RLOACS Board Meeting

Meeting Minutes April 19, 2016

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| Present: Absent: | Dr. Rob McBrayer, Chair; Eunice Spilliards, Vice-Chair; Greg Chambers, Treasurer; Sheree Darien, Secretary; Anne Bridgers; Amleht Alston; Sergio Nuno; Pershawn Patterson – via phone; Dr. Karen Wicks, Executive Director; Les Wicks, Facilities Development; Bill Moser, Kelly-Moser Consulting – via phone; Mr. Darus Williams, Social Studies Dept. Chair and Student Government representative Imani James  None |
| Venue: | Student Dining Hall |
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A quorum was present.

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

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 pm by Chair McBrayer.

* + **Approval of Minutes of March 15, 2016 Board Meeting** – A motion was made by Greg Chambers and seconded by Sergio Nuno to accept the minutes of the March 15th Board Meeting, and the motion carried.
* **New business:** 
  + **RLOA New Mission Statement**– The Chair read the mission statement.
  + **Finance Report for March 2016 with Second Reading of the FY17 Budget** – Dr. Karen Wicks asked how dollars spent for the new campus appear on the finance report. Specifically, how will the funds be represented within the reports? In addition, Greg Chambers asked if both assets and liabilities can be represented on the finance/audit reports (as they were not included on the March 2016 report; Greg was presently awaiting confirmation from Bill Moser). Mr. Moser concurred with both Wicks and Chambers stating it will provide the board with an overall (financial) big picture and transparency. Mr. Moser then reviewed the FY17 budget making mention of a few line items. No vote was necessary since this was the second reading of the FY17 budget. Greg Chambers made a motion to accept the March Finance Reports and Ann Bridgers seconded the motion. The motion carried.
  + **Update on Modular Buildings and New Campus Building, Finance, and Architectural Work** –1) Per Les Wicks, in less than 45 days the financing will be complete. A condition was raised regarding the existing lease (10 year lease/renew). The concern is where funding will be obtained after relocating to the new campus until fulfillment of the lease. Les stated the facility would continue to be operated as a business earning revenue to pay the existing lease expenses, noting the property is positioned well in relation to the county’s proposed growth and new port.
  + **Board Vacancy and Training:** Chair McBrayer advised the board of Brandi Freeman’s recent resignation. Dr. Wicks reminded everyone that the appropriate board representation must consist of 50% business professionals and 50% education per the charter. Amleht suggested we bring the next individual on for the new school year. Dr. Wicks advised May 31 as the tentative date for board training with Dr. Brazel. Confirmation will be emailed.
* **School Updates:**
* **Enrollment:** As of April 15 7th enrollment remains steady around 560.
* **County and State Recognition:** On April 9th RLOA and the co-founders were honored at the Jasper County Chamber of Commerce’s Jasper on the Move by receiving the Business Education Partner 2016 award. Dr. Wicks was asked to make a presentation about closing the achievement gap at the SC Charter School Alliance Conference in Columbia on April 12th.
* **Robotics Team:**
  + The Robotics Team will be competing in the World Championship in Louisville, Kentucky April 20-23. A banner acknowledging the contributions of sponsors will be ready on April 18th.
  + The Team demonstrated their robot at the Jasper County Chamber of Commerce’s Jasper on the Move on April 9th and was able to raise over $1,000 at the event for their upcoming trip. They have now raised the entire $6,000 needed to pay for the trip’s costs.
* **STEAM/PBL/PLTW:** Blitzing for the upcoming End-of-Course tests in Biology, History, Algebra I, and English has begun. Action Plans for the 2016-17 school year are underway. Dr. Wicks and Mr. Floyd have been asked to make a presentation at the TransformSC Steering Committee meeting on April 18th in Chapin, SC.
* **Elementary School**:
  + K-6 is preparing for Professional Learning Communities next Wednesday by taking 20-30 minutes out of one of their days to visit a different teacher’s classroom to observe a lesson. On Wednesday, they will discuss what they saw.
* **Middle-High School:** 
  + In Professional Learning Communities teachers are focusing on professional reflection with the focus on data: What did the year produce? How will the teacher be affected? What will this mean for next year’s plans for Student Learning Objectives? What might the teacher’s EVAAS score look like for this school year? What might the student’s students say about him or her? Middle school teachers are conducting student surveys for feedback about their instruction and classroom environment.
* **Literacy:**
  + Summer Reading Program for Grades 2 and 3: In preparation, current 2nd and 3rd grade students will be assessed using DRA2 to determine their reading level. Students with the lowest scores will begin developing Interactive Working Word Lists. Teachers will be trained in the use of DRA2 next week.
  + Prep for Final English I Benchmark: The final English I benchmark will take place on Wednesday, April 20, 2016, because that is a lockdown day. We want to get that data back before the EOC to complete key last minute reviews.
  + Text Dependent Writing Support: Grade 6 completed their grade level conferencing on their TE21 results on 04/13. Students were surprised at the preciseness and swiftness of the scoring process and special score codes. Some sixth graders have shared their current practice papers with Mrs. Moss for review; we are dialoguing via Google Drive.
  + Innovative Approaches to Literacy: There is a May 9 deadline for this federal grant that could bring RLOA $175,000 to continue improving literacy instruction. The current literacy program as it is being coached, though supported by Journeys and Pearson products, is founded on Scarborough’s Reading Rope. The grant will be written using what we are already doing, what we have done through the summer program and what we hope to do in the next three, five and seven years respectively.
  + Open e-Books for All/RLOA Summer Reading: When we discussed implementing a full-on Summer Reading requirement for all students, there was some concern about where children would get the books and whether they would be able to do so. On April 14th, we secured free e-Book access for every student attending RLOA (K-11 and 2016’s 12) at their grade levels. This means that once First Book Marketplace sends us the codes, every child will be able to download ten e-books at a time on any iOS 7.0 or later or Android equivalent device with the Open eBooks app. Each child will receive one code and one pin for login.
  + The 100 Club: Walt Disney tickets have arrived for the raffle that will support the 100 Club’s community service project and reward. We are in the process of determining the specifics of the raffle. It’s a family pack--4 one-day hoppers for Disney Parks, so this could bring in major money to support a good cause.
* **English as a Second or Other Language (ESOL)/Young Scholars**:
  + RLOA’s district Title III Audit went very well. There are still recommendations by Mr. V. that the ESOL Department is working on at the moment. He is an expert in audits, and we are fortunate to be learning all of his tips. The State Audit visit will be on May 3rd. Classroom Teacher Communication forms for the middle of the quarter have been distributed for monitoring students. Forms will be collected next week. We follow up as needed. When there are no concerns, we just file them in ESOL folders for monitoring evidence.
  + Title I Surveys Update: The State Parent Survey has been completed. We are currently running the online district survey in the office. The survey ends on May 30th.
  + The Title III Parent Survey was handed out during dismissal on April 14th.Title III Surveys for teachers and administrators were provided April 14th as well. State Student Surveys were successfully conducted by 5th, 8th and 11th grade teachers the week of April 11th.
  + Young Scholars are refining their electronic travel brochure for cultures day on May 20th. Projects for classroom exhibits are being built at the moment highlighting each country’s geography, architecture, food, etc. Children are working on classroom murals with our art teacher Mr. Pope for Culture Day.
* **Beta Club:** A total of 18 students qualify for the Beta Club based on the last quarter’s grades. Of the current 49 who are members, 8 children are up for probation because of not meeting required grade average.
* **RLOA Playground:** Hardeeville City Councilman Harry Williams has organized a fundraising event for the 5th graders to raise the roughly $7,000 needed to make the final payment on the playground that students have been able to use since we returned from spring break. Students will be performing at Sun City on May 6th.
* **Close Up Washington:** Mr. Darus Washington and Student Government representative Imani James spoke with the board about the upcoming trip to Washington, DC. The group is currently $6,000 short – deadline is May 6, 2016. Sponsorship suggestions were made of area businesses, etc. Mr. Washington was encouraged to revisit sponsors with updates after the group returns from the trip.
* **Handbooks:** Amleht Alston made a motion to approve all four of the following handbooks: Employee, Elementary, Middle, High School. Eunice Spilliards seconded the motion. The motion carried.
* **Public Comment** – No public comment.
* **Executive Session** – Ann Bridgers made a motion to adjourn the regular session at 7:45pm and Amleht Alston seconded the motion. The motion carried. Chair McBrayer made a motion for the board to enter into Executive Session for the purpose of reviewing and discussing Dr. Karen Wicks’ principal evaluation at 7:46pm. Greg Chambers made a motion which was seconded by Sheree Darien. The motion carried. There were no decisions made or called for during Executive Session. Greg Chambers made the motion to return to regular session which was seconded by Sheree Darien. The motion carried.
* **Motion to Adjourn** – With no further business to discuss, at 8:21pm Chair McBrayer made a motion to adjourn, which was seconded by Ann Bridgers. The motion carried.