RHS Site Council Minutes
10/2/17

Members Present
John Wollersheim (Principal), Tim Conboy (Assistant Administrator), Gary Dion (President), Lisa Buesing (Vice President and Parent Leader Rep), Tanya Beckwith (Parent), Sarah Hansen (Secretary), Cheryl Greene (Parent), Kate Molitor (Parent), Jason Nord (Parent/RHS Foundation), Rudy Regalado (Parent), Doug Pewowaruk (Parent), Patty Zellman (Parent), Jim Norris (Teacher), Jake Greener (Student Rep – 12), Charlie Huang (Student Rep – 10), Sophie Parla (Student Rep – 10), Ben Peterson (Student Rep - 9)

Site Council Directory
Introduction and Organization Process: After introductions, we reviewed the purpose, process, and membership of the site council. A document describing this, as well as other site council information, can be found on the high school’s website, including agendas and minutes.

Site council officer positions are now filled for this year:
- President (Gary Dion)
- Vice President (Lisa Buesing)
- Secretary (Sarah Hansen)
- Parent Leader Representative (Lisa Buesing)

Reports
Minutes: Charlie moved to approve minutes. Lisa seconded the motion.

Benefit Fund (John): RHS Foundation has taken over management of the benefit fund. There is some money remaining in the Scholarship Fund that the Site Council will oversee throughout the 2017-2018 school year. In July, 2018, any remaining scholarship money will roll over to the RHS Foundation, which is handling all new scholarship deposits. Kim Budde’s Arts Council will continue to oversee the money in The Arts portion of the old Benefit Fund.

RHS Foundation (Jason): Private donations of $15,000 allowed the Foundation to hire a consultant to survey the community to help determine objectives for the Capital Campaign. Top on the results was turf for the stadium, but the $1,000,000+ price tag seems a bit ambitious to the Foundation. Other options are being considered. Final proceed numbers are not yet available, but there is about $50,000 in the fund right now. This money will probably be used for teacher grants, and the Foundation is currently developing processes for handling teacher requests and for distributions of money. A $50,000 donation from a former teacher was requested to be tied to specific objectives, and RHS Foundation is working on processes to distribute money from that specific donation. Several fundraisers during the 100 Year Celebration were successful. Over 160 of the 200 copies of the 100 Year History video were
sold, yielding about a $2000 profit. Additionally, the Foundation raised about $1500 on the program which they worked on with the Football Boosters. The Community Dance lacked interest, and the event was downsized. About 90 people did attend and had a great time. There appears to be interest in an annual community event, and a beer garden event is under consideration for next year.

Student Council: Jake Greener recapped Student Council events from the 100 Year Celebration/Homecoming. The homecoming dance was a huge success with about 950-1000 kids in attendance. About $10,000 (pre-expense) was raised from the proceeds of this dance. There will be a formal dance called The Winter Ball scheduled in November to take the place of the traditional formal Homecoming Dance. Exact date is yet to be determined. The large attendance and positive feedback for the more informal homecoming dance is leading the Student Council to consider a repeat event next year, although all acknowledge it will be challenging given the standard football game start time.

Movie night (Friday of Homecoming weekend) was also a huge success with 400-500 kids in attendance. Exact numbers on money raised were not available, but the event was successful in generating school spirit and raising money for the Student Council. This is the second year of movie night, and the plan is to make it a tradition.

Student Council members also remarked on their leadership involvement in the recent 9th grade Respect Retreat as well as the upcoming district 196 Leadership Conference.

Parent Leader Meeting (Lisa): Enrollment at RHS is up, with 2242 vs. 2185 at RHS last year. RHS now has more students than any other high school in District 196. While the official capacity of RHS is 2000, enrollment has been significantly higher in past years. The construction starting in November should ease congestion before school, after school, as well as for athletic and fine arts events. Growth is surpassing projections, and the district has hired a demographer to re-work projections. There are expectations that more elementary and middle schools will be needed.

Curriculum and Instruction Report (Gary): At the first CIAC meeting of the year, and 2017 Graduation Rates, ACT Results and Proposal for this school year were discussed, among other items.

- By 2020, the goal is a 90% graduation rate achieved across all studied groups. Every group must be at 85% or better by 2020.
- District ACT composite scores and percentages were reviewed at the CIAC meeting. The average composite score for the district in 2017 was 23.1 as compared with 21.5 for the state and 21.0 nationally. We also briefly discussed ACT scores by across the four district high schools, and talked about some historical numbers, and how the new rules requiring the whole student body to take the test have impacted scores in the last few years.
- A $21MM grant to improve reading skills across Minnesota has been announced.
- The CIAC will be getting into strategic work topics over the course of the year – topics related to ensuring achievement and equity goals and objectives are met.
There is a wealth of information at the MN Department of Revenue website (http://education.state.mn.us/mde/index.html) for those interested.

**Legislative Action Council:** John will be serving on the district Budget Advisory Committee which sometimes meets jointly with the Legislative Action Council. Currently, no Site Council Members serve on the Legislative Action Council.

**Advisory**

**Site Council Survey Response:** John recapped feedback from last year’s Site Council members. There were several comments questioning the length of the meetings, with the suggestion that the individual reports be more concise. Gary suggested he could be more regimented when running the meetings. John mentioned that some of the most valuable info he gets is from the back-and-forth discussion that occurs amongst parents, so he would hate to cut discussion too short, but perhaps reports could be pared back. The option of fewer meetings was also discussed, but there was consensus on the benefits of a monthly meeting. John suggested future meeting dates should de-conflict with school events to the extent possible. Additionally, he reiterated that anyone can email him with a topic you would like on the agenda.

**Lobby Guard:** John reported the security camera had been stolen. A new camera has been purchased and is now installed.

**Parents Helping Parents - Schoology Idea:** Not covered, held for November meeting

**Exchange**

**Beginning of the School Year Observations:**

New cell phone policy appears to be working. Although skeptical at first, students agree that the Red Zone policy is effective. Teachers still have flexibility to allow for cell phone use for leaning purposes when they desire. Both teachers and students agreed that having a policy in place helps with expectations and enforcement.

Schoology is getting better. Students agreed with John that initial bugs are being worked out of the system, and most things appear to be working quite well. There was agreement among the students and the parents that the ability to see all grades on a single screen (as was the case with Schoolview) would be very beneficial. John will put that on a list of suggestions for the district. Jim pointed out that not logging in under ‘guest’ eliminates many of the issues that students have faced, particularly with turning in papers.

9th grade orientation and the first day of school continues to work well for a smooth transition. There was a suggestion that the new student Ambassador Program remain in place for a longer period of time. John is looking into the details behind that program.

**Conference Prep:** We are looking for a person to take over the Conference Prep position from Heidi Kraemer, who is involved in many other committees. This is a relatively simple position
with a low time commitment. The person who takes over has the opportunity to shadow Heidi this year for a smooth transition.

**Summer School Report:** Tim Conboy recapped the 7 summer school programs offered by RHS.

- **Honors Academy:** Readiness academy for incoming freshman. 130+ students; positive feedback.
- **Credit Recovery:** Nearly 100% success. Roughly 250 students recovered about 500 credits.
- **Acceleration through Geometry:** 35 students, all of which passed and are in Algebra 2 this fall.
- **Freshman Academy:** Helps struggling students build relationships with teachers and develop core foundation for upcoming classes. Students are identified by teacher recommendations, test scores and academic profile.
- **Special Ed:** 30 students, along with Case Managers and Paras. Objective is to make sure these students don’t take a step back over the summer.
- **Tree Trust Enclave and Tree Trust Vocational Outreach:** work under guidance of outside group to receive elective credits and work study.

Additionally, Tim shared some programs that run throughout the school year.

- **I3 Programs:** There are extended day programs on Wednesdays for a number of subjects, including math, science and English. Detention students are often assigned Wednesday detention so they can participate in these programs.
- **Jr. and Sr. Credit Recovery:** Invited students can use the first two weeks of the following trimester to make up work in a class where they fell short.
- **Graduation Incentive Program:** Occurs during the last week of school.
- **GRIP:** Facilitates on-time graduation. Students have a week to complete unfinished work.
- **Reset Programs:** Small study halls with an 8:1 student/teacher ratio.

**Key Upcoming Dates:**

- Parent/Teacher Conferences (10/5-6)
- PSAT (10/11)
- Flex Day (11/2)

**T3 Stats:**

John shared last spring results on RHS’s tardies and absences. While tardies are up a bit, there has not been a big change in either tardies or absences. A policy of a detention for every two tardies is expected to decrease the number of tardies. On another front, there have been fewer student referrals from teachers, so there are positive signs on the behavior front. District elimination of the absence policy does not appear to be an issue.
**Bond Phase II / RHS building plans:** Construction start date was pushed back to November. There will be improvements in safety and security, and the front of the school will be getting a facelift. Plans include a new flex space, foyer, and a separation of the gym and PAC audiences. Construction should be completed by fall of the 2018-19 school year.

**Open Dialogue**

No additional discussion.

Meeting adjourned at 8:20, with a walking tour of planned building improvements lead by Principal John Wollersheim.