

**Minutes of a Meeting of the Board
Carolina School for Inquiry
Richland County, South Carolina
December 18, 2007**

Place and Time of Meeting

The regular meeting of the Carolina School for Inquiry was held at Carolina School for Inquiry, 7405-A Fairfield Road, Columbia, South Carolina, on Tuesday, December 18th, 2007 at 6:00pm pursuant to notice having been duly given to the media and all members of the Board in accordance with the rules of the Board.

Call to Order/Roll Call

The meeting was called to order at 6:17pm followed by a reading of the mission statement.

The following members were present:

Kathy Duffy-Thomas, Queen Bonaparte, Jeannie P. Eidson, Darlene S. Bell, Wilfred G. Rogers.

Approval Of Minutes

Jeannie made a motion to approve the minutes. Queen seconded the motion and it carried without discussion.

Public Comments:

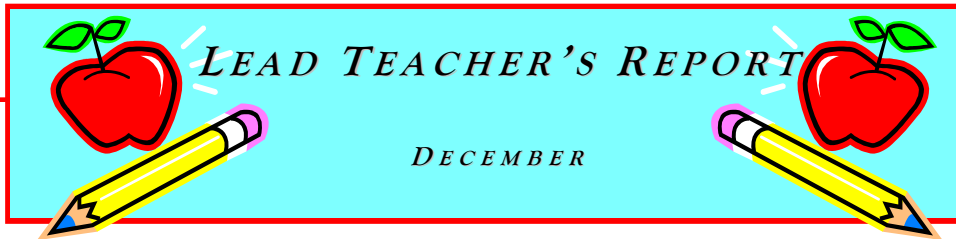
None

Business

Following the reading of the minutes, a motion was made by Jeannie and seconded by Queen to suspend the business part of the meeting until the January 15th 2008 meeting so that the board members could attend the Holiday Gala presented by the school.

Jeannie Eidson made a motion to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Wilfred and the meeting adjourned at 6:42pm.

Following the official adjournment of the meeting we were joined by Quinton Epps and Mark Roberts.

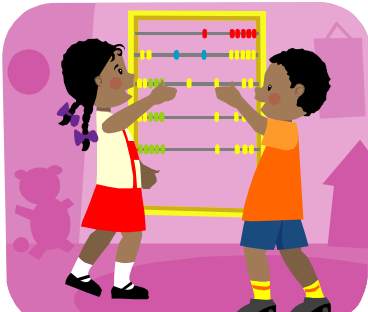


From the Desk of

CSI News...

It's been another great month at CSI. Some of the topics you will find featured in this report include the following:

- Continued partnerships of services through Richland School District One
- Curriculum Specifics
- Outreach to the Community



- New CSI Community Partnerships
- Recent and Upcoming Happenings

Technology Update

We purchased 6 desktops computers for each teacher and 3 projectors for the Upper/Elementary classrooms

Richland School District One

Meeting with Dr. Ora Watson-The meeting requested by the CSI Board of Directors with Dr. Watson has been tentatively set for January 22, 2007. The time and place is TBA.

Pact Modifications

The office of testing and research evaluation has requested information for students who require oral administration /small group testing. CSI has submitted requests for 10 students 7 of whom have IEP's.

Principal's Meeting-held at Dreher High School on December 13th. Pints for discussion included: district staffing, personnel information and SASI updates.

SASI Training-I attended the state SASI training on December 11, 2007 form 9:00-4:00 pm. My next training meeting is scheduled for January 24, 2008. Although Mrs. Brown primarily handles SASI I want to make sure that someone else knows how to manipulate the program as well.

Food and Nutrition-CSI receives warm meals for breakfast and lunch. The R1 food services department communicates with CSI daily.

We purchased a deep freezer for the kitchen to hold our perishable and frozen food items. All expenses will be noted in the December finance report.

Curriculum Specifics

Curriculum Explorations Night

In an effort to be responsive to CSI families and the CSI Board of Directors, the focus of the December Curriculum Explorations Night focused on (please see the attached PowerPoint):

The definition of inquiry and how it fits into a multi-age setting

Assessments: Summative & Formative

The teachers also invited families to their learning communities to hear and see what inquiry might look and sound like in their learning communities. The staff also performed a skit to help foster questions and clear up misconceptions. Trina was present as another curriculum support for the teachers.

Teachers were strongly encouraged to make personal contact with families inviting them to Curriculum Explorations Night. I also made personal phone calls. Please see attendance percentages: **Total CSI 60%**

Gholz-94% Boulware 71%

Richards 58% Washington 51%

Johnson 46% Samuels 38%

Curriculum (Mathematics)

Primary teachers (Ashley and Wanda) are in the process of administering the Ohio State Assessment. This assessment takes about 45 minutes to an hour for each child. This assessment involves a lot of hands on manipulation of mathematical concepts. Please see attached for more information about this assessment.

Early/Upper Elementary students are using the StudyIsland assessment. Some important data was lost when someone tried to make changes. Please see the saved information under Study Island.

Curriculum Conversations

November 21

Understanding the Responsive Teaching Cycle Teachers were asked to bring data for three students to the meeting. I demonstrated how to use the RTC to strategically to inform the teaching and meet individual student needs. Teachers were provided direct feedback from colleagues during this session. Teachers were required to observe a peer and conduct an RTC with detailed feedback. Forms are posted in the teacher's workroom for teachers to offer more feedback.

November 28

How do we showing that we are intentionally teaching our students? How do you know your students are learning? What do you do if the student already knows the skill or concept? What do you have in front of you when you sit down t plan? What makes CSI stand out form the other schools in the district? What are we doing better and differently?

December 4

What is Inquiry and how does it look and sound in your learning community?

December 11

Dominie and MSV-It is a big disadvantage for teachers to administer the Dominie assessment (reading portion) without analyzing the miscues/not mistakes. I demonstrated this process for the teachers and we had grand discussion how this process really informs the teachers as to what kind of reader each child is and can intentionally meet student needs and strategically form small groups for instruction. *More on this in Upcoming Happenings*

December 17

Inquiry and Science- to be present by Dr. Sue Carstensen founder board member and professor at USC.

Outreach to the Community

School wide Community Outreach for the 2007

- **October** Walk for Life
- **November**-Dimes for Turkeys CSI collected over \$70 dollars We also collected over 600 cans that were taken to Harvest Hope
- **December**-Collection of Coats for the needy-we have over 50 coats/sweaters
Crane Creek Community Screening Clinic-over 80% of fulltime staff was present

Determined Needs Assessment (DNA)

After completing and analyzing all Dominie assessments we will group students according to strategy strength or weakness across grade levels and provide Explicit Direct Instruction (once a week).

Newly Formed CSI Partners

Dr. John Boyd will offer free vision screening services to the students and families at CSI.

Dr. Clarence Dollison (Pediatrician) will provide free health screenings for the students and families at CSI.

SCREC donated 100 binders to CSI and has pledged to help promote the school in the community through their correspondence throughout Richland County.

Dr. Tracy Middleton and Jennifer Poole both from Benedict College in the College of Education will work along CSI staff in areas of placing student teachers and Curriculum and Development (kid-Watching)

The **Smart Center** will offer free dental screenings for the students of CSI.

Recent and Upcoming and Upcoming Events

Curricular Conversations held weekly
Scholastic book Fair Dec-3-17, 2007

- Favorite Hat Day
- Books for Breakfast Day
- Favorite Character Dress Up Day
- Grandparents Day
- Spirit Day
- Family Day

December 6-School surveys were distributed to CSI families. I'm in the process of collecting and organizing the data. Student surveys have also been completed.

December 7-SEAS students from USC in the Department of Marine Biology visited the students at CSI and provided hands on learning

December 11-Principals Tea

December 18-Holiday Gala

News for the New Year

The Upper Elementary teachers are still finding it quite difficult to effectively meet the grade levels standards for 4th and 5th grades. We have decided for Mr. Richards to teach Mathematics and Science and for Mrs. Johnson to teach Social Studies and Science. The classes are still multiage.

We were also pondering an idea of doing single gender to help with the continuous discipline issues that interfere with learning. Research states that boys and girls learn differently. We are in contact with David Chadwell from the State Department of Education and also the administration at a local elementary school who has implemented single gender classrooms in grades four and five and are in their first year of implementation. Mr. Richards and Mrs. Johnson are both excited about the possibility. I spoke with Dr. Watson in regard to piloting this program and she has given the district's approval. I will double check with Donna Hammett to ensure that it is not a material change to the charter.