RLOACS Board Meeting

Meeting Minutes February 16, 2016

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Present:   Absent: | Dr. Rob McBrayer, Chair; Sheree Darien, Secretary; Greg Chambers, Treasurer; Amleht Alston (phone); Anne Bridgers; Brandi Freeman; Pershawn Patterson; Dr. Karen Wicks, Executive Director; Les Wicks, Facilities Development; Bill Moser, Kelly-Moser Consulting; Brian Morse, Assistant Principal; Ryan Floyd, STEM/PBL Coordinator and the RLOACS Robotics Team  Eunice Spilliards, Vice-Chair, and Sergio Nuno |
| Venue: | Student Dining Hall |
|  |  |
|  |  |

A quorum was present.

* **Old business:** 
  + **Open Meeting** - Chair

The meeting was called to order at 6:32 pm. Greg Chambers made a motion to start the meeting; Ms. Anne Bridgers seconded the motion, and the motion carried.

* + **Approval of Minutes of January 19, 2016 Board Meeting**  – A motion was made by Brandi Freeman and seconded by Pershawn Patterson to accept the minutes of the January 19th Board Meeting, and the motion carried.
* **New business:** 
  + **RLOA New Mission Statement** – The Chair read the mission statement.
  + **“Nothing But Net” Robotics Team Demonstration** – The meeting began with a demonstration by the students of RLOACS’s Robotics Team under the supervision of their teacher, Mr. Ryan Floyd, STEM/PBL Coordinator. The Chair requested to have the team perform a demonstration before both county council and city councils. Dr. Wicks stated (in order to do so) we must get on their agenda. In each of their past challenges they ranked as follows: #1 in South Carolina for the Robot Skills Challenge, #1 in South Carolina for the Programming Skills Challenge, among the Top 9% in the World for the Robot Skills Challenge, and Top 9% in the World for Programming Skills Competition. They have been Robot Skills champions 4 times, Programming Skills champions twice, have received a design award, and have been competition finalists and semi-finalists twice.
  + **Finance Report for November/December 2015** – Bill Moser presented and reviewed the January Finance Report and budget. Dr. Wicks advised the board of the need to revisit the fund balance due to the need of quality staff (to have competitive advantage, mainly salaries). Brandi Freeman made a motion to approve the January budget, and Pershawn Patterson seconded the motion. The motion carried.
  + **Update on Building, Finance, and Architectural Work** – 1) Modular Buildings: OSF Director Delisa Clark visited and requested documentation on the foundation, which delayed the Certificate of Occupancy. The documentation has been provided and we await the C.O. 2) New Campus: Update - Ms. Clark reviewed and approved the final architectural drawings. The initiation of the bidding process will begin once the USDA and bonding process is complete—expected in late March.
* **School Updates:**
* **Enrollment:** As of February 12th enrollment remains steady at 550. Dr. Wicks reported enrollment is increasing and the school has experienced a lot of activity within the last couple of weeks.
* **2015 School Performance Framework School Profile:** We received a draft of the performance profile. We rated Met in all financial areas. We had an area of concern that it was not rated properly—*Is the school following Generally Accepted Accounting Principles?—*which received a rating of *Does Not Meet Standard.* After email exchange between Bobby Rykard at the district, our auditor, Bill Moser, and Dr. Wicks, Bobby Rykard determined that we had in fact met standard. He will make the appropriate adjustment on the final version of the performance profile.
* **EVAAS (Education Value-Added Assessment) Rating:** The superintendent and assistant superintendent informed us that our school is only one of four district schools to receive an EVAAS rating of 5 (the highest rating) for student growth. We are awaiting details of what this means for our school.
* **Measures of Academic Progress (MAP) Formative Assessments in Reading and Math:** Spring administration has been moved to mid-April to provide students with more instruction and as part of their preparation for the English-Language-Arts and Math SC READY and PASS Science and Social Studies tests that begin at the end of April.
* **Elementary School:** Professional Learning Communities (PLC) meetings are now focusing on testing strategies and on the usage of Imagine Learning for literacy. The instructional support team is working closely with teachers to ensure that they are using best practices for planning and instruction.
* **Middle-High School:** 
  + We are developing incentive programs for students who reach their MAP math and reading growth goals. Ideas include raffling off prizes and/or field trips.
  + Mr. Morse reached out to the Palmetto Boys State program and has secured one position for this summer’s camp.
  + Mr. Morse is in the process of connecting with Business Week to offer to Young Scholars.
  + ***Athletics:*** Three basketball teams (boys’ middle school team, boys’ and girls’ varsity teams, and cheerleaders) completed their season last week. The athletic department is working on scheduling the games for soccer, track and field, and softball for the spring.
* **Literacy:** SC READY Prep: The 02/05/2016 meeting of 3-8 instructors focused on the kinds of question stems that students can expect on the SC Ready: inquiry, ESRB, text dependent. In addition, Ms. Blathers is providing testing support for TE21 Case Assessments, a free SC READY-style assessment. Digital programs that will simulate the online testing environment (via Journeys/Pearson) are already being used. Students are required to key in essay responses and answer multiple choice questions as they will be expected to in May. Independent Reading/Writing: ELA teachers are preparing to “gradually release” students to 100% unassisted reading. This will ensure that students have built the stamina required to focus on longer texts for longer periods of time. By April 1, all ELA courses will require 100% independent, assessed reading on at least a bi-weekly basis. ***Summer Reading Program:*** Ms. Ager is hard at work identifying students who must be Dominie tested for Summer Reading. The State Department specified the acceptable assessments this year (Dominie, DRA or Fountas and Pinnell). We have given the Dominie in the past, so have selected it. The assessment date is yet to be determined but likely next week.
* **Young Scholars:** Our High School-Young Scholars participated in the Model United Nations at Georgia Southern University in Statesboro, GA February 5-6. It was a perfect simulation of empathy, respect in the midst of different opinions, and friendly and “unfriendly” (official terminology) amendments toward resolutions.  Mr. Dixon, Mr. Survine, and Mrs. Chaves could not have been more impressed with this professional setting and the performance of our high schoolers. Our Kenya delegation received the Distinguished Delegation Award.  All of our young scholars were outstanding at overcoming their fear of public speaking and networking with other talented students.
* **ESOL** began ACCESS testing on February 2nd. This test measures students’ language growth in the areas of Reading, Writing, Speaking, and Listening on the ACCESS 2016 test.  The ESOL team has been working diligently targeting each area as needed to ensure more students’ success.  Our goal is to exit more students from the program this year and promote more students to the monitoring status.
* **Project Lead the Way/Science Technology Engineering Arts Math/Problem-Based Learning:**
  + ***TransformSC:*** The revised version of our TransformSC application was submitted on February 10th after receiving feedback from Betty Bagley and Renee Mathews.
  + ***AdvanceEd STEM Certification:*** We are moving forward with AdvancED STEM Certification now that the TransformSC application has been submitted. We also have mapped out our plan to move forward with AdvancED accreditation over the course of next year with site visits occurring at the beginning of the 2017-2018 school year once we move into our new school. Both TransformSC and AdvanceEd will attract more students, particularly high school students.
  + ***College Board Advanced Placement Classes:*** We are in the planning stages to offer Advanced Placement courses in Biology, History, and possibly English for next school year.
  + ***Additional High School Electives:*** We have developed a budget for next year to add Computer Science, Software Engineering, and Aerospace courses.
  + ***Grant:*** We have completed our $10,000 grant proposal to Verizon to fund a middle school Computer Science program.
  + ***Robotics:*** The Robotics Team is competing the weekend of February 12th. They are presenting to the Board at the February 17th Board meeting and at the February 17th Jasper Business Breakfast. Ms. Bridgers commended Dr. Wicks on the Robotics Team and concurred with her decision to award the incentives to the teachers in appreciation of the recent recognition.
  + ***Science Fair:*** The Science Fair will take place on March 16th.
* **Special Education:** Current number of students receiving special education services is 39. There are 3 students in the evaluation process; 11 district submissions have been completed within the required timelines.
* **Response to Intervention (RtI):** Interventionists are working in every grade level with Tier 2 and Tier 3 students to advance their skills as we prepare students for at least 1.5 years of growth on the spring reading and math MAP performance.
* **Beta Club**: Every member of the 45-strong Beta Club maintained the B average required to retain active membership. Along with the announcement at the 2/5/2016 meeting, students will be offered an opportunity for an educational tour in Charleston on March 16 including Patriot’s Point, Middleton Place and the Fort Sumter Visitor Education Center. RLOA Beta has standing invitations for service at NHC (Bluffton) and Ridgeland Nursing Center. Service trips were postponed to allow maximum time on task and seat time for students. However, we will attempt a few short service trips in the near future. A number of students met the requirements for Beta induction after Semester 1. The Beta Advisory Team suggests growing the membership as soon as possible to promote increased accountability among the students and raise the profile of the club on campus. As a result, spring membership drive will begin on February 15 and conclude February 29.
* **Technology (IT):** 
  + *Imagine Learning* - The update was installed, but not much seems to have changed with our issues of logging in. This means that it has to be in relation to our network. Ms. Moore is researching other ways to set up the network that may help to speed it up. It may be that the access points can’t support the amount of Chromebooks trying to attach to them at one time.
  + *Phone Paging* – We are waiting for a response from XBLUE with more ideas for the paging functions on the phones. The last idea didn’t work, but maybe because there is something configured incorrectly.
  + *Federal Asset Inventory*: We are beginning the Federal Asset Inventory for the district audit that begins February 24th.
* **Playground:** Hardeeville City Council Support Council donated $1,500 to Grade 5’s playground dream on February 4. The children still want to do a talent show fundraiser, and Councilman Harry Williams supports this. PTO Vice President C. Fogle confirmed that the $1,200 raised through the Mixed Bag Fundraiser will be donated to the playground fund. A total of $5,800 has been raised so far toward our goal of $15,000 to install the donated playground.
* **Marketing:** 
  + ***February Edition of the Student Newspaper:*** A copy is in the Board packet. Mr. Morse will revisit the newspaper and meet with students and Mr. Bond to ensure that the newspaper reflects the elements we expect from Royal Knights, as some of the language is not appropriate.
  + ***Jasper County Men’s Breakfast:* BOARD REMINDER *–*** We are hosting the Jasper County Men’s Breakfast on Wednesday, February 17th, 8:30-10:00am. Members of the community from Ridgeland and Hardeeville are attending.
  + ***Community Coffee with the Principal:*** We are hosting a Community Coffee with the Principal for Wednesday, February 24th, 8:30-10:30, to help the community see the great learning going on at RLOA.
  + ***Social Media:*** We are continuing to promote our social media presence through Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram. We are encouraging students, parents, and friends to like and follow the pages so they can keep up-to-date on RLOA happenings.
  + ***Billboards:***We have 5 billboards at strategic locations in the area.
* **Public Comment** – No public comment.
* **Executive Session**- None
* **Motion to Adjourn** – With no further business to discuss, at 7:48pm Anne Bridgers made a motion to adjourn, which was seconded by Brandi Freeman. The motion carried.