

## REPAC Meeting Minutes – Thursday, October 13, 2022 6:00 PM

### Riverside High School Media Center

Attendees: 20, including Dr. Woods-Weeks (principal) and Ms. Patterson (AP)

Minutes prepared by Kelly Powrie (standing in for Jill Foster)

#### Regular Business:

1. Call to order: Chris Lee (VP) standing in for Linda Walters (President)
2. Approve September 8, 2022 REPAC meeting minutes: motion by Alexandra Spessot, seconded by Addi Hernandez, and approved unanimously by attendees.
3. REPAC welcomed Addi Hernandez as our new Hospitality Chair. She is working on hospitality needs for the upcoming Speaker Day event.
4. Financial Update: Bonnie Dansie (Treasurer) was not able to attend. Tim Velegol discussed the monthly report in her stead. There was little activity in the last period. He anticipates a discussion about Durham Bulls concession revenue trends at the November REPAC meeting.

#### Committee Reports:

1. **Spirit Wear** Tim Velegol reports that a few teachers have inquired about buying REPAC spirit wear.
2. **Community Service** Kathy Holt has arranged the following Community Events and will send sign-up links through Tim Velegol.
  - **Oct. 29th** Diaper Bank, 9:30 – 11:30 am (10 students)
  - **Nov. 5th** Little River Park, 9:00 am – 12:00 pm (10 students) Volunteers will be helping to build steps in a steep hillside on the North Loop Trail.
  - **Nov. 19th** Riverside HS, 9:00 am – 12:00 pm (unlimited – students and families welcome) RHS clean-up along Rose of Sharon Road, in conjunction with Durham Beautiful
  - **Dec. 3rd** Diaper Bank, 9:30 – 11:30 am
3. **Speaker Day** Karrie Comatas gave an update for the 2022 Fall Speaker Day, scheduled for November 4th. There are 6 speakers confirmed, including a software engineer, a physical scientist with the EPA, a VP Ecosystem Strategy & Management from Deloitte Consulting, staff engineers from two consulting firms, and an RHS alumna who is a retail occupancy planner. After Karrie's update, Tim Velegol explained the program in detail.
  - There are two speaker day events each year, in the fall and spring. Information about the events is presented to students in their PLTW class and included in Tim's weekly email. Sign-up emails are also sent to parents in support of the event.
  - The 6 speakers are split into two groups. Three speakers present in the morning to 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> periods. The other three speakers present to 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> periods.
  - Students who are taking a PLTW class this semester will attend during that class period.

- Students in the program who are not taking a PLTW class this semester but wish to attend, can request a pass to miss class, with that teacher's approval.
- Students who are taking a PLTW class this semester but wish to attend a session in addition to the one they are scheduled for, can request a pass to miss class, with that teacher's approval.
- Parents may attend the program and may also support the program's needs by signing up to volunteer time or send in hospitality items.

4. **Programs & Grants** Kim Bowers gave an update on two initiatives.

- **Greenhouse** English students and EC students are working with TSA (Technology Student Association) to build shelves for the greenhouse.
- **SAGE Grants** The committee has received one request, which did not meet the criteria. This has led Kim to produce more information about the program, and better inform students on how requests need to be structured.

5. **TSA Technology Student Association** Chris Lee and Tim Velegol shared information about the program.

- Chris encouraged parents in attendance to talk to their students about joining the TSA. He shared that it was like a more laid-back Science Olympiad.
- Tim highlighted the efforts of Mr. Tokonitz and Mr. Strand to grow the club.
- There is a "FabLab Canvas" page for members, with a lot of information about meetings and events. There are approximately 30 members, and they expect more to join.
- The next monthly general meeting is October 17th during SMARTLunch. Students who are team captains meet weekly.
- Fundraising efforts are underway to support students who want to attend the state competition, which is at the Sheraton Greensboro, March 26<sup>th</sup> – 28<sup>th</sup>.

6. **Community Events** Chris Lee spoke for REPAC's search for individuals who would be interested in serving on a committee to brainstorm and plan for some community-building events for the program's students and families. Anyone who is interested should contact Linda Walters or Tim Velegol.

7. **Durham Bulls Concessions Fundraising** Michelle Guilmette is in her last year as chair of this committee. She needs REPAC volunteers for chair, and also for stand captains at each game.

- REPAC is highly respected by the Durham Bulls organization. Planning for the year begins in February, and games start in April.
- REPAC works 10 games per year, and averages \$700 - \$1,000 per game. This is REPAC's primary source of revenue.
- Although it's possible to also volunteer in the food service areas, REPAC makes more money on the beer stands.

- Volunteers must be 18+ to work the beer stands, however younger volunteers can work in food service.

### **Tim's Town Hall:**

After 12 years at RHS, Assistant Principal Ms. Clay is leaving to take a position as Principal at The School for Creative Studies. She has been a supporter of REPAC and will be greatly missed. We have been assigned an interim assistant principal, Mr. Elton O'Neil, while a formal search for a new AP is underway. Dr. Woods-Weeks gave an overview of the search process, which she hopes will be completed by early November.

Tim gave kudos to this year's counselling team, who he says is the best group he's worked with in his 17 years at RHS. He says they are very positive, are eager to learn, and have made a point to seek out knowledge about the PLTW program. They have published a Needs Assessment survey, via Google Docs, that they hope parents and students will utilize it. The first version, as shared by Tim, had a flaw that prevented easy completion. A new version will be published, to gather feedback by the end of Monday Oct. 17th.

Tim shared two documents with the group, both of which highlight Riverside's approach to compliance with the national PLTW program and with the DPS 3-2-1 Future Reach Work-Based Learning Initiative.

PLTW course implementation varies across the approximately 5,000 high schools that offer it in the country (out of approx. 38,000 high schools). As a rule, it is not a "program" as it is recognized to be at Riverside. In North Carolina, Riverside is one of only three high schools to be identified as a Distinguished School for the past five years; the other two are Chapel Hill and East Chapel Hill.

Riverside is unique in its creation of a 4-year curriculum that requires a PLTW course each year. Most other schools offer these classes as electives. It's possible for Riverside to support this approach through the CTE Pathways structure in DPS. Tim believes that Riverside's program can be measured by its graduate's high college attainment – 95% of PLTW graduates attend college.

The PLTW information shared by Tim was background for understanding Tim's two handouts.

**College and Career Readiness Plans** This handout lists the PLTW program elements, outside of the required curriculum, that support college and career readiness. They include access to Xello (a career planning program accessed by students each year in the program), freshman first report card assembly, field trips, speaker days, pre-ACT, ACT, ASVAB, junior and senior advisement interviews, and ACT WorkKeys.

**3-2-1 Future Ready** DPS Work-Based Learning Initiative. Students who achieve the initiative's program will receive a cord to wear at graduation. The purpose of Tim's discussion was to explain how the PLTW program ensures that every graduate will also achieve the elements of the 3-2-1 initiative.

### **Close of Business**

The next REPAC meeting will be Thursday, November 17th.

Motion to adjourn from Addi Hernandez; seconded by Stephanie Brennan; unanimously approved.