

## **Meeting Minutes**

**REPAC Meeting: Thursday, November 17, 2022 6:00 PM**

### **Riverside High School Media Center**

In Attendance: Tim Velegol, Chris Lee, Teri Lowder, Sabrina Lamar, Karrie Comatas, Addi Hernandez, Alex Spessot, Linda Walters, Julie Dodge, Kathy Holt, Stephanie Brennan, Ryan Patridge, Mary Taylor, Katie Hanczaryk, Jeff Forbes, Jen Smart, Raquel Silva, Jenny Ostrovsky, Henry Sommerville, Steve Bradley-Bull, Jenny Edmonds, Andy Slaughter

Minutes by Jill Foster

Call to order 6:15; approve Oct 13<sup>th</sup> minutes: Sabrina Lamar motioned. Jeff Forbes Seconded. Approved.

### **Financial Update**

Bonny Dansie needed to step down as treasurer. Thanks to Henry Sommerville who has agreed to step in. He was voted in at the 5pm Board Meeting.

We received checks from the last 3 Bulls games: \$2290.46. There's a missing payment for July that needs to be tracked down. A total of \$1350 was taken in as donations from individuals. Some companies will do matching funds – take advantage if your employer participates.

Balance is \$24,774.08, not including designated funds (Spring Field Trip, Field Trip Scholarships, Reserve Fund).

### **Spiritwear**

The order came in at the end of October. Cycle for ordering is taking a long time (now 4-6 weeks, used to be 2) – took 6 weeks for this last order. In the past, we've done orders in Sept/Nov/Feb, but there was no way to ensure folks would get items before the holidays, so some extra sweatshirts were ordered with the previous order. Will do another order when the new folks are accepted in Spring. Feel free to email Teri if you want something.

### **Community Service**

This weekend is a road-side trash clean-up for Keep Durham Beautiful – have 24 signed up. Diaper Bank is Dec 3<sup>rd</sup> – will have 25 spots. Other events will pick up again after exams in Spring (Jan 9<sup>th</sup> – 13<sup>th</sup> are exams). Frances Mock is our contact who coordinates with the diaper bank.

### **Programs and Grants** (Kim not present)

No updates, haven't met since last meeting.

### **Speaker Day**

Was a big hit! 25<sup>th</sup> event since it started in Fall 2008. It's reached a level of importance in the program that wasn't envisioned when conceived. Grateful for those who have contributed suggestions for speakers, for hospitality, etc. The 7 guests were blown away by the students' level of commitment/involvement and of the knowledge they weren't expected to have. Goal is to set up a group of speakers representative across racial/ethnic lines, gender, various sectors – military, education,

government, industry. That spread is appealing. PLTW is considered Career and Technical Education, and the career education aspect is taken very seriously. This career focus is a local effort, not part of PLTW per se. The reflection activity for students after the Program exists for them to share their thoughts on their experience and what they took away from it.

### Upcoming Events

RHS PLTW info Session will be held 11/29. Have outgrown Staff Development Center. The auditorium isn't free at all before the holidays due to the Cultural Arts programs, so the info session will be at Summit Church on Rose of Sharon. Seats 570. 6pm. Will have a Spanish translator. Aim to have a student panel – diversity across middle schools they attended, gender, etc. Usually juniors. Typically all applicants who rank RHS PLTW first will get a seat. Classes are capped at 20, so 140 is the usual goal for enrollment. Attrition rate is avg 30-40% by senior year. We lose students going to Middle College, NCSSM, plus Durham is transient, etc.

RHS is the host school for Science Olympiad to be held Feb 18<sup>th</sup>, and we now have a new Leader for concession sales. There are a lot of student volunteer opportunities. RHS won't be fielding a team this year. Many of the kids previously involved in SO moved to Technology Students Association. Plans are moving forward for those students to get into fundraising mode.

Dr. Okun time (stopped in for a few minutes)

The school is working hard on communications. The calendar on the website is accurate – daily announcements are on there. It's thorough regarding everything going on during the day.

Smart lunch not going as well as desired. Some of the incidents that may have happened off campus previously are now happening at school because they've not allowed students to go off unauthorized to the woods, etc. It's hard to keep things contained when students are spread out over a larger area and with lunch running 1 hour vs. 45 minutes. Some of the students who were supposed to be served by tutoring during smart lunch are now missing class due to penalties from fighting.

How is the new AP search going? Mr. O'Neill the interim is very good – sets a very high bar. Haven't found the right person yet for the permanent position. Have a solid idea of what they're looking for. Not willing to just hire in someone to fill the position.

**Next meeting is Dec 8<sup>th</sup> at 6pm. 6:58, business section adjourned.**

### Tim Town Hall

- Linda Walters is extremely hard working, and without whom we wouldn't be able to transact REPAC business. She served as treasurer and stepped up to the Presidency. Is the parent of a senior, and there will be a lot of holes to fill to sustain the level of what's been happening the last years. Will canvas folks who have expertise in graphic design, are detailed oriented, etc. to plug in where they can next year and after.
- Got through the 1<sup>st</sup> report card assembly. Students learned how to calculate GPA, use Xello.
- Have entered senior college acceptance season. In the 8 years RHS has been sent a college advising corps volunteer, we've never had as qualified a person as Emma Schmaltz. She's very accessible and knowledgeable. She'll soon be transitioning to helping out juniors and underclassmen. Encourage putting that bug in your child's ear – it's never too early to come to

college rep visits, get advice from someone like Emma, etc. Plant seeds as to what they need to start thinking about. Emma collects the acceptances and scholarship amounts for all of RHS – is the first time someone has done that school-wide. It's only a 1 year position. Can we get her a gift, like for the holidays? Yes!

- 3 Levels of testing through the ACT – wrapped up 3<sup>rd</sup> level today. NC DPI decided ~10 years ago to evaluate how schools are doing in preparing students for career and college readiness through the 3 tests: PreACT for sophomores, ACT for Juniors, WorkKeys for Seniors that are CTE concentrators (loosely described as students who take a foundation and complete course in any CTE track).
- PreACT is a low stakes practice test. Loosely used to identify AP classes that students may be geared towards taking. Those are generally on students' radar already, as they're self-aware.
- ACT is one of the 2 primary college admissions standardized tests. For the past few years, most colleges have gone test-optional. Word on the street is that this is the last year for that, and some schools have already gone back to requiring scores. ACT score of 17 is college ready.
- Colleges know that best predictor is what the students' transcripts look like. The test scores are more of a gut check to see whether the scores align with what's on the transcript.
- Work Keys tests for CTE seniors: the 3 sections are Applied Math, Workplace Documents, Graphic Literacy – scored as 0 to 7 in each. Platinum, Gold, Silver, Bronze are awarded by score – the lowest score of the 3 sections determines the tier. 7 or 6 is platinum. Platinum (7 or 6 in all sections) has skills for 99% of the jobs in the American workforce. 5 is Gold. Ready for 90-93%. Silver – 4. Bronze – 3. Silver or higher is workplace-ready according to DPS and NCDPI. It's also a credential. Can get a National Career Readiness Certificate, add to resume, and be awarded a medallion (for platinum and gold).