

Rock Hill High School
Zoom
School Improvement Council Meeting Notes
February 27, 2023 6:00-7:00pm

Members Present: Kelly Scott (Chair/Parent), Mona Letigio (Parent), Sonya Burns (Community Member), Elizabeth Govea (Parent), Dilip Patel (Community Member), and Ozzie Ahl (Principal).

Kelly Scott opened meeting by welcoming everyone and asking the group to briefly introduce themselves.

Next, Kelly asked Mr. Ahl to give a **school update**.

Spring is off to a good start so far and we are working on filling positions that are available in staff and teachers for the fall. So far everything is pretty much filled, but have a few more to fill in. Look for posting on social media about these new hires so that you can learn more about them. SIC will repost these on their social media accounts.

Update on the elevator that was broken. It is now fully functional. There is a batting cage going in between the baseball and softball fields that has been a work in progress, but it's finally done. Spring sports are getting into full swing.

Updates on important dates coming up: Friday, March 10 early release teacher professional development on cultural competence. On Monday, March 13, is a teacher workday, coinciding with the end of the nine weeks, so that teachers can get their grades in for 3rd nine weeks. Coming up in March on the 23rd, the students will have a talent show that has been an annual event with a pause during Covid. Tickets will be on sale soon. Auditions going on this week. Tuesday, March 28, is a big day for the school. They will be state testing 11th grade students. Seniors will be going out to college visits or job shadow. Job shadow day for freshman as well. And it will also be jump-up day where our school will host, rising ninth graders from the middle schools at Rock Hill High on this day. Tour of school, clubs, and athletic teams information also available.

Spring break starts April 1 and goes through Sunday April 9th. May 1 starts testing blitz for the year. Will be AP, IB and End of Course (EOC) testing. We will receive a copy of all these dates in the next newsletter that will be released by the school.

Newsletter can be found on the school website and social media.

This is all news & updates by Principal Ahl.

Kelly Scott mentioned that the student council did reach out to SIC about helping with the talent show and prizes, but we were unable to help them at the time. Mr. Ahl responded that they were able to find some trophies to give out to the winners. Kelly also asked about the cultural competency that teachers will be doing in professional development. Mr. Ahl responded that this is a program that started with the district office and the office of diversity and inclusion where they asked that each school send a champion and we have selected who is presenting and receiving training. This will be the third of three sessions, presenting to all staff members of how to work with students with cultural diversity. All of the teachers have gone through two sessions and this is the third and final session for that cultural competency training.

Update on teacher appreciation by Kelly Scott (for Laura Lawson)

Teachers were treated to Subway by sponsors this past Friday and the teachers and staff appreciated it and enjoyed it. On March 6, they will receive Rock Hill coffee roasters again in the morning, sponsored by our partner elevation Riverwalk. Right now working on Chick-fil-A breakfast sandwiches to be given out around March 17 to the teachers. SIC members will be delivering to the classrooms in the morning. SIC also still needs snack cart donations for the snack cart for teachers - easy to donate to. Our SIC partner, Dilip Patel just donated a large amount of snacks & we are very appreciative.

Questions from the group:

Mr. Ahl says that the school got a call from Chad Sheeley at Chick-fil-A Cherry Rd. He says that they have completed the renovation now and their kitchen is large enough and staff is big enough that they can handle large orders that we do. He is going to provide Chick-fil-A for students to purchase as fundraisers for several groups and organizations on Wednesdays. They will receive a little discount so they can make some money. Mr. Ahl suggested that we contact them about our upcoming teacher treat for a good discount. Groups are: DECA, Beta, boys&girl basketball & chorus all raising money for their activities. Mr. Sheeley says he will definitely work with the SIC.

Member, Sonya Burns asked if there is a general fund that community members/ partners and families can donate to so they can help the students at the school. Mr. Ahl said there is a separate donations account that can be designated for students or whatever the donation is to be used for. There is also ABA, Bearcat Backers, etc.

Question in the chat about the high numbers in climate survey regarding bullying.

Group reviewed survey responses and discussed some of them. Mr Ahl gave some follow up about bullying and reports of bullying. He said that when students report to counselors that there is something going on, there is a conversation. If there is two way communication or a situation between the two parties, that is different from bullying. Only when it is one person or group acting towards a person, it is identified as bullying, then we definitely address the situation. If it is two parties who have had some issues before say in middle school, we get the parties together and talk it out so that we can address the issue. We really try to find out if it is indeed a bullying situation. Sometimes for students filling out the surveys and see bullying, it is used for several things and not exactly a bullying situation. This survey is now online and has a very large student response. It used to be mailed home.

Sonya also asked about EOC testing and how can the community help with the school meeting improvement plan goals for end of course results to be improved upon. Mr Ahl responded that in the past, ABA and other groups have done some celebration incentives for teachers who meet their benchmarks and plaques or a banner for teachers. Right now we are gathering some data on students that are regularly attending and trends, that show they do better on the end of course testing than those who do not attend regularly. Hope is to encourage parents to send students on a regular basis and decrease absences. The school will be publicizing information about the correlation between attendance and absences and end of course testing results. Mr. Barber is pulling data.

Ms. Burns followed up with question if academic support could also be used for this improvement. Mr. Ahl said, yes, if we could have experts in a particular area, we would love that support, but we do already have built in RTI, before school tutoring after school tutoring, and district instructional specialist have been working with Algebra, Biology, English and US history teachers. We have started the process of doing common assessment at regular times throughout the semester and reviewing that data so we are hoping to see some improvement. Trends seem to show that students in attendance is factor and that students who attend regularly will do better than those who don't attend regularly and struggle. Towards the end of April, some of our EOC teachers will be doing tutoring in the mornings or afternoons with students to get extra study sessions to get them ready for that test. In the past as SIC has provided some snacks for this, as well as the ABA.

Another question in the chat from member about the number of microwaves available in the cafeteria to students. One of the challenges in the past is that if you have too many microwaves going at one time, it will blow a circuit. He is going to look and see how many are working right now and see if another one can be purchased if necessary.

A member then asked about climate survey results and the bathrooms being clean on campus. She was concerned with the percentage that said it was not kept clean. Mr. Ahl's response is that the custodial staff do their best to keep the bathrooms clean and stocked, and if any student finds something missing that they should notify a staff member and it will be refilled or cleaned. He encourages students to report issues they find.

As to the EOC testing results, Mr. Ahl says teachers are concerned about course testing scores and working diligently to bring them up.

A last chat question about the music room used for Advisory. Mr Ahl responded that there are only x number of rooms during Advisory, but PE teachers don't have rooms. Some of the music rooms don't have desks in the advisory class. Mr Ahl will check on that for students who would need/like to do work during Advisory.

There was a question about late arrival or early dismissal and seniors and where they can go for studying during this time. Mr. Ahl responded that there are not a lot of space available that would have supervision for the students. Since they have late arrival or early dismissal, they are expected to not be on campus during that time. Next SIC meeting will be on March 20 and it will be in person in conference room A.

Meeting was adjourned.