

AJW School Improvement Council (SIC) Meeting

April 26th, 2023 @ 9:00 am

Attendance: Demond Criss, Renee Davis, Johanna Hartmann, Katrina Woffard-West Greenville, Nicole Ream, Michelle Liggett- Project Host

- Garden/playground updates: local landscaper reworked the sprinkler system and french drains were also installed for playground- all donated
- A. J. Whittenberg is piloting a program called ECO Kids Garden Club with an organization called Caregivers of Mother Earth. This garden club is a multigenerational project that involves many partners like the KROC Center, Boys and Girls Club, Furman University and The Woodlands at Furman. In this eight-week pilot program this spring, Doreen and Elle from Caregivers of Mother Earth and PTA Vice President of Outreach, Jessica Moss, are leading weekly gardening lessons with our Extended Day Program for 4th and 5th grade students. The pilot program will ignite and promote a 2023 - 2024 club open to more students at A. J. next year.
- Trying some afternoon activities with KROC and EDP. Trader Joes has been donating flowers. A reading space has also been put in
- PTA proposed new budget to continue to improve playground.
- West Greenville mentioned having a family night and or 1 on one parent workshops (done in the past to help parent questions)- teachers come and have parents come to create a community feel. Did meet the teacher at the playground for students with popsicles. Discussed game night, movies night, girl scout troop (Ebony White, Rachel Snow contact)
- West Greenville would like to have a standing position for SIC next school year
- We will discuss with Mr. Brice about possible meet the teacher with West Greenville around the Drive and other beginning of the year events. PTA could also have a table at this event.
- Discussed Math night to support parents on new concepts and how to teach.

Academics

- Preparing for SCREADY
 - Training (Test Administrators and Monitors) today after school
 - Incentives will be shared on Monday, May 8th to 3rd – 5th Grade students
- We will be hosting summer school at A. J. We are identifying students that need additional support to prepare them for the next grade level. Also, it is a requirement for our 3rd grade students that do pass the ELA test (reading) for SC READY.

Community

- Field Day – Scheduled for Friday, April 28th depending on the weather. Our school administration team and Coach Crenshaw will decide tomorrow morning about Field Day.
- We are celebrating Teacher Appreciation Week (Monday, May 1st – Friday, May 5th)
- SC READY begins Wednesday, May 10th – Wednesday, May 24th
- 3rd Annual 5th Grade vs. A. J. Staff on Thursday, May 25th (12:30 p.m. KROC Center)
- Thursday, May 25th – Awards Day begins. June 1st and June 2nd (Half – Days 11:45 dismissal). 6/2 last day of school

Partnerships

- Ticket Sale Challenge- This year we sold 277 tickets (note: best -ever in school performance since 2015). The Drive and A. J. are planning to provide the incentives for the students before the end of the year
- KROC – Partnering this summer with the Boys and Girls Club by agreeing the BGC to use our Gym this summer
- ECO Kids Garden Club (8 – Week Pilot with EDP)

- Discussed clothes closet and uniform drive. Possibly making it open for the spring and upcoming school year. Maybe awards day? The half days with party events? Will work on giving PTA dates to open the closet. Goal is to make sure parents know it is for everyone.
- New meeting May 17th @9- will look at SIC interest

