officers.

Article 7 - Duties of Officers

(A) Chairperson: The Chairperson will preside at all meetings and have general supervision of the activities of the SIC. The Chairperson will work in partnership with the Principal in planning and directing the activities of the Council. In consultation with the Principal, the Chairperson will prepare the agenda for all SIC meetings and ensure that the agenda is sent to all Council members and posted publicly in compliance with the South Carolina Freedom of Information Act (SC FOIA), no later than **24 hours prior to the meeting**. The Chairperson retains the right to modify the agenda if it is determined to be in the best interest of the Council and to direct the pace of the meeting as best accomplishes the agenda. The Chairperson will appoint members to standing and temporary committees as needed and serve as an ex-officio member of all committees.

(B) Vice Chairperson (or Co-Chair): The Vice Chairperson will preside at meetings in the absence of the Chairperson and assist the Chairperson as requested.

(C) Secretary: The Secretary is responsible for:

1. Keeping a full and accurate account of the proceedings and actions of all SIC meetings (minutes) and ensuring that each Council member receives this information in a timely fashion following each meeting;
2. Preparing any official correspondence that the Chairperson may request;
3. Ensuring that the SIC maintains a file in the school's administrative offices that contains copies of past meeting agendas, minutes, sign-in sheets, Council correspondence, SIC Reports to the Parents, and the SIC bylaws; and

4. Maintaining a contact list of all SIC members that includes current telephone numbers, addresses, and email addresses.

Article 8 - SIC Committees

(A) The SIC may establish, by a majority vote recorded in the meeting minutes, one or more standing committees as needed to assist in the efficient and effective operation of the Council.

(B) The SIC may also establish, by a majority vote recorded in the meeting minutes, one or more temporary committees made up of teachers, parents, community/business leaders, and other citizens to study specific issues and make recommendations to the Council. An individual need not be an SIC member to serve as a temporary committee chairperson or member; however, each temporary committee shall include at least one SIC member.

(C) The SIC Chairperson will appoint the members of standing and temporary SIC committees and designate committee chairpersons.

(D) Standing and temporary committees shall regularly report and remain accountable to the full SIC, and their scope of work shall be limited to that assigned to them by the full SIC.

Article 9 - Membership Termination and Vacancies

(A) SIC membership shall terminate immediately upon any of the following:

1. A parent representative no longer has a child enrolled at Georgetown Middle School;

2. A teacher representative no longer holds a teaching position at Georgetown Middle School;

3. An elected or appointed member misses **three (3) consecutive scheduled meetings** without proper notice to the Chairperson;

4. An elected or appointed member submits a letter of resignation to the Chairperson; or

5. An elected or appointed member is elected to the Georgetown County Board of Education.

(B) If an elected parent or teacher representative's membership terminates before the end of his or her term, the individual who received the next highest number of votes in the most recent election shall fill the vacancy for the remainder of the term. If such an individual cannot be identified or is unwilling to serve, the SIC Chairperson, in consultation with the Principal and the full SIC, shall appoint another eligible parent or teacher, as appropriate, to fill the vacancy for the remainder of the term.

(C) If an appointed community member representative's membership terminates before the end of his or her term, the Principal shall appoint another eligible community member to fill the vacancy for the remainder of the term.

Article 10 - Meetings

(A) The first regular SIC meeting of the school year will be held no later than **September 30** (or immediately following fall elections).

(B) During the first meeting, the SIC will set a regular meeting schedule for the remainder of the school year. The schedule will be posted on the Georgetown Middle School website, included in the monthly

school calendar, and/or otherwise posted in a prominent location in the school. The SIC will strive to schedule regular meetings on days and times that meet the needs and preferences of parents and community members as well as teachers and administrators.

(C) The SIC will meet at least **four (4) times** during the school year. The SIC Chairperson or Principal may call additional special meetings, provided all Council members and the public are notified at least **24 hours in advance** in accordance with SC FOIA. The SIC Chairperson, Principal, or a committee chairperson may schedule committee meetings as needed, provided reasonable advance notice is given to all committee members.

(D) All SIC meetings are open to the public in accordance with the South Carolina Freedom of Information Act, and anyone showing an interest in the SIC and its activities will be encouraged to attend. Persons who wish to be placed on the agenda must submit a request to the SIC Chairperson or Principal at least five (5) days before the meeting date. The Chairperson will time the agenda to ensure that Council business is properly conducted and that persons scheduled to speak have the opportunity to do so. The Chairperson may schedule a segment of the agenda for open public comment as needed and as time permits.

(E) The Principal or his or her designee will be scheduled on the agenda of every regular SIC meeting to share information on school activities, successes, and concerns. Committees will provide reports as scheduled.

Article 11 - SIC Decision Making

(A) Whenever possible, the SIC will make decisions by consensus. If voting is necessary, a simple majority vote will be sufficient to constitute an action of the SIC. A **simple majority of the voting members** of the Council (4 of 7 voting members) will constitute a quorum, provided **at least one parent and one teacher representative** are present.

Article 12 - Training

(A) At the beginning of each school year, the SIC will ensure that members have access to information about their roles and responsibilities, as well as information on Georgetown Middle School and Georgetown County School District policies and procedures. SIC members will be encouraged to attend School Improvement Council training workshops sponsored by the district office and/or the **South Carolina School Improvement Council (SC-SIC)**.

Article 13 - Bylaw Amendments

(A) These bylaws may be amended at any regular SIC meeting by a **two-thirds vote** of those present, provided that the amendments:

1. Were previously introduced at a regularly scheduled meeting held within the last three (3) months;
2. Were included in the minutes of that meeting and distributed to all members; and
3. Are listed as an agenda item for the current meeting.