

Meeting Minutes

REPAC Meeting via Zoom, 10/14/21, 6pm

Jill Foster, Tim Velegol, Adem Gusa, Karrie Comatas, Kelly Powrie, Kim Bowers, Michelle Guilmette, Nate, Sabrina Lamar, Sarah Musser, Tage Honore, Henry Sommerville, Karen Seifert, Linda Walters, Kristen Brigman, Jenny Edmonds, Teri Lowder, Michelle Dennis, Kathy Holt, Jenny Ostrovsky, Kathy Holt, Kristin Bradley-Bull, Colleen Johnson, Chris Lee, Joanne Campione, Asiya Gusa, Teala Spitzbarth, P. Renee Moore, Christine Barboriak, Raquel Silva, Deborah Ballard, Shelagh Kenney

1) News

- With the announcement of the Principal leaving, rest assured that the school continues to be in good and competent hands, veteran teachers have stepped up to focus on our students.
- Formal congratulations to Tim Velegol on receiving his Award for 2021 PLTW Outstanding Administrator. Only one in NC. Chip Sudderth, Communications Officer for DPS, came to interview Tim and Adam Davidson, who was recognized as a PLTW Outstanding Teacher of the year. His second time, only one in NC.

2) Approval of 9/14/21 minutes

- Approved the minutes from Sept. meeting. Motion from Linda Walters. Second from Henry Sommerville.

3) Committee reports

- Linda Walters – Budget. Looking at the monthly financial report from Oct – not a lot of activity. Got remainder of Bulls concession money. \$10,545.24 for the fiscal year, \$12,670.70 total. \$2400 for spirit wear so far, current sale in process. **Sitting on balance of ~\$27,000 (10/14/21 meeting minutes were amended at the 11/18/21 REPAC general meeting to reflect the corrected balance)**. Spent \$410 on the TSA membership.
- Kathy Holt – Volunteer Coordinator. Good volunteer opportunities in Sept/Oct. Little River park full for Sat. Next weekend, Brumley forest trip for freshmen. Oct 23, Ellerbee Creek. Need parent chaperone. Link will be coming out. Email Kathy.holt@nc.rr.com if you can chaperone. Nov 11, freshman workday, Nov 20 Diaper Bank, and another Ellerbee Creek in Nov. Email Kathy to get on the general chaperone list.
- Kim Bowers – Chair of Programs and Grants. Have several parents and 2 Engineering teachers (Adam Davidson and Russel Strand-Poole) on the committee – meets monthly. Always looking for grants from companies that support STEM opportunities. Sometimes parents find potential options and forward them along even if not on the Committee. In the past have gotten tools that are now in the maker space. Nice large grant from John Deere 2 years ago to expand the Computer Science Program. Only had 1 course, have added 3 more classes. Also, DPS has really provided what the engineering teachers have asked for lately, so haven't had to look as much for grants for classroom and maker space needs. Program

grant examples from the past include updating the Greenhouse for the Occupational Course of Study Students who needed work hours. PLTW helped clean it up and improve it via a Lowe's grant. OCS wanted PLTW to create growing shelves – got suspended due to Covid. Planning to pick it up again and have a grant in for more funding. Launching the SAGE grant program soon for student mini-grants.

- Teri Lowder – Spirit wear. Near end of Fall spirit wear order. Can do it online or via paper order form. Ends 10/22. Hoping it'll be back in time for the holidays.
- Karrie Comatas – Fall speaker day. Will have 6 speakers from different fields (4 are confirmed). 3 will speak twice in the morning session, and 3 will speak in the afternoon twice. Will be held in the auditorium due to covid protocols & speakers will be provided with breakfast and lunch. Reach out with suggestions for future speakers. Look out for parent donations of food. Sign up genius will come for that later.

Tim- Idea is to give students some depth into possibilities they might consider, come from government, industry, and education. Students go during their PLTW class time, but they can get permission to attend the other session with permission from their teacher whose class they'd be missing. Or the students with a Spring PLTW class can get permission to go. Usually is on the last day of first quarter, but auditorium wasn't free, so they could only get Nov 12. Some students may not be in, as the day before is a day off for Veteran's Day. Likely to be a light teaching day.

4) Tim Town Hall:

- Going to be another leadership transition. PTA got word that the School Board wants a replacement by Nov 1 & PTA is convening a Board meeting tonight. Important that if there are concerns about the transition, it's best to address the entire School Board. Some assume the member who represents this part of Durham County is who to reach out to, but it's more effective to address the entire board so all members get the information. Email is boe@dpsnc.net for the whole board if you want your voice heard.
- Was a very difficult transition coming out of the pandemic. School has faced the challenges well (no major outbreak), excellence compliance to the masking/3 foot protocol. No other school in Durham has SMART lunch, faculty felt so strongly about keeping it that they convinced the admin it could work. Has been successful. Created with students in mind, can attend tutoring and clubs, eat with friends, etc. Eliminated problems with students skipping into other lunches, and being able to be all over the school, it spreads them out instead of cramming 1/3 of them into the cafeteria. Lunch form has helped manage concerns as they can contact trace. May be more challenging when the weather changes.
- Labor market is as difficult as it's ever been. Applies to all sectors, including schools, central DPS office, etc. In NC, only 30% of the math teachers across the state are fully certified as math teachers. RHS in a privileged place with that but many in the front office turned over and most APs & Counselors are new. Easy to be critical, but it's hard. Looking for bus drivers, custodian staff, subs, etc. All of those concerns are making things feel unstable. Believe that the strength of the dept chairs and seasoned staff are making it work.

- Traditionally there has been a protocol for an interim principal to come in. Hope is that there will be an interim who can keep things on course for the time being during effective search. But the BOE may be deviating from that, and there are concerns. Don't want someone just thrown in.
- Entire focus of PLTW is college and career readiness. Tim is now at the end of the cycle of talking with c/o 22. 12 left for interviews. Sit down 1:1 that by UNC Oct 15 deadline, there's an opportunity to talk about what may have slipped through the cracks. Some kids are more ready than others.
- One message to convey to all – the Admissions Officers at each school are the best source of info, not Tim or the counselors. RHS will go back to rep visits from colleges in the library, but College advisor can't have those this year in person. Take your kid on visits to schools.
- Some of you heard of free application week. Knowledge of the reality – almost none of the schools that our kids apply to waive during that week. Can get a fee waiver from a counselor if student qualifies for Free/Reduced lunch.
- 9th graders are still working on the fundamentals. Never too early for college visits. Xello is most helpful college search tool. Tim will send 9th/10th grade parents info about parent access to Xello (student has to invite).
- Standard 50% of PLTW students go on to engineering in college. Hasn't changed over the years, almost to the decimal. Don't have the data where the others go. Many still go on to health sciences, hard sciences, or straight math. Prob 75% STEM/25% Humanities
- What happens after the students leave high school? The percentages on the school profile are based on plans. Not actuality.
- Tim has all the data of PLTW students from the past. Nothing in place for someone to step in and do the job.

REPAC Monthly Financial Report - October 12, 2021 - corrected

	2021-2022 BUDGETED	2021-2022 ACTUAL
Previous Year End Balance (actual):	27,578.33	27,578.33
Less Summer Budget Spent:	2,842.10	2,842.10
Less Reserve Fund:	10,000.00	10,000.00
Carry over into school year:	14,736.23	14,736.23
Revenue		
Corporate Donations/Amazon Smile	125.00	28.07
Durham Bulls Concessions	10,500.00	10,545.24
Individual Donations	1,000.00	40.00
Picnic - Shelter Reservation Refund	75.00	75.00
Sales and Use Tax Refund	600.00	0.00
Science Olympiad Concession Sales	1,200.00	0.00
Senior PLTW Honor Cords	700.00	0.00
Spirit Wear	3,500.00	2,414.00
Total Assets	32,436.23	27,838.54
Operating Expenses		
Bank Maintenance Fees and Charges	25.00	0.00
COVID / Pandemic Support	3,000.00	0.00
Credit Card Processing Fees	150.00	70.76
Curriculum-specific PLTW Classroom Supplies	1,000.00	0.00
Director's Discretionary Fund	500.00	0.00
Equipment/Classrooms and Maker Space	10,000.00	0.00
Hospitality	250.00	0.00
Insurance	300.00	0.00
Office Supplies/Postage	100.00	0.00
Picnic (rental and preplanning needs)	500.00	0.00
P&G Committee SAGE Grants	1,000.00	0.00
Science Olympiad Concession Supplies	800.00	0.00
Senior Celebration Night	2,000.00	0.00
Senior Honor Cords	n/a	n/a
Speaker Day	800.00	0.00
Spirit Wear	2,500.00	310.80
Student STEM Clubs	1,500.00	0.00
Teacher Appreciation	600.00	0.00
TSA Membership	410.00	410.00
Website Hosting	n/a	n/a
Total Operating Expenses	25,435.00	791.56
Total Assets	32,436.23	27,838.54
Total Operating Expenses	25,435.00	791.56
End of Year Balance (carryover):	7,001.23	27,046.98
Designated Funds:		
Disney Trip	5.14	
Kings Dominion Field Trip	180.00	
Reserve Fund	10,000.00	
	<u>10,185.14</u>	