

Rock Hill High School
320 Springdale Rd.
Rock Hill, South Carolina 29730

School Improvement Council
Meeting Minutes
May 10, 2021
6:00-7:00pm
Via Zoom

Rock Hill High School (RHHS), School Improvement Council (SIC), met via Zoom this date at 6:00 p.m. with members present:

Tim Sawyer, SIC Chair; Babs Addison, teacher; Tonya Belton, Director of Federal Programs; Paula McMillan, ABA representative; Olivia Ratliff, Junior ASB representative; and Mona Letigio, Parent/Secretary.

Mr. Sawyer called the meeting to order to discuss the following issues:

I. Welcome

II. Review Minutes: Mr. Sawyer

1. Review Last Meeting Agenda
2. Next Meeting – June 14th @ 6pm

III. Important Dates: Mr. Sawyer

IV. Mr. Ahl's Notes: Mr. Sawyer

V. Title VI Grant (American Indian): Tonya Belton

VI. Open Floor

VII. Closing

Discussion:

Mr. Sawyer opened the meeting by welcoming all members present. He briefly reviewed the last meeting minutes and provided answers to questions raised at the last meeting. Mr. Sawyer stressed the importance of minority students at the higher levels, like encouraging minority students to take charge of their education to the higher level by taking IB and AP classes.

Questions/concerns and answers raised the last meeting:

How is the new television system running?

- The school television system is not yet connected to the network, and it does not appear that it will be connected anytime soon. The school is still using the old method of inserting flash drives to show information as needed.

Do we have a school app to send out information to students?

- Mr. Ahl responded through Mr. Sawyer, and the school district has its app for students to sign-up to get information and notices. This app is available for every school in the district. The app "Remind" was also mentioned as other schools utilized this to send out school announcements and other important information.

Has virtual schools affected the number of homeschool students in our districts?

- Mr. Ahl is not sure how virtual school affected home school numbers but assumes that the number of home schools will be reduced with the virtual school's permanent option.

Freshmen Orientation (One former Dutchman Creek Middle School student expressed the sentiment that freshmen orientation was not experienced during 8th grade to prepare for transition to high school)

- Unfortunately we have not been able to do the jump up day this year or last. However, I do believe that we had participation from DCMS the previous 2 years.

Getting High School One-on-One course tied in with the health course to cover how to get new students accustomed to the school, assist with learning the alma mater, and help improve study skills. The school used to have this kind of class, but not all students participated and took the opportunity. This option will be revisited for future utilization.

Senior Pals or Mentors were discussed several years ago, but there were challenges in the number of freshmen students participating and other logistics that come with it. This idea will be discussed further for possible implementation.

Were there forums or platforms for clubs, organizations, or athletic teams to invite students to participate? (For clubs or teams to put info videos to attract and increase student participation.)

- The school has club rush and other club events organized before Covid-19 hits, but due to this pandemic, it limits the utilization of such activities. School websites and other online media are being used for this reason.

Side Notes: School vending machines are not regularly stock as they should.

Next Meeting is June 14, 2021, at 6:00 p.m. venue TBD.

Link for additional dates and info: <https://www.smores.com/fue6k-rhhs-teacher-newsletter?ref=email>

Important Dates:

5/13-5/14 - Advanced Acting Play (Auditorium 7:30pm)

5/18 - Choir Concert (7pm- Auditorium)

5/20 - Band Chamber Concert (7pm- Auditorium)

5/21 - Progress Reports

5/27 - Athletic Awards Ceremony (6pm F-Gym)

5/28 - District Holiday (No School)

5/31 - District Holiday (No School)

6/3 - Strings Concert (7pm Auditorium)

6/10 - Orchestra Concert (7pm Auditorium)

6/11 - Drama Awards (7:30pm Auditorium)

6/12 - Prom 8:00-11:00pm F-gym

6/17 - Spring Band Concert (7pm Auditorium)

6/22 - Last Day of the Semester

6/22 - Senior Award Ceremony (6pm F-Gym)

6/23 - Graduation Practice (9am-11am F-Gym) MANDATORY FOR ALL SENIORS

6/23 - Baccalaureate (7pm First Baptist)

6/23 - Teacher Work Day

6/24 - Graduation 6:00pm (Rock Hill Sports and Event Center) - 2 tickets per graduate - more details to follow at a later date

AP Testing Dates

5/20 - AP 2-D Art

5/20 - AP 3-D Art

6/1 - AP Literature and Composition

6/2 - AP European History

6/2 - AP US History

6/4 - AP Spanish Language

6/4 - AP French Language

6/7 - AP Language and Composition

6/8 - AP Human Geography

6/9 - AP Calculus AB

6/9 - AP Physics 1

6/10 - AP Chemistry

6/10 - AP Statistics

6/11 - AP Biology

IB Testing Dates

5/4 - IB History Papers 1 and 2

5/5 - IB History Paper 3

5/6 - IB Math Paper 1

5/7 - IB Math Paper 2

5/10 - IB English Paper 1

5/13 - IB Spanish Paper 1 and 2

5/14 - IB Chemistry Paper 1 and 2

5/19 - IB Biology Paper 1 and 2

5/19 - IB ITGS Paper 1

5/20 - IB French Paper 1 and 2

EOC Testing Dates

5/25 - English 2 Writing - All Face-to-Face Students

5/26 - English 2 Writing - All Virtual Students - 8:30am - 11:30am in Cafeteria

6/3 - English 2 Reading - All Face-to-Face Students

6/4 - English 2 Reading - All Virtual Students - 8:30am - 11:30am in Cafeteria

6/8 - US History - Face-to-Face Students; All CP students; AP/IB A day students

6/9 - US History - Face-to-Face AP/IB B day students; All Virtual Students - 8:30am - 11:30am in Cafeteria

6/15 - Algebra 1 - Face-to-Face & Virtual Students - 8:30am - 11:30am

6/16 - Biology 1 - Face-to-Face & Virtual Students - 8:30am - 11:30am

Final Exam Dates

Seniors:

Regular classes

6/10 - 1st and 2nd block (Full day; follow normal schedule)

6/11 - 3rd and 4th block (Full day; follow normal schedule)

A/B day classes

6/8 - B day 3rd and 4th block (Full day; follow normal schedule)

6/9 - A day 1st and 2nd block (Full day; follow normal schedule)

6/10 - B day 1st and 2nd block (Full day; follow normal schedule)

6/11 - A day 3rd and 4th block (Full day; follow normal schedule)

Underclassmen:

Regular classes

6/21 - 3rd and 4th block (Full day; follow normal schedule)

6/22 - 1st and 2nd block (1/2 day; 1st and 2nd block only)

A/B day classes

6/17 - A day 1st and 2nd block (Full day; follow normal schedule)

6/18 - B day 3rd and 4th block (Full day; follow normal schedule)

6/21 - A day 3rd and 4th block (Full day; follow normal schedule)

6/22 - B day 1st and 2nd block (1/2 day; 1st and 2nd block only)

Make-Up Exams

All make-up exams must have prior approval from Mr. Ahl.

6/24 - 9:00am - 12:00pm

6/25 - 9:00am - 3:00pm

6/28 - 9:00am - 3:00pm

6/29 - 9:00am - 3:00pm

Title VI Grant (American Indian): Presentation provided by Tonya Belton

Rock Hill Schools receives Title VI funding through the Office of Indian Education. Funds are used to provide tutoring services to eligible American Indian or Alaskan Native students. The Catawba Nations is the primary American Indian group in Rock Hill schools. The purpose of the funding is to help American Indian students reach challenging academic standards and support other non-native students. The grant also aids in supporting school leaders and staff with providing culturally appropriate and effective instruction.

Over two hundred students identified as American Indian or Alaskan Native in the district, and Rock Hill High School is the highest high school with 59 students recognized as Catawba Nations or other American Indian students.

Grant Five Goals:

1. To decrease the dropout rate
2. To increase scores on state and national assessments
3. To increase the graduation rate
4. To increase the knowledge of the contributions of American Indian Tribes
5. To increase parent participation

Services provided and plans:

- Tutoring service at the Long House Catawba Nation
- Partner with the Boys and Girls Club
- The future plan is the Mentoring Program. This program has been piloted this year at Castle Heights with a group of 7th-grade boys.
- Enhancing family nights or guardian nights to help the family get involve and support their students at home through using Canvas and other online resources.
- They are looking at workshops for SAT and ACT and other online programs through the Catawba Nation for students to take and help with their WIN assessments.
- They are planning for more parent workshops and purchasing supplemental resources to support students.
- Professional developments for students taking History classes. For English III, American Literature, use relevant information from the American Indian into the content (Media resources were purchased for students to check out – books about American Indians and their culture.)
- They are supporting professional opportunities and consultations (Invite resource speakers from the Catawba Nation to speak about the importance and the contributions of the American Indians in this community).
- They support American Indian parents in acquiring skills in using Canvas and other online resources by organizing an Orientation event at the Catawba Nation and the four schools with the highest number of American Indian students. This is also to help parents engage more in their students' academics and other culturally relevant opportunities.

Grant Financial Update:

- A little over \$17,000 was received last year to support programs and services, and about the same amount will be received this year. Funds were not all utilized due to the Covid-19 that is why portion of the unutilized funds were allowed to carry over for the coming year and should be used before the end of the grant period.

Questions and Answers for Tonya Belton:

With tutoring services, it seems that kids did not know what is available to them. What is available to our Catawba kids here at Rock Hill High School?

- There is a Boys and Girls Club sight at the Long House at the Catawba Nation. Students can ride the bus going to the site for tutoring opportunities. Also, the school has tutoring services that students are taking advantage of.
- Virtual tutoring options were provided to students (Students logged to Zoom accounts).

Dropout and Graduation Rate:

- According to the number of students, the rate varies from year to year; it could be as high as 7% or as low as 1%.
- Since the American Indian student population is low, a small number of student dropouts will highly affect the dropout rate and graduation rate.

What can we do at Rock Hill High School to help create a better situation and utilize the grant?

- Ms. Belton responded with making sure that everybody is aware of what resources and opportunities are available for our students, parents, and community—being culturally sensitive in different courses, especially American History courses and Literature by providing both perspectives when introducing certain topics. Make sure when different opinions or recollections and beliefs are expressed and understood. Share multiple perspectives when discussing certain topics.
- They are making sure that people are aware of the grant and the different opportunities that the grant provided.

Utilization of Funds:

- No restriction of the utilization as long as materials, supplies, resources, and services targets and supports the objectives and goals of the grant.
- Follow basic federal guidelines, making sure it's reasonable and allowable.
- When funds are not utilized, there is a possibility that funding will be affected the following year.

Academic Boosters Association (ABA): Paula McMillan - Representative

Currently, the group does not have something specific but is looking forward to partner with the Rock Hill High School Improvement Council. Maybe send one member to attend meetings and vice versa to be the group's representative to discuss matters.

SIC is also looking forward to this pairing in opening up communications for both groups to better and improve the school for our students.

Meeting Adjourned at 6:37 p.m.