

**MID-CAROLINA HIGH SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT COUNCIL**  
**MINUTES**  
**October 19, 2020**

The Mid-Carolina High School Improvement Council met virtually via Google Meet at 5:00 p.m. on Monday, October 19, with the following members present: Ray Cooper, Tiffani Lyles, Sissy Delesandro, Christi Vinson, Zeb Reid, Coleen Makoski, Lorraine Kibler, Jonathan Gantt, Sarah Bridges, Kelli Fowler, Melanie Hawkins, Janet Davenport, Meg Davis, Julie Barnes, Jason Barnes, Mary Shepherd, Emma Grace Connelly, and Deann McManus. The following items were distributed via email on Friday, October 16: an agenda and minutes from the February 2020 meeting.

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

*Items of business:*

- February 2020 Minutes – Minutes were approved.
- Elect Chairperson & Duties of Officer
  - ❖ The officers of Mid-Carolina High School Improvement Council will be the chairperson and the secretary. The chairperson will be elected annually by the full council membership in the first council meeting of each academic year. Ex-officio members are not eligible to be an officer of the council. Christi Vinson was nominated and elected to continue serving as chairperson.
- MCHS Reopening and Continuity of Operations
  - ❖ A lot of work has gone into making this year an educational and safe school year for everyone. (*Our administration has spent countless hours measuring classrooms, hallways, restrooms, cafeteria, gym, media center and calculating to make sure that we are staying within the guidelines to provide a safe environment for our students, faculty, staff, and administration. They went throughout the building taping floors, tables, and walls to make sure that students are staying on the appropriate side of the hallway and are six feet apart.*)
    - Building Considerations
      - Signage on all entrances asking visitors to not enter if they have had close contact with a COVID-19 case within the last 14 days. Signs strongly encouraging masks being worn and social distancing at all times when in the building. Restrooms have signage regarding hand washing and capacity. Signage is on floors throughout the building to indicate traffic directions and spaced lines to help with social distancing.
      - We have staggered/alterd entry and release times to reduce crowd movement in the mornings as our students are entering the building and, in the afternoon, when they are dismissed from school. We also altered our daily schedule to allow for three lunches while keeping our classes meeting the same amount of time.
      - We have turned off and covered all of our water fountains. Students have been given a free plastic reusable water bottle from the school to use during the day to get water from our refillable bottle stations throughout the building.
      - We increased the spaces between desks and have them facing the same direction so that there are six feet between all desk.
      - In the cafeteria for lunch we have marked social distancing spaces on the floors and spaced out the tables and marked spots where students can sit so we can maintain social distance while they are waiting in line or eating.
      - Students have done a great job wearing mask. We have only given out a very small amount of temporary mask.
      - Our custodial staff disinfects high-traffic touchpoints on Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Fridays. On Wednesdays the custodial crew does a detail (deep) cleaning of the building with the electrostatic sprayers.
    - Discussion – Reopening and Continuity of Operations
      - This information was given to give everyone insight on some of the things that we have been doing and some of the safety protocols that we have in place before we started moving into what a phased in approach may look like for bringing students back for four days.
      - Nurse Janet Davenport (School Nurse/Band Booster Vice-President/Parent) – If there is a circumstance where a student is sent out during the day and I feel that there is a possibility

that they may test positive, I want the parents and faculty/staff to know that we fog that classroom as soon as we can get the other students out. There is fogging going on throughout the day as well and not just after school.

- Mr. Cooper (Principal) – In between classes all teachers are disinfecting their classrooms and wiping down desk as well as other areas in their classrooms.
- Nurse Janet Davenport (School Nurse/Band Booster Vice-President/Parent) – During the school day we have been very fortunate that we have not had to exclude a large number of students that are in a classroom that has been around a positive because when I go and have that conversation with a teacher they do say they are socially distanced and they are wearing a mask. So, on that stand point during the school day we have been very fortunate with cases that we have not had to shut down classrooms or exclude multiple students in class because of something that happened during a school day. It all goes back to we were able to socially distance and wear our masks like we should.
- Mr. Cooper (Principal) – Prior to the beginning of the year just to give you a little bit of insight to kind of where we were, the first couple of weeks there was a lot that went in to making sure that we had all the safety protocols put into place. Between our administration, guidance, teachers, and staff there were a lot of people at the school until 9 p.m., and that was Monday through Sunday, making sure that we were putting in the time needed to have everything ready, especially the scheduling. Scheduling was a very big challenge this year. Scheduling is a challenge each year because we try our best to accommodate course request in normal circumstances, but we all know that this year was not normal making it an even bigger challenge. This particular year we started an online school that is serving close to almost 2000 students K-12 across our district. You throw that into the mix because we were having to pull our own teachers to reschedule them. What made scheduling more complicated than what it normally is, and it is normally complicated because each one of our students has a unique schedule, you can't just plug it in. There are so many different varieties of schedules that we offer because we want to give our students a lot of choice, from career center, Middle College, Piedmont Tech, some students are taking AP classes, some students are taking honors classes, and some kids are taking your regular CP classes. There are a lot of options that are out there and a lot of avenues so scheduling in normal circumstances every student has a unique schedule that you have to make sure is done the right way first based off of what they need for graduation and second, we want to make sure that they have whatever their career goals and whatever courses they want to take and are aligned to that. Then you throw in the fact that we had to pull teachers, reschedule those students, and not only reschedule kids but we had to firmly look at the numbers. When we created a list for Group 1 and Group 2 students we had to go through every single roster and determine how many of those students were Group 1 and how many were Group 2 and schedule each class individually because we wanted to make sure that our teachers were safe and our students were safe and in a good situation where we could say that they were socially distanced. That took a lot of time, but we did it because it was what needed to be done. When Nurse Davenport talks about the social distancing piece, we had a set cut number that when we measured the classroom, we knew that this was the max we could put in the classroom to maintain six feet apart. Anything past that we really don't want to do, even if that meant that we had to reschedule students to keep them safe. That is why a lot of students saw their schedules change because it was for safety and we didn't want to have to send a student home for fourteen days. We want to make sure students are in school and to the best of our ability we did it. Right now, our exclusions are not coming from what is happening in school. That is not the case everywhere. There are a lot of schools out there that could not meet that criteria, so we are fortunate in that regard that we don't have a revolving door of a positive case coming into the building. The reality of it is that it could get bad if you are not able to meet the criteria. You put 25 students in the same classroom that are not socially distancing that goes to four different classrooms with different students then it could add up quickly and that is staff and students. Then that is a lot of students that are at home, not three days a week but fourteen days straight. That is what we want to make sure, whatever we do, we do everything to try to avoid that while students are here with us. We have done that. Do you agree Nurse Davenport?

- Nurse Janet Davenport (School Nurse/Band Booster Vice-President/Parent) – Absolutely, what we are doing in the school building from the time we open the door until the time the students go home, we are doing it right. It's working.
  - Mr. Cooper (Principal) – I agree. I say all of that because before we get into the next conversation I think it is important to look at all of that.
- Reopening and Continuity of Operations – Scheduling
  - Scheduling should always seek to provide students with the best possible learning experiences, greatest priority must be given to ensuring the health, safety, and wellness of students and staff.
  - The optimal learning environment for most students would be in-person instruction. Districts and schools should have plans in place to adjust scheduling models during the school year. The fact that we are even discussing a four-day return face to face really was not anything unexpected from the very beginning. It should be fluent. All districts at the beginning of this understood that we are dealing with a situation that is really day by day, week by week and it is something that is constantly changing. We knew going into it that it could get worse, it could get better, and we had to be prepared to be able to potentially move in and out of different models depending on what the conditions were.
  - To best guide district decision making, the SCDE in collaboration with DHEC developed criteria for determining the rate of spread of COVID-19 in an area. A report is released every two weeks from DHEC that is titled Recent Disease Activity by County for SC Department of Education. As of October 8, 2020, Newberry County had a high recent disease activity.
- Hybrid to 4 Day Face to Face Transition Survey – Feedback
  - ❖ Nurse Janet Davenport (School Nurse/Band Booster Vice-President/Parent) – I feel like this is proof that what we are doing during the school day is working. When the decision was made for us to go Hybrid, we were in high disease activity and we have made it work. We did scoop down to a medium in one category, but it didn't last very long, and we went back up to a high. It just proves that what we are doing during the school day in the building has worked because we have been in school in high disease activity in all three categories. To me, that just tells me that what happens in the school day is working for us at Mid-Carolina.
  - ❖ Ray Cooper (Principal) – When we talk about social distancing and close contact just a reminder of what counts as a close contact: you were within 6 feet of someone who has COVID-19 for at least 15 cumulative minutes; you provide care at home to someone who is sick with COVID-19; you had direct physical contact with the person (touched, hugged, or kissed them); you shared eating or drinking utensils; they sneezed, coughed, or somehow got respirator droplets on you.
  - ❖ Revisions to Staff/Parent Toolkit – Plexiglass Use in Schools (Per DHEC)
    - Consistent with its existing policy, DHEC is providing further information regarding use of plexiglass barriers between students. As noted in the COVID-19: Frequently Asked Questions for School Officials from August 14, 2020, appropriate plexiglass use, combined with other measures, allows for shorter distances for social distancing.
    - In scenarios in which students are seated closer apart than six feet, the students would not be considered close contacts when:
      - 1. appropriate plexiglass is utilized, and
      - 2. distance between students is at least three feet apart, and
      - 3. the students are wearing cloth face coverings or face masks that cover the nose and mouth (the plexiglass does not serve as a substitute to mask-wearing).
    - Plexiglass is considered appropriately sized and utilized if it surrounds three sides (the front and two sides) of the edges of the student's desk and extends at least a foot above each child's head when seated at the desk and at least a foot beyond the end of the desk on either side. There may be acceptable other configurations, as determined on an individual basis by DHEC.
    - If the above requirements are not met when using plexiglass to allow for shorter distances for social distancing, then those within 6 feet for a cumulative of 15 minutes would be considered a close contact and would have to be quarantined.
  - ❖ Sarah Bridges (Teacher) – I am a little concerned when it comes to the plexiglass in my room especially for choir and singing. We do a lot of standing. Sitting while singing works but it is not ideal obviously and I was just wanting to know if we are going to have plexiglass because some of our students are 6'2", 6'3", or 6'4". There are some really tall students, and I am just very concerned about being able to socially distance in a

choral setting and I am sure that it will be a concern for Mr. Lawson for band or any kind of music setting classroom.

- ❖ Ray Cooper (Principal) – The reality of it is, that if approved we would go from half the student body to the full student body that are going to be in one particular room at one time and there are going to be unique circumstances that are going to be different than you are going to see in your regular classroom settings. The plexiglass works in the traditional classroom setting potentially where you are in a desk, but I would have to see the plexiglass. I haven't seen the plexiglass. I have been told that it is on order. I have not physically put my eyes on it, so I am a little uncomfortable to tell you what that looks like until I have seen it. In your situation I have spoken with Nurse Ulch because you and Mr. Lawson are in a different situation and those are going to have to be some unique circumstances that we are going to have a conversation about and put a lot of thought into it because if there were a confirmed positive case that would be bad in a situation that you don't have the plexiglass and you don't have the correct safety measures and you would have to put a lot of students out and that is what we do not want to have to do. We want to avoid that from happening. Your chorus room with the few students you have in there right now you are good but if you put 20 students in there, then you are not. The same with band. The number of students in band currently is good, but if you put 50 students in there at one time then we would not have enough room to social distance. Those are some things that could cause some problems. So, there are things that we are going to have to take into considerations and have some alternative routes to keep students and teachers safe.
- ❖ Deann McManus (Parent) – How are we going to be able to keep three feet in bigger core classes?
- ❖ Ray Cooper (Principal) – We would have to go into each classroom and measure and potentially take out all nonessential furniture from the classroom. This is not just three feet in front of the student and three feet behind the student it is a 360-degree three feet distance between each student. If you have a 7-foot student and the plexiglass must be one foot above that student's head is going to be nearly impossible. In that particular case if he were to come in and be confirmed positive, we would have to exclude all the students around that student and possibly the teacher. A three-foot distance may not be possible in some classrooms depending on the square footage and the number of students in the class. There are so many factors that can go into every single scenario.
- ❖ Jason Barnes (Parent) – Going back to Ms. Bridges questions. One thing that we need to think about is what about face shields for the chorus students. I have spoken with a lot of teachers and parents throughout the district, and I am not sure that parents and teachers are aware of safety measures like the plexiglass. I am not sure that they were aware of that for the survey. Seems like a lot of teachers are not given a lot of information or asked their opinion on a lot of the COVID things, especially when going back to school full time. I will say that I am ready for my son to get back, but I know that everybody is scared and hesitant as well. A lot of parents may be because they are not following it, but they are not aware of the extra precautions like the plexiglass and that it would make that six feet go to three. I feel like you will still have a third of your students still stay virtual so that will help with your population at school. I know that this is a scary time.
- ❖ Ray Cooper (Principal) – If a change would happen today that would be just the Hybrid students right now; the virtual students are committed through the semester. There will be another survey that will go out at another time. From our end based on the number of teachers that we had to give up to teach virtually, we know what our class loads are as it stands right now, and teachers do to because they can see what their full loads are. They also know what it is like at half and they also know what it would be like at full capacity. I wasn't really aware of the plexiglass until last week. That is something that was updated in the Staff/Parent Toolkit which was the new recommendation given. The three feet does make it feasible. I don't want to discount that. It is not going to be perfect by any means, but it is a big perk. Dr. Kibler from the very beginning put the plexiglass on the front of the desk in her classroom herself. It is not on both sides, but she does have it on the front of each desk.
- ❖ Dr. Lorraine Kibler (Teacher) *Dr. Kibler's mic was not working so she submitted her comments via email* - I am concerned about the number of students and the air quality in the room. I am not comfortable with 25 students in the room with plexiglass and masks being the only barrier. I have an air purifier and am trying to improve the quality of air as much as possible, but that many students create a problem with our current system. I have spoken to many health officials who guard against having that many people in a small environment. Also, as a college professor, I feel this system (hybrid) is a positive for our students. Freshman in college often fail because they do not know how to study and work outside of class, not because they are not smart enough. This is teaching the students how to learn without being spoon fed the information. Flipped classrooms will take time for responsibility to grow and students to own their own learning, but it is worth giving the time and dedication to teaching students how to learn while at home. I have noticed many of my students doing better over the 9 weeks and starting to take ownership. I have others who still need to develop these skills. If we start early in high school and let them make the mistakes, they will be ready for

college or the real world. Focusing on data (number of students passing) has created systems where students are not able to fail and learn how to grow. They need to learn now there are consequences for not completing work. I have talked to many teachers and students and the majority feel we are not ready to return to a full four-day schedule. Many students say they will move to virtual. I completely understand how being in school four days a week is better for some students. Hands on classes need to be there (career center). I also think that ESOL and self-contained students need to be here four days a week. I think we could work with specific classifications to have them here and keep everyone safe. Of course, we want to be back to normal, but until the community moves to a low level, we are not safe. The district also needs to look at how many teachers will leave if we return to four days in class with all the students. This is NOT because teachers don't want the students, it is for our (and everyone's) safety. It really hurts when outsiders say we don't want to do our jobs.

- ❖ Ray Cooper (Principal) – Jason you are correct. We want to get the information out to our teachers. The survey and information that went out to the teacher is about to the extent of what we know as well.
- ❖ Janet Davenport (School Nurse/Band Booster Vice-President/Parent) – I want to make it clear, teachers and staff, we all have a voice that we can voice what we believe is right, but that does not mean that we have the decision-making power. I want to be perfectly honest with you. Do I agree with some of this stuff that I am having to do? No, but the guidelines say that I have to do it. I think that a lot of misunderstanding is coming from the fact that we are going to bring our students back four days or however many days a week but what parents and other people need to understand is that we are not bringing our virtual teachers back. Those teachers are virtual and they will be teaching our virtual students. The teachers we have in the building teaching hybrid will be the same group of teacher's teachings. Just because we lost those teachers to virtual does not mean that we are going to get them back if we go back four or five days a week. As for the plexiglass, in theory it sounds wonderful right, because you get to shorten that distance but let's think about how this thing is going to work out. How is it going to attach to the desk and how are our students going to get in the desk (*our desk and seats are stationary to one another*). Is it going to be a door that they open on one side and they slide into their seat? There are lots of things that need to be worked out to have the plexiglass be effective so that we can go to three feet.
- ❖ Ray Cooper (Principal) – We haven't seen pictures to see how it is going to attach, but it is currently on order from the district. Regardless of what the decision is, if we stay hybrid, we are still going to go ahead and install the plexiglass when we receive it in order to be prepared and get the students used to it.
- ❖ Zeb Reid (Assistant Principal) – Thanks Janet for your comments. The plexiglass is going to take a lot of time to install as well as measuring and teachers setting up rooms. It is all going to take a lot of time. It is not going to be done in just a couple of days. I want parents to know that we really work hard to give the students the best and safest environment that we can and whatever is decided we will do the very best we can.
- ❖ Kelli Fowler (Band Booster President/Parent) – I have a question as a concerned parent. Is all of that going to have to be sanitized as well, the insides and outsides of the plexiglass between each class by the teachers?
- ❖ Ray Cooper (Principal) – Yes.
- ❖ Zeb Reid (Assistant Principal) – Our teachers have an HDG bottle that we refill on a weekly basis. Teachers are going to need time. They have five minutes between classes. Students will wait in the hallway outside of the classroom until the teacher completes the cleaning. We have the halls already marked for social distancing.
- ❖ Ray Cooper (Principal) – Right now they are already cleaning to top of those surfaces between classes.
- ❖ Sarah Bridges (Teacher) – Coming from a teacher's perspective it is a lot to sanitize everything in between classes. I am not trying to make an excuse, but it is a lot to do and if we add plexiglass, I can only imagine what it is going to be like. Like I said, I am not trying to make an excuse, but I am trying to think realistically. Trying to get music switched over, moving the piano, and getting everything set up for the next class, then to add more. It is a little overwhelming just the thought of that. It just seems like something else to what already seems to be an overflowing plate this year.
- ❖ Jason Barnes (Parent) – Another concern I had from some of the teachers was the disinfecting of the plexiglass, so that is something to keep in consideration for the teachers. I know they are getting beat up and something needs to be looked at about them having to clean. Not sure if this applies to high school, some teachers were questioning of how the plexiglass would work if they are using tables in the classroom? I don't think that applies to the high school.
- ❖ Ray Cooper (Principal) – That is correct it does not apply to the high school. We are not using tables.
- ❖ Jason Barnes (Parent) – I have talked to these teachers and they are just bringing up all these questions and they are concerned. I think they are just stressed out and I have had a couple of teachers tell me that the peak I think is around February during the school year for teachers and this year is coming a lot quicker so just keep that in mind. Everybody is working together well.

- ❖ Ray Cooper (Principal) – Prior to the beginning of the year Mr. Reid went through every single room, did an inventory of what all was in there, we made sure that we had the appropriate number of desks, and we took out any furniture that had to be removed. We just did the exact same thing in preparation for what might come down the pipe. Any non-essential furniture that is in their will have to be removed to do the best we can with the three feet regulation/recommendation. Each school is going to be different. Whatever we have to do to keep students and faculty/staff safe we are going to have to do it.
- ❖ Deann McManus (Parent) – Are principals going to get the feedback from the survey before next week?
- ❖ Ray Cooper (Principal) – I am not sure. I would like to see it, but ultimately, I don't make the decisions so wouldn't really matter if I was able to see it or not. Whether I have that data or not is good. I am going to get a directive and we are going to make it work to the best we can.
- ❖ Zeb Reid (Assistant Principal) – I would like to say that I know Mrs. Lyles, Mr. Cooper, and myself no matter what situation it has been, we have been here the entire summer trying to get ahead of things every step of the way, just like right now. It is a tough time for teachers and everybody in education and I just want to thank our teachers and our staff at Mid-Carolina because they are doing an outstanding job.
- ❖ Ray Cooper (Principal) – They really are. One of the things to remember is that we reinvented school in a very short amount of time. A lot of good things have come out of it. Technology has been one of those good things. Another example is in the past when a teacher was out, that was a major problem with the loss of instruction. You can set up plans and do some things of that nature, but without having the teacher in the building it is hard to continue the education you are now. We have had some scenarios where teachers have had to quarantine too due to close contact and they have continued to teach their students via student laptops from their homes to the classrooms. I walked in a classroom the other day and saw students with headphones on. I walked around the desk and saw the teacher on the student's laptop talking away and teaching her heart out. She was doing it from home and hadn't missed a beat. So, in some regards there are some things that have come out of technology that are really great. There are some other areas that are not ideal, we know that. I want to make it clear that every educator in here and every administrator here, our top priority is that we want our students back, we miss our students, it is not the same with not having all of them here. All of the little fun things that we normally do during the year we are not able to do. There are a lot of things that are taking place that none of us like. Ultimately, we want to get back to normal because quite frankly it is not fun. It is not fun standing at a football game and trying to tell people to wear a mask or to sit apart from each other. People don't like that and we don't like doing it either, but it is the state of what we are in. Our teachers have taken the technology and have done better than what I think anyone imagined they would be able to do with it.
- ❖ Emma Grace Connelly (Student Body President) – Personally I think that technology is great, and it is nice to learn. Student Council has been at school working in separate groups staying socially distanced. It is great getting back in the classroom. I am not personally at the building this year. All of my class are at Piedmont Tech but some students I know feel that technology at the school is working great, they feel safe, and they are getting the information. I would love to go back especially for Student Council and for our events. I miss the Homecoming events especially because it is my senior year. It has been a rough year for everybody, but we are adapting, and if we can just fight for our traditions then we will be great.
- ❖ Ray Cooper (Principal) – There are a lot of things that everyone is missing right now and we miss it too. With education you can't replace a good teacher. Having a great teacher every single day is something that we all want to get back to. As we are making these decisions there is a lot that goes into it including safety. Having our students back in the building four days a week would be an ideal situation. We don't want to have a revolving door of having students out and have to be quarantined every fourteen days that is not a great scenario either. On another note this is a districtwide decision, it is not a Mid-Carolina decision. Every school is going to be a little different on what they can do and what they can't do. Some are going to be in a better situation than others. Everyone is going to have their challenges. I am not here to make decisions, I am here to get feedback and it has been great feedback thus far. Speaking on behalf of the teachers, the parents have been doing a great job. I have two kids myself and I know it is not easy. Having a kid that has been quarantined as well. We are parents too. My own son was quarantined so I went through that whole scenario for fourteen days and the emotional roller coaster that is involved with it. More so with my wife, but we got her to a good place.
- ❖ Janet Davenport (School Nurse/Band Booster Vice-President/Parent) – Those phone calls are so difficult because we don't want the students out. I had to quarantine my own child and one of my best friends' children the same day. Those phone calls are so hard because at least they are in school two days, but now I am having to send them home for fourteen days. I am in a weird situation because I do have two kids in the district, but I am also the school nurse and I have to follow these guidelines that I was told that I have to follow. We all want the students there and the last thing we want to do is exclude a student.

- ❖ Ray Cooper (Principal) – It worries us when coming back four days because that four days becomes a bigger deal because it is now eight days face to face instruction. Teachers will have to plan differently. That is not to say that we don't want them to come back four days. Everything has its pros and cons. We don't want to have to send students home to sit for fourteen days, we want kids here.
- ❖ Sarah Bridges (Teacher) - I have watched some of the school board meetings, not all of them, but some of them and I have gotten the feeling that teacher concerns are not being addressed. I feel like I am drowning every day. I am not the only teacher feeling this way. I feel like the school board of this district are not taking teacher concerns into account as much as the parents' concerns into account.
- ❖ Deann McManus (Parent) – What is your sub list looking like? I know some schools have fewer subs than we had access to last year.
- ❖ Ray Cooper (Principal) – Finding substitutes is very hard and we don't want to bring just anyone into the building. We have to make sure that they know all of our safety protocols. We use a lot of our support staff.
- ❖ Janet Davenport (School Nurse/Band Booster Vice-President/Parent) – We have one sub nurse for the district.
- ❖ Deann McManus (Parent) – Right, my point in all of that is as a parent of course I don't want my children or any child to be sick but the reality is we can do school without kids but we can't do school without adults.
- ❖ Jason Barnes (Parent) – Agrees with Ms. Bridges and hears those same complaints a lot from teachers. Get with your school board representative. I have talked to several and several of them are aggravated with our district office and are pushing them to be more proactive. I have talked to several of them and they are concerned with the teachers and with students getting behind. They are aware of the substitute teacher issue. I hope that this school district office is being proactive because Chapin, I believe two weeks ago, started their four day in elementary so there are lessons to learn there that we need to be looking at. Also, not that I am in favor of or agree with it but high school will be the last to phase in as of right now. I would rather see it done the other way. I think that high schoolers are the ones getting behind very fast and they are limited on the years they have before college. We do have a high schooler. Jacob is at the career center taking a CAD class. He should be there five days a week, now he is there two. I am going to be honest with you it is not working. Those type of classes you have to be there with your hands on. The thing that really dawned on me during this meeting that the class he is in, I think, has three or four students in it. Could they not make an exception for them and let them go to class at least four days a week? I don't know who to ask. (Mr. Cooper told him Sarah Harvey at the Career Center would be his contact person.) These kids are getting behind fast and it is something Jacob is taking because he is thinking about doing it for a career.
- ❖ Jason & Julie Barnes (Parents) – The online Spanish I class is not working for our son at all. If I could have pulled him out of it I would have. He is struggling. Mid-Carolina is not the only school with this problem. I don't know who we got into that situation with Spanish.
- ❖ Ray Cooper (Principal) – It was an unfortunate situation. When we hired her and was in route that is when they blocked the visas for those coming into the United States. The powers that be and our Federal Government bared all of those visas from coming in. Those teachers are ready right now and are waiting. Unfortunately, there are very few Spanish teachers that are out there and available in a normal situation. We are in the same situation that a large majority of schools are in across the nation. I will follow up with you all one on one with your concerns.
- ❖ Sissy Delesandro (Secretary to the Principal) – I know all of the adults have been talking and we have received good feedback from all of them. I want to tell you guys that our administrators have been here and have not missed one day since all of this started in mid-March. Mr. Cooper really needs to take a vacation. They are all three constantly here. They have been beat up. People just don't know what ALL they have had to go through. Our nurse is doing an outstanding job. She is on top of everything. She gets beat up daily. It is a good thing that we all have thick skin. We can move on. We have one another to back one another. We are a family working together to get everything done. Our teachers are overworked and underpaid, I am an advocate for them. The people that we haven't heard from are our students. How do you, our students, feel about the current schedule versus return face to face four or five days a week?
- ❖ Emma Grace Connelly (Student Body President) – Personally I am at Piedmont online this year so I haven't been in school that much. What I seen going to the office and talking to you lovely people Ms. Chebbi and Mrs. Delesandro, it has been great seeing you all especially at the beginning of the year, the arrows have been helpful but confusing at first. Personally, I am missing my senior year it would be wonderful to go back and at least try to save what we can of the year honestly. I'm certain that if we all just put our heads together and be creative that we can all make it back. Maybe with a vaccine possibly, it all depends on how it plays out. I hope it works itself out.

- ❖ Jonathan “Jack” Gantt (Student) – I would much rather have a four-day face to face because I really miss being able to go to school. Virtual learning can get extremely boring especially since I have Engineering at the career center. That’s another one of those hands-on classes. Also, for social and academic reasons.
- ❖ Coleen Makoski (MCHS Teacher of the Year) – I am overwhelmed with concerns at this point. I think this meeting may have increased my anxiety. Going back to the plexiglass, I have to say that I don’t feel reassured about this one size fits all plexiglass, the cleaning and all of the time that it will take to do that. I am also concerned about our students falling behind and my biggest worry is that we do go back, we can’t maintain these three feet, the plexi enclosed, all of the precautions, and the new precautions. Then we have a bunch of students out. We have teachers planning for face to face and still planning for virtual for those students who are excluded. I am feeling a little more overwhelmed than when this meeting started, thinking it all through. I don’t mean to sound negative at all. It really comes from a place that I am really concerned about students falling behind in the hybrid scenario so if we were to have to go four days face to face and just the numbers for excluded students increase that I find is really challenging. Its going to be challenging balance for teachers to have to plan for all of those scenarios among other things.
- ❖ Zeb Reid (Assistant Principal) – The logistics of everybody coming back is going to totally change things in the cafeteria. The goal is to take as much off of teachers as possible. We want the teachers to have the opportunity to go to lunch and use the restroom as needed. In a situation like that we are going to have to go possibly back to the classroom to eat. There are still a lot of questions but we are working the best that we can to try and figure these things out.
- Additional Comments (submitted after the meeting by Mrs. Gwen Davenport, Athletic Booster Club President)
  - ❖ My thoughts are children need to be back in school five days per week. If four is the best I can get, then I will take four. While my child is a good student and CAN learn without being in the classroom, I know there are so many other students who cannot. My child has a strong support system at home, and I have had to spring into action and "teach" Geometry, Algebra II, English I and Computer Science this semester when he did not understand. Many children DO NOT have that support system. But my child, like so many others, needs the structure of a classroom and the professional teaching that I cannot provide. I know this puts pressure on faculty and staff, so faculty and staff need to be a part of the conversation up front. They need to be informed and they need to know the plan, weeks before the plan is implemented. They need to be given time to prepare and the tools to move forward. Our children are falling behind in so many areas and many will say, well it's all school children that this is happening to, and I will argue that it is NOT all. Districts located next to us have figured out a way to make 4-5 days per week happen. Saluda County, Laurens District 56 and now Lexington/Richland District 5 has a plan in place to move to 4 days per week. If they can do it, we certainly can too. If we need to talk to those districts and learn from them, we certainly should. We have to regain and move towards normalcy, and we need to do it with an urgency. Our children are depending on us to make the right decisions for them. My child needs structure. My child needs teachers. My child needs social interaction. My child needs sports. My child needs school. They ALL do.
- Positive Share
  - ❖ Athletic Update – Mr. Zeb Reid, Assistant Principal
    - Girls’ Tennis Region 4 AAA Region Champs – 1<sup>st</sup> Round of Playoffs, Oct. 20 versus Daniel High School
    - Varsity Volleyball Region 4 AAA Region Champs – 1<sup>st</sup> Round of Plays, Oct. 27
    - Girls’ Cross-Country Region 4 AAA Region Champs
  - ❖ Band Update – Kelli Fowler, Band Booster Club President:
    - Just finished up the first Krispy Kreme Doughnut fundraiser for the band. It was a huge success thanks to a lot of the teachers and staff at Mid-Carolina for purchasing donuts. Janet has been thinking out of the box to try and figure out how we can get fundraisers done and not have hand to hand contact.
    - Fruit sale is coming up as our yearly fundraiser. Hopefully this is going to be a really good turnout.
    - The first football game that band will attend will be this Friday.
    - The Band Booster Club have approved the purchase of a brand-new drum line. The current drum line is very, very old. We are very excited to equip this band with a brand-new drum line and hopefully we will get to show that off at the football game Friday night. I am not sure yet but I am hoping.
- Next virtual meeting - Monday, November 16, 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 6:20 p.m.