RLOACS Board Meeting

Meeting Minutes October 18, 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; Dr. Karen Wicks, Executive Director; Bill Moser, Kelly-Moser Consulting; Brian Morse, High School Assistant Principal.  Les Wicks, Facilities Development |
| Venue: | Student Dining Hall |
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A quorum was present.

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

The meeting was called to order at 6:33 pm by Chair McBrayer.

* + **Approval of Minutes of Board Meetings** – A motion was made by Greg Chambers and seconded by Amleht Alston to accept the minutes for the October 18th Board Meeting, and the motion carried.
* **New business:**
* **RLOA New Mission Statement**– Chair McBrayer read the mission statement.
* **Finance Report for September 2016 and the FY17 Budget** – September 2016 financial reports were reviewed in detail by Bill Moser noting the following lines changes: Line 3: Draw on line of credit, Line 30: Revenue increased by $77.2K, Line 194: Budget balance increased by $77.2k, Line 197: Completed EOY close-out; AP increased, Line 198: Additional construction activity, Line 199: Fund balance increased by $54k. Total income for the fiscal year is $1.951M and the net income for the fiscal year is $445.7K. The total checking/savings line is: $271,990.80. The total liabilities are current as of 09-30-16.
* Per Bill Moser, the audit is almost complete and will be presented at the November board meeting including full accrual balance sheets. The Chair called for the Board’s approval of FY17 budget. A motion was made by Treasurer Chambers and seconded by Eunice Spilliards. The motion carried.
* **Update on New Campus Financing –**
* Dr. Wicks reported in Les Wicks absence. We are currently awaiting written authorization to proceed due to additional questioning by the USDA. Raymond James has submitted to market for preliminary interest rates which are now on hold due to the USDA delay.
* **School Updates**
* **Enrollment:** As of 10-17-16 enrollment is 627. In early October a total of 10 students moved out of the area, so our numbers went down.
* **Aftermath of Hurricane Matthew:**
  + The end of the nine weeks has been extended until next Tuesday to give teachers and students time to complete the work missed while school was closed.
  + The sponsors of the BackPack Buddies program are providing extra assistance to many of our students’ families who suffered from the hurricane.
  + We are seeking verification from the State regarding missed school days so that we can determine if we need to make up any days.
* **Testing:**
  + **ACTE Vocational Surveys**: Mr. Morse is using one of high school’s homeroom periods to allow grades 9-11 to complete the Association for Career and Technical Education’s college and careers survey. The data is reported back to the school to guide course offering decisions, but the ultimate benefit is the possibility of garnering community/grant support for our growing 9-12 CATE program.
  + **ASVAB Testing Approved**: ASVAB for Grades 11-12 will take place on February 28, 2016. Grades 9-10 will need a similar activity since those areas will likely be locked down.
  + **PSAT/NMSQT Postponement**: In light of the number of days students have missed prior to PSAT, the College Board is allowing us to test on the alternate date, November 2, 2016. PSAT training for teachers is scheduled for October 19 (Grade 10) and October 26 (Grade 8).
  + **Test Data Release Postponed Again**: There also seems to be some doctoring by the State with cut scores again. The embargoed numbers in some areas are slightly higher than the released data showed initially. That’s good for us.
* **Elementary:** Student Learning Objectives (SLO) meetings have begun with K-5 teachers. ADEPT (teacher evaluation) timelines have been shared with teachers who are going through the ADEPT process. We have been creating support plans to help K-5 teachers. Ms. Blathers has provided science pacing guides to teachers, and instructional coaches are providing support based on the individual needs of teachers. Readers Theater is taking place in grades 2-5. The related arts schedule for K-5 has been revamped to meet emerging needs.
* **Middle School:** 
  + - **Application for Palmetto’s Finest**: We submitted an application for the Palmetto’s Finest competition. The board doesn’t meet to review applications until this coming week. At that time, we will know if we are in the running for statewide recognition!
    - **Girls’ Mentoring Program**: Thanks to Ms. Barr and RLOA’s Board Secretary Sheree Darien, there is a girls’ mentoring program in which middle and high school girls are being held accountable for their actions and their choices. Once again, Ms. Barr is instrumental in providing much needed guidance to our middle school population. Also, a special thanks goes out to Ms. Darien who volunteered to take on this great work.
    - **Panorama Surveys**: Middle schoolers will complete the panorama survey on Tuesday, October 18. The resulting data will provide us with feedback on how to improve the educational experience for our stakeholders. Elementary and high school surveys will be completed over the next week. This is an initiative of the SC Charter School Alliance.
* **High School**:
* Volleyball make-up games will be Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday of this week. Games must be made up to start the playoff system for a state champion.
* We are completing the NCAA application process for our school and students this week.
* Our first Spirit Week will be next week. The high school students will be allowed to dress down as long as they are dressed for the theme of the day. The themes are as follows:
  + Monday - Nerd/Geek Day (students dress in nerdy fashion)
  + Tuesday - Tuesday Twinsday (students dress alike)
  + Wednesday - Wear Red Day (wear red for red ribbon week)
  + Thursday - Throwback Thursday (students wear fashions from different decades)
  + Friday - Dress for Halloween
* **STEAM/PBL/PLTW:**
* Mr. Floyd and Ms. Traynham are moving back into the classrooms for a period which will delay implementation of PBL and potentially some STEAM in elementary school, although Ms. Felder will be working with elementary STEAM projects.
* Middle school projects will begin in November, and Ms. Blathers is overseeing all high school projects.
* Robotics teams have their first competition on the 29th at Lady’s Island Middle School.
* Dr. Wicks and Mr. Floyd met with Dr. Beringer, the SC AdvancEd Director, to finalize preparations for RLOA to undergo the AdvancEd STEM certification and AdvancEd accreditation.
* **Literacy:** 
  + **Guided Reading Modeling/Coaching Cycle**: For the month of October we are providing every teacher/interventionist the opportunity to sign-up for a 30 minute guided reading/intervention small group modeling session in support of their literacy blocks.
  + **Library Card Distribution/Bookmobile Prep**: Library card applications have been sent home with all K-5 students. 53 students have already signed up to receive new library cards! The bookmobile is still in the process of establishing a new manager and will be in contact with Mrs. Floyd as soon as they are equip to start weekly visits to our school.
  + **Read Your Way to the Big Game Competition**: All K-8 students have been given applications for the Read Your Way to the Big Game Competition. In order to enter, students must read and record 6 books in which their parents must sign off on. Once received, students will be entered into a contest to win free tickets to a Clemson or USC football game. The deadline to enter is October 31st.
  + **Classroom Libraries Visions, Organization, & Plans**: In the coming months we are going to be talking with teachers and offering support in creating a vision for what they want their classroom libraries to look like. We will be discussing classroom library organization and establishing plans with individual teachers on how we can offer our support.
  + **Individualized Support of Teachers As Requested**: We have had several teachers who have requested individual support sessions and modeling, such as organization, classroom rearrangement, math instruction, proofreading Long Range Plans, and ADEPT assistance. Mrs. Floyd, Ms. Jones, and Ms. Ager have been instrumental in being available, supporting, and following through on these requests.
  + **DRA2 Data Entry**: Ms. Jones, along with Mrs. Gunderson, have completed inputting beginning of the year (1st 45 days) DRA2 data into the online management system per state requirements. This was completed on October 4th, prior to being out due to Hurricane Matthew.
  + **TRI-Reading**: The TRI-Reading cycle for administration and volunteers has begun. Ms. Ager is taking the lead for those who would like to sign-up to promote literacy in the classroom.
* **Beta Club: S**eventeen new members will be inducted on October 28, 2016, 4:00, and we will remain a Beta School of Distinction.
* **ESOL/Title III:** The district has invited Title III Coordinators to visit RLOA and observe the way our Title III program works. We will be honored with their visit this month and in November.
* **Title I:** Our school has classified for Title I this year based on the percentage of free/reduced lunches with an approved budget of $615,728.00 . The Title I Conference will take place next week. Dr. Wicks and Mrs. Chaves will be attending.
* **Young Scholars:** The Middle School Model United Nations conference will take place in only two more weeks. Students are finalizing preparations.
* **Special Education:** The special education teachers are meeting with their students, discussing the events of the past two weeks and assessing how everyone is coping. The students are writing about their experiences. There are 50 active students in the special education department, up from 42 in June 2016. The IDEA allocation for 16-17 school year is $50,488.36 and the reimbursement budget was submitted to the district 10/17/2016. We are current with all federal and district requirements.
* **Response to Intervention (RtI):** Interventionists are working with the identified groups daily and completing the literacy interventions. We have small intensive instruction groups happening in the kindergarten classrooms 3 days a week.
* **I.T.:** All IT equipment appears to have made it through the storm unscathed. The network is up and running as is the internet connection. Ms. Moore has been looking into options for better access points that would increase the strength of our wi-fi. The current APs are made for very small business or home use. This explains the struggles we have had in the past with testing and having so many students on Chromebooks at the same time. The estimate for replacing the ones we have with those appropriate for our use totals a little over $11,000. These can transition with us when we move to the new campus. The total also includes a cloud based server from which the APs may be controlled. If the expense can be managed, this would greatly improve our testing experience and ensure that all students can test at the same time without trouble.
* **NAHS/NJAHS:** After our first meeting, we have decided that we will begin the year with a focus on sculpture. Ms. Felder has joined us and has many ideas about how we can make the organization great.
* **Yearbook:** The make-up pictures were completed on September 29th. The disc with the pictures should be arriving any day now. The photographers will not be returning for cap and gown pictures in the spring as we had planned. Ms. Moore will contact Lifetouch to see if we can schedule them to come for these. During the meetings, we have developed a ladder and theme for the yearbook already.
  + Mr. Brian Morse updated the board on the application for STEM certification and accreditation. Ms. Moore in IT created a GoFundMe page which raised $1500.00 for athletic equipment. Dick Sporting goods matched the amount raised. Dr. Stevenson acquired yoga mats as well. In addition, Dr. Stevenson was acknowledged for her donuts for dads which was a tremendous success with over 100 fathers attending. Mr. Morse and Mrs. Darien shared about the initial pilot meeting to mentor the young ladies. Chair McBrayer volunteered to mentor the boys.
* **Board Vacancy**. Eunice Spilliards advised that Vicki Roberts is unable to serve due to a conflict of interest. Per Anne Bridges, Deanne Spikes has been invited to attend next month’s Board meeting. The Board will vote to appoint her at that time. Sheree Darien will contact TCL to request a member of the staff or faculty to serve on the RLOACS Board. An invitation will be extended for a TCL representative to attend next month’s meeting, as well. Confirmation is expected on/or before the next Board meeting. The appropriate Board representation must consist of 50% business professionals and 50% education professionals per the by-laws and state requirements.
* **Public Comment** – Mrs. Thelma Alston commented on the school’s progress and shared her excitement about the upcoming first graduating class.
* **Executive Session** – None
* **Motion to Adjourn** – With no further business to discuss, at 7:38pm Treasurer Chambers made a motion to adjourn, which was seconded by Amleht Alston. The motion carried.