RLOACS Board Meeting

Meeting Minutes May 17, 2016

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| Present: Absent: | Dr. Rob McBrayer, Chair; Eunice Spilliards, Vice-Chair; Greg Chambers, Treasurer; Sheree Darien, Secretary; Anne Bridgers; Sergio Nuno; Amleht Alston – via phone; Dr. Karen Wicks, Executive Director; Les Wicks, Facilities Development; Bill Moser, Kelly-Moser Consulting – via phone; Dr. LaQuandra Stevenson, Elementary Assistant Principal; Brian Morse, Middle-High Assistant Principal; Ryan Floyd, STEM/PBL Coordinator.  Pershawn Patterson |
| Venue: | Student Dining Hall |
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A quorum was present.

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

The meeting was called to order at 6:37 pm by Chair McBrayer.

* + **Approval of Minutes of April 19, 2016 Board Meeting** – A motion was made by Eunice Spilliards and seconded by Sergio Nuno to accept the minutes of the April 19th Board Meeting, and the motion carried.
* **New business:** 
  + **RLOA New Mission Statement**– The Chair paraphrased the mission statement.
  + **Finance Report for April 2016 with Second Reading of the FY17 Budget** – April finance reports were reviewed in detail noting various lines throughout which resulted in adjustments in the budget and fund balances. FY16 budget third reading – the budget will be approved at the next board meeting. Books are currently kept at modified accrual. P & L statements contain full accrual balance sheets in real time showing assets and liabilities. Bill has referred Greg Chambers, Board Treasurer, to the CPA for the previously requested financial documentation.

* + **Consent Agenda Revision –** The chair made a motion to revise the consent agenda for staff presentations. Eunice Spilliards seconded the motion and the motion carried.
  + **Staff Presentations –** Ryan Floyd updated the board on the robotics team’s competition success, thanked supporters of recent trip to Kentucky and shared numerous awards received including a plaque from the Jasper County Council acknowledging the team as World Champions. The team is preparing to mentor three additional schools and planning to pursue Advanced Education and STEM certification accreditation. Both Dr. Stevenson and Mr. Morse gave a detailed review of the areas of growth as well as opportunities for improvement in student growth based on recent MAPP data results.
  + **Update on Modular Buildings and New Campus Building, Finance, and Architectural Work** – Les Wicks provided the Board with documentation from a recent teleconference regarding the bidding process**.** Closing is tentatively set for the end of June/1st of July.There is an opportunity to save on joint bids for site work, builder, and the cost of bonding by the architects and engineers.
  + **Board Vacancy and Training:** The Board was reminded that we need an educator to meet the board standards. Eunice suggested Vickie Roberts for board consideration. She will confirm her interest in serving. Other educators may be suggested at the next meeting. Greg Chambers noted his educational background as optional educator or business Board representation. The appropriate Board representation must consist of 50% business professionals and 50% education per the charter. Board training with Dr. Brazel is scheduled for 6:30pm Thursday, May 31, 2016 at Truffles in Bluffton, SC.
  + **School Performance Framework and 2015 School Performance Profile –** The Board was issued a copy of the school’s 2015 performance profile. Dr. Wicks expects a 50% increase in the schools overall academic results specifically in reading and math.
* **School Updates:**
* **ENROLLMENT:** As of May 17th enrollment remains steady around 560. Enrollment and waitlists for next school year are very promising. We currently show full enrollment K-8 with a waitlist of over 100. High school numbers are somewhat better than this year. We are looking at adjustments in advertising to target the high school population. Over the summer months we will see changes in enrollment.
* **STEAM/PBL/PLTW:**
  + **Robotics:** On May 16th, Jasper County Council gave the Robotics Team special recognition at the County Council meeting in Ridgeland. The school received a large plaque, and each student received an individual plaque. The team received a proclamation and a rousing round of applause. The team has raised over $7,000, which not only paid for the trip to the world championship but also provides funds for next year. The team is offering a one-week robotics camp in June for 23 lucky students. The charge is $50 per student. These funds will pay for the costs of the camp and provide some money for robotics parts. We will have two high school and one middle school robotics teams next school year. In addition, interested middle and high school students will be able to participate in the Technology Science Association state and national competitions.
  + **TransformSC:** Dr. Wicks and Mr. Floyd participated in the TransformSC Action Team meeting in Lexington on Thursday, May 12th. This group is planning three TransformSC Institutes and one conference for the 2016-17 school year. There will be several additional follow up meetings and visits to other schools. Dr. Wicks, Mr. Floyd, and Ms. Blathers visited Saluda Trail Middle School in Rock Hill on Monday, May 16th. This school is a TransformSC school that is both PBL and STEAM centered. We came back with many ideas and opportunities for collaboration.
    - * At the May 12th meeting TransformSC Action Team Meeting, Dr. Wicks was invited to participate in a group of transformational school leaders who will take school leaders’ ideas and concerns to the state superintendent, governor, and legislators.
  + **Project-Based Learning:** We are in the process of planning our PBL for next school year, and this summer a team of teachers will work with Mr. Floyd, Ms. Blathers, and the assistant principals in developing the projects for the school year.
  + **AdvancEd STEM Certification:** On May 17th Dr. Barringer from AdvancEd met with Mr. Floyd, Ms. Blathers, and Dr. Wicks to discuss the timeline for next school year. Administrators will need to review a lengthy document that outlines what we need to do
* **Elementary School**:
  + Planning for the June 1, 2, and 3 moving-up ceremonies for Kindergarten, 5th, and 8th grades has been finalized.
  + MAP testing has been completed. SC READY tests have been completed, and SC PASS tests were administered the week of May 16th .
  + Elementary teachers have assessed the effectiveness of Imagine Learning, a software program for reading and language that the district recommended we use this year. We have been plagued with technology challenges that the company has not been able to solve. The teachers do not believe that the program is effective for our school. Imagine Learning assured us that the program would work on Chromebooks, but it has not worked well at all. We will not be renewing the license for next school year.
  + MAP Growth Award activities have been planned for May 23rd and 24th at Tuten Park in Ridgeland. Over 200 students qualified. Dr. Stevenson will go over the results of MAP growth with the Board at the May 17th meeting.
* **Middle-High School:** 
  + Mr. Williams, high school history teacher, was honored by WTOC as the Teacher of the Week and featured on the news.
  + We held our first Athletic Banquet on Thursday, May 12th, and it was a great success.
  + Blitzes for History, Biology, English I, and Algebra I took place over a three-week period in preparation for the tests the week of May 23rd.
  + MAP Growth Award activities have been planned for May 23rd and 24th on the soccer field. Mr. Morse will go over the results of MAP growth with the Board at the May 17th meeting..
* **Literacy:**
* Open Ebook Access: Elementary Ebook access letters went home. Every elementary student now has I-Pad or Android access to 10 E-rentals at any time for free. Letters for middle school and high school were distributed on Thursday, May 12.
* DRA2: Staff is entering kindergarten’s DRA2 data taken from the end of the year assessments.
* Summer Reading Program will commence June 6. Letters have been sent home to parents and contact has been made with them. The program’s theme is ‘Journey to Ooka Island’ where good readers live. The curriculum will focus on building vocabulary skills, reading strategies to improve fluency and comprehension skills, and reflective writing. Students were preassessed using the DRA2 assessment tool to determine the starting point for each child. This will help teachers and interventionists personalize learning for each child.
* Contact has been made with vendors assisting with the summer program and we are still awaiting a response from two vendors.
  + The RLOA Talent Show is scheduled for May 19th and the DRAMA Club is well on its way with making certain that the show reflects a professional and attractive scene. We are grateful for our volunteers and the Royal team that works together to make it all happen.
* **English as a Second or Other Language (ESOL)/Young Scholars**:
  + RLOA’s State Title III Audit went very well. We are waiting for the audit report; however, the auditor was extremely complimentary of our program and said we are among the best in the state. Classroom Teacher Communication forms for the middle of the quarter have been distributed for monitoring students. Forms will be collected next week. We will follow up as needed. There are pockets of improvement that still need to happen and we will work towards it. Kudos to our ESOL department for making the district and the charter movement proud. A letter from the auditor will be released as soon as the district receives it.
  + Our next audit will be the Title I Audit. The Title I binder is being prepared and final documentation is being gathered
  + ESOL is providing small group accommodations during MAP testing. Summer Reading folders are being prepared. MAP updates are being filed in ESOL folders and data charts are being prepared to provide feedback on services for next year. Teachers and paraprofessionals are working on binding A-Z books and student workbooks for next year by grade level. Math booklets are being prepared by grade standards.
  + Young Scholars are finalizing their electronic travel brochures for Cultures Day. Isabella Couch has been diligently hard at work creating the Egao application. The purpose of the app as envisioned by Jailynn Primus and Mrs. Chaves is to bring encouragement and positivity into people's lives. The parent/teacher conference went very well, and Mr. Dixon sent an email and a text message to the parents that were not in attendance to inform them of all that was discussed and what we need them to do to support Cultures Day. Ms. Enid from  *La Isla Magazine* was informed about Kenia Romero's acceptance into the Governor's School for the Arts and Humanities and called to interview her about her acceptance. The interview will be featured in a future edition of *La Isla* along with an expose about Kenia and Alana (Sasha) Couch. Cultures Day will take place on May 20th. Young Scholars will lead the activity with collaboration of the Art Department, ESOL, parents and guests.
* **RLOA Playground**: The Sun City Fundraiser: The fifth graders had a wonderful time entertaining Sun City residents on Friday night, May 13th, and they raised $426 toward paying off their current playground balance. The experience (and the excellent performance) will likely net us even more opportunities with that community in the future. When we receive the video, we’ll put some clips together for us to use in advertisements.
* **Public Comment** – No public comment.
* **Executive Session** – None
* **Motion to Adjourn** – With no further business to discuss, at 8:57pm Chair McBrayer made a motion to adjourn, which was seconded by Greg Chambers. The motion carried.