



January 2026 STERLING SCHOOL SIC MEETING MINUTES

Sterling School SIC Meeting Minutes

Date: January 8, 2026

Time: 8:36am

Location: Sterling School/CTC

Attendees: David Bernardy, Lindsay Berry, Allison Champion-Wescott, Deborah Foulkes, Sarah Frick, Erikah Haavie, Danielle Hansen, Randolyn Harmon, Christy Guth, Liene Kukainis, Ashleigh Ledford, Chloe McGoogin, Glenda Morrison-Fair, Cate O'Brien, Josh Patterson, Kathryn Pavia, Catherine Schumacher, Katie Stutz, Liz VanDommelen, Chelsea Waller, Tiffany Walsh, Christi Wagner

Call to Order

Time: 8:36am

Teacher Share/Highlights – Ashleigh Ledford/Cate O'Brien (Sterling Primary), David Bernardy (Sterling Elementary), Christy Guth (CTC Elementary), Liz VanDommelen (Middle School), Ashleigh Ledford (Related Arts) and Lindsay Berry (Counseling Dept.):

- **Sterling Primary 3K-2:**
 - 4K starting a project on sound and music, MS students will participate
 - 1st grade began researching for their informative writing unit
- **Sterling Elementary 3-5:**
 - 3rd grade engaged in Weather Alerts unit
 - 4th grade in collaboration with 3rd grade on poetry & folktale reading
- **Middle School:**
 - 6th grade had their medieval times festival
 - December 19th was Griffin Day
 - 7th grade ELA & Spanish completing “morality maze” based on *House Arrest* book
- **CTC Elementary:**
 - 4th graders wrapped up fractions & decimals unit at [The Sterling Slice](#)
- **Related Arts:**
 - First school-wide dodgeball tournament for 3-8 grades
 - First Annual Encore Performance Dec. 18th featuring band, orchestra & glee clubs
- **Counseling Department:**
 - Boys 2 Mentors meeting
 - LEO Santa Toy Drive was a success
 - Community Mentor Holiday Celebration took place in December
 - Students In Action had their “Wrap the World in Holiday Cheer”
 - Gift Giving: 85 children received gifts thanks to PTA and private donors!



Approval of Minutes

September Minutes: Approved by Catherine Schumacher & Tiffany Walsh

PTA School of Excellence Data Collection – Sarah Frick

- Fantastic response rate: 457 responses
- Overall extremely positive responses
- Top strengths:
 - Families feel welcomed and respected
 - Sterling communicates clearly and responsively
- Questions with high “unknown” responses – communication on this could be improved?
 - Community Partners provide useful services for my family in our school building
 - Community Partners provide services that are supportive of families from my culture
 - Community Partners help families improve their own educational level
- Connect the School with Community Partners: Do family and school teachers work closely with community organizations, businesses and institutions of higher learning?

Community Engagement Committee – Chloe McGoogin

Partners with local organizations and businesses to bring resources and opportunities into the school. Its efforts help connect students and families with the wider community for enrichment and support

- Committee volunteers: Allison Champion-Wescott, Christy Guth, Randolyn Harmon, Chloe McGoogin, Tiffany Walsh
- **Discussion on how to amp up:** Highlight community partners in *Griffins Connect* and offer way for readers to suggest/add, partner with PTA
- Need to differentiate between types of support SIC vs. PTA offers (service vs. funds), recognition would highlight what organization **does** vs. **provides**
- Possible partnership with Kindness Accelerator, a local non-profit organization with a mission to 'teach, inspire, and mobilize intentional kindness in our community and around the world'?
- Connection exists w/Nutrition and Engagement with SC State Research and Extension, conduct search for interested parents to proceed with forming a girls club to mirror the B2M program

2024-2025 SIC Initiatives Update

- **Family Engagement Task Force – Katie Stutz**
 - Looking at pairing buddy meeting with an event
 - Somewhat lackluster response to recent overtures, committee looking at how to move forward
- **Recycling/green team, Take Action SC – Liene Kukainis**
 - Deborah Foulkes coordinating, moving forward with starting club
- **Safe Routes to School from LiveWell – Sarah Frick**



Community Partner Updates

- Nicholtown Child & Family Collaborative – Randolyn Harmon
 - Thank you for the \$5,000 received from Sterling for Nicholtown families
 - Financial literacy program continues
- Public Education Partners: Catherine Schumacher & Erikah Haavie
 - 7-week school advocacy program, partnering with NCFC
 - Podcast series continues
 - School board elections upcoming

Principal's Report – Dr. Patterson

- Schoolwide spelling bee will take place January 15, 2026
- “Pancakes with the Principals” will be January 27, 2026 for students that participated in the Winter Reading Challenge
- On January 26, 2026 Sterling representatives will present at the SC Association for Teaching, Leading and Learning’s (SCATLL) annual conference in Columbia.
 - *Staff Infection: How Empowered Teachers Ignite Schoolwide Growth* will feature Mrs. Likens, Mrs. Merritt, Mrs. Moreira & Mrs. Wade
 - *Building Bridges for Student Success: Strengthening Tiered Partnerships* will feature Mrs. Auckland, Mrs. Doyle, Mrs. Howard & Dr. Patterson
- Ashleigh Ledford is a semi-finalist for the CMA Foundation Music Teachers of Excellence Award, and is entering phase 2 of the selection process. Finalists will be announced the first week of May
- City of Greenville police office on duty during afternoon dismissal to assist with traffic flow, \$65/hour paid from local funds for now
- School will have representatives attending the State Beta Convention January 21-23
- Glenda Morrison-Fair recognized for Board Appreciation Month

PTA Report – Tiffany Walsh

- Pebble path in process of being installed
- Eagle Scout-built gaga ball pit expected February at the latest
- PTA working with District on hammock garden installation process
- International Night will be February 6, 2026, preceded by general meeting at 4:15pm
- Spring teacher grants open in February

Adjournment

Time: 9:35am

Next Meeting: Sterling School, February 5, 2026 at 8:30am (Vegas room)