

**MID-CAROLINA HIGH SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT COUNCIL**  
**MINUTES**  
**February 22, 2021**

The Mid-Carolina High School Improvement Council met virtually via Google Meet at 5:00 p.m. on Monday, February 22, with the following members present: Ray Cooper, Zeb Reid, Janet Davenport, Lorraine Kibler, Christi Vinson, Sarah Bridges, Coleen Makoski, Sissy Delesandro, Deann McManus, Jason Barnes, Julie Barnes, Meg Davis, Kelli Fowler, Gwen Davenport, Jonathan Gantt, Emma Grace Connelly, and Tiffani Lyles. The following items were distributed via email on Thursday, February 18, 2021: an agenda and January 2021 minutes.

*Welcome* – Mr. Cooper welcomed everyone and thanked them for attending.

*Items of business:*

- January 2021 Minutes – Minutes were approved with the following correction:
  - ❖ *Welcome – Mr. Cooper* needs to be changed to *Welcome – Mrs. Lyles and Mr. Reid*
- Upcoming Testing Dates – Tiffani Lyles
  - ❖ WIDA testing is going extremely well. It has gone quick and effectively. Everybody has been working together to get testing wrapped up quicker.
  - ❖ Monday, March 8<sup>th</sup> - Pre-ACT & WIN – Every 10<sup>th</sup> grade student, face-to-face and virtual, will be in the building to take the Pre-ACT. Every 11<sup>th</sup> grade (3<sup>rd</sup> year) student and every 12<sup>th</sup> grade (4<sup>th</sup> year) student, face-to-face and virtual, will be in the building to take the WIN test. Safety protocols are in place to ensure social distancing and safety. WIN does not have prep work so our 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> grade students will just show up on March 8<sup>th</sup> at 7:35 a.m. and we will take care of them. Pre-ACT does have prep work. The virtual (only) NewberryOne E-Learning 10<sup>th</sup> grade students will be in the building on Wednesday, February 24<sup>th</sup>, for a pre-coding administration session in preparation for Pre-ACT testing. Our face-to-face 10<sup>th</sup> grade students will complete their pre-coding administration session on the day of testing, March 8<sup>th</sup>.
    - Question/Discussion – Christi Vinson – Aren't students supposed to bring their school issued laptops? Mrs. Lyles – Yes 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> graders will be required to bring and use their school issued laptops due to WIN being online. Vinson – I know that Harmon and some other seniors doing strictly online Piedmont Tech classes this year did not receive (opted out of receiving) a school issued laptop. Do I need to send him to this school to check out a computer? Lyles – We are going to have every computer charged and ready as donors to make sure every student has a device.
    - Question – Sarah Grace Connelly – So seniors have to bring their school issued laptops? Lyles – Yes it has to be a school issued laptop. You can not take a state mandated assessment on your personal laptop.
  - ❖ Tuesday, March 23 – ACT Testing – This test will be administered to 11<sup>th</sup> grade (3<sup>rd</sup> year) students who chose that college entrance assessment.
  - ❖ Wednesday, March 24 – SAT Testing – This test will be administered to 11<sup>th</sup> grade (3<sup>rd</sup> year) students who chose that college entrance assessment.
- Return 4 Days Face-to-Face Report – Zeb Reid
  - ❖ AM arrival – Staggered Entry – Busses released in a staggered manner (one bus at a time). Car riders enter the building on the left side of the 800 hall. The bus riders enter on the right side of the 800 hall. Teachers are in hallways to ensure that students are socially distancing and walking straight to class. Students have been doing an outstanding job.
  - ❖ PM dismissal – Staggered Exit – At 3:05 p.m. car riders are dismissed to the gym and sit socially distance until there are called out. At 3:10 p.m. student drivers are dismissed to go directly to their vehicles and leave campus. At 3:15 p.m. bus riders are dismissed to go directly to their bus.
  - ❖ Restrooms – Max 5 students per restroom at a time - Faculty/staff on duty to monitor restrooms to make sure students are not hanging out. If students are hanging out in restroom and caught by a faculty/staff member then they will receive an automatic lunch detention. Students have done fantastic.
  - ❖ Cafeteria – 5 lunches – Everyone is doing a fantastic job to ensure social distancing and cleaning between lunches. It is running smoothly.
  - ❖ Plexiglass has been installed. We have had a couple of students that have broken the plexiglass. It was an honest mistake as they get up out of their seats and their bookbags catch the plexiglass. The plexiglass that was broken was replaced very quickly.
  - ❖ Teachers can pick up alcohol and Clorox wipes as needed from the main office. Students are doing a great job cleaning their personal space/area.

- ❖ It has taken a lot of work but we are very pleased with the return to 4 days face-to-face.
- ❖ Mr. Cooper – Our return has gone very successful and we are open to any feedback or suggestions.
- 2021-2022 – 4x4 Schedule or A/B Schedule
  - ❖ There are pros and cons to both the 4x4 schedule and the A/B schedule. 4x4 Schedule – Students take a traditional 8 classes but they are broken up to take 4 classes 1<sup>st</sup> semester and the other 4 classes 2<sup>nd</sup> semester. A/B Schedule – Students take a traditional 8 classes the entire year but meet with 4 classes on “A” day and the other 4 classes on “B” day. At this point no final decision has been made as to which schedule we will follow next school year. We were asked to solicit information from our staff to see what the preference is. The results from the survey that was sent out to our faculty/staff was roughly about 80% preferred the 4x4 schedule with roughly 20% preferring the A/B schedule. Neither are perfect they both have advantages and disadvantages.
    - Kelli Fowler – Wesley, will be entering 9<sup>th</sup> grade next year and has multiple questions of what his schedule will look like in high school. During his IGP, he was kind of excited to know what the 4x4 schedule was and looking at it but there was a little hesitation because he felt like he may not get to do band all year or art all year. That is a concern as a parent as well. Also, a concern as a parent is if he takes a math class in the fall and then goes through Spring and doesn’t have any sort of math or any of the core classes, what is that going to do to him. Especially if he doesn’t pick up another math until the following Spring. Then he would be down a whole year without a math or a core class if he has to jump that semester. I personally would have like the 4x4 and I think he would to but he is worried about the related arts part of it. Cooper – There are pros and cons of both and related arts is a challenge. We have been discussing this with guidance and the related arts teachers to see what we can do to assure that related arts are as strong as possible. If there is enough interest and we receive enough request to take band, art, or whatever it is both semester then we can have something that is double blocked. We are looking at other options and models as well. It really depends on what our course request are, what we can and cannot do to make sure a student can get what they request but reassure that they get everything that is required to graduate.
    - Janet Davenport – The career center is pretty much like the arts. It feels like the career center is going to take a hit with the 4x4. Personally, as a parent, I do not like the 4x4 schedule. Son that is in a math now but the last time he was in a math was last Spring. He was one that went a full year without taking math and we can see the trouble with that. It really worries me about the career center, the arts, and going a full year without a core class. Cooper – Those are two of the major cons of the 4x4.
    - Sarah Bridges – A little concerned about not seeing chorus students year-round. Have spoken to some upperclassmen students and they do not like the 4x4 schedule. They are stressed about having to get homework done that night for the next day and they just really like the A/B schedule because they could take a day off and get it done before the next class. They have a break so if they have a bunch of hard classes they can take an evening off. Upperclassmen that have all AP classes during second semester are stressed out because they have no break between the classes and have all of this homework and literally have no day to rest on a 4x4 schedule. Freshmen don’t have much to compare it to, the sophomores had their year end abruptly but some have expressed that they prefer A/B schedule. Cooper – 4x4 is a much faster pace.
    - Lorraine Kibler – When questioning the Academic Challenge team, they liked the A/B schedule better for the same reason. They like the day in between to absorb the information. As a 9<sup>th</sup> grade teacher in math, it takes so long to get use to the change from middle school to high school that the 9<sup>th</sup> graders kind of get into it around November and at that point we are almost done with the semester. So the Fall group has trouble because they are adjusting to high school, adjusting to their classes, and then the semester is almost over when they get use to it. The A/B schedule gives them time to absorb the information where as the 4x4 everyday they have a new topic and they don’t have as much time to absorb the information, practice it, and understand it. I have done both and like both but see the pros and cons of both.
    - Emma Grace Connelly – From the prospective of a student, the A/B schedule helped me manage my time a lot better especially with all of my AP classes. Being able to have an extra day to absorb the material and practice it really helped.
    - Jack Gantt – Prefers the 4x4 schedule. Having 8 classes would have felt like more books just pressuring down. Currently has one AP class and three honors classes and have gotten use to it these first few weeks and don’t seem to mind the 4x4. Really did like the 4x4 for last semester. Even though it is a little faster pace, seem to adjust to it better. Finished with the Summer reading book by early September but didn’t have English scheduled until this semester so didn’t really like that. Didn’t have to reread the book but had to look at some notes and chapter reviews to catch up and make sure that nothing was forgotten. See that there is pros and cons to both of them.

- ❖ Most schools in South Carolina are on a traditional 4x4 schedule. Administratively it becomes a scheduling challenge and nearly impossible when students transfer in with us especially in the middle of a school year when they are coming from a 4x4 schedule and we are on an A/B schedule or vice versa. An advantage to a 4x4 schedule is if a student doesn't do well in a class during 1<sup>st</sup> semester then you have the opportunity to schedule them to retake the class during 2<sup>nd</sup> semester. Neither one of them are perfect and whether it be a 4x4 or an A/B schedule we will make it work. We will make sure we do the best we can to make sure that all programs are the best that they can be.
- Prom & Graduation
  - ❖ We are in a holding pattern for both Prom and Graduation. We want to make sure that we provide every opportunity and life experience that we can to our students, but keep everyone safe. We have tried to continue as normal because you never know what the conditions are going to be and right now they continue to improve. Our prom is scheduled for April 24<sup>th</sup> but we are not sure what that is going to look like right now. Our graduation is scheduled for June 11<sup>th</sup>. There are challenges that we are still working through. The South Carolina Department of Education and DHEC has provided information that they are going to provide guidance very soon to schools and school districts on how to safely host these types of events. People may not realize that when we had graduation last year we were not under the current August Executive Order that states that certain types of gatherings attended by more than 250 people are prohibited unless you apply for a waiver. For athletics the South Carolina High School League applied for a waiver on behalf of all schools and was approved through the Department of Commerce to host events. We imagine that a similar situation will happen but we are waiting to hear from the S.C. Department of Education before we move forward. The only directive we have been given so far is to plan for both an indoor graduation and an outdoor graduation. Prom does pose some difficulties. If you have 200 students plus their dates, we could potentially have around 400 students and with the executive order you can surely see the challenges. Once we receive the guidance then we will do everything we can to provide whatever we can within the compliance of whatever the S.C. Department of Education and DHEC recommends.
- Positive Share
  - ❖ Band Update – Kelli Fowler, Band Booster Club President:
    - Concert band practices afterschool
    - Scheduled Band Booster meeting in March
    - The May Band Booster meeting will wrap up the year
    - In May we hope to introduce the show for next year.
    - March Fundraiser – Krispy Kreme – The first Krispy Kreme fundraiser was extremely successful.
  - ❖ Athletic Update – Gwen Davenport, Athletic Booster Club President & Mr. Zeb Reid, Assistant Principal
    - Three people coming off of the Athletic Booster Club and we will have three new members join us starting in June, Christi Vinson, Vicki Amick, and Craig Bowers. New President Chris Graham.
    - Basketball concessions just finished up and we will move forward with Spring concessions.
    - Voted to purchase soccer uniforms for varsity boys' soccer team.
    - Purchased Region Championship t-shirts for the varsity boys' basketball team and coaches. Varsity boys' basketball team won the 4AAA Region Championship – Co-Champs with Keenan High School
    - Purchased Boys' Basketball Region 2021 Banner update that will be placed on the banner and installed in the gym.
    - Darian Bookman – 1,000-point scorer – 6<sup>th</sup> player in school history to reach this milestone in boys' basketball.
    - Varsity boys' basketball team made the state playoffs. Only 2 teams from Region 4AAA made the playoffs. They lost to Seneca High School in the 1st Round of the State Playoffs.
    - All-Region awards for MCHS Girls/Boys Basketball will be named after all teams from Region 4AAA are eliminated from state playoff competition or have won the state championship.
    - Winning Records by our JV Boys and Girls Basketball Teams (Congrats. to Coach Crawford-Boys Coach and Coach Davenport-Girls Coach)
    - Track & Field -Construction Crew doing a good job (Rain will not stop) Having to sub-pump water out every week (inclement weather delaying progress as needed)
    - Wrestling - Zach Hornsby-outstanding individual season
- Next virtual meeting - Monday, March 22, at 5:00 p.m. A link for the meeting will be emailed to all members the week before our meeting.

With no further discussion, the meeting was adjourned at 5:53 p.m.