



Board Meeting Minutes

October 16, 2023

6:00 PM

The mission of Rocky Mount Prep is to educate, equip and empower each scholar to excel academically by providing equitable learning opportunities and collaborating with families and communities.

Attendance:

Board Members Present Administration Present Keen Gravely, Jean Kitchin, Charles Davis

Staff: Tiara Woods, Kenya Grant, Tristan Hunter, Quadric Witherspoon, Susan Sharpe, Lois Glass, Jeaninne Wallace, D'Andrea Heggs, Dr. Heather Collins

1. Dr. Collins started the meeting by acknowledging those that are survivors of Breast Cancer/ Cancer and their fight.
2. Call to Order
 - a. Keen Gravely, Chairman, called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM. The meeting met quorum. Jean Kitchin motioned to approve the agenda and June, July, and Special minutes. The motion was seconded by Charles Davis. The next meeting was scheduled for the 2nd Monday in October. Move Consultant Update after Board meetings and agenda
 - Approval of Minutes
 - a. Kitchin Second
 - b. Motion to accept as presented by Kitchen and Davis second
 - A. Consultant Update - Dr. Brown-Bright introduced herself as a therapist for the school. She discussed School Based Mental Health Services. They serve 60 students in the school. They have been on campus since 2017. School based mental health is done in house at RMPrep. There was another therapist added to the team. Ms. Battle is the therapist to Middle/High School and Ms. Chappell is servicing Elementary. Scholars receive therapy and medication management to alleviate the barriers of all mental health services. Scholars receive services immediately once referred. Scholars are able to function better in the classrooms with the services that are offered through Fernandez Community Center. All of the staff appreciate the services that Dr. Brown-Bright brings to the school.
 - B. Information Items

- Financial Report - Dr. Collins presented the financial report to the Board. They discussed budget concerns and how to remedy the situation.
- There will be new numbers per pupil and new ESSER funds.
- The board will have training on October 21, 2023 with Dr. Cooper and the meeting will be recorded. It will be from 10am - 12pm. The recording will be dispensed via email
- We will also have Saturday School on the 21st and they are selected based on request and those who are low scoring on iReady with Low 2's and 2's. We used the testing data to make strong recommendations. Taneka Bryant asked how do we notify parents that their child is recommended. Students get a packet home to let parents know that they are recommended for Saturday
- Charles Davis asked about therapy in the school and wanted to know if teachers and staff are included in the services that Dr. Brown - Bright offers.
- Communications Update: Casey Moore - She discussed the website and that all items that were requested had been added. All minutes are uploaded. We have 863 scholars in the building at this time in the school. Mental health day is moved to Nov 17 Dec 22 Feb 2nd March 1st. Moved by Kitchin Second by Davis to update the calendar and notify the parents of the days added.
- Principals Updates - Each principal gave their report of what is going on in their grade levels and to discuss some of their key points and updates.
 - a. Ms. Sharpe talked about the teachers video taping themselves, they hosted a virtual parent meeting to discuss curriculum and talk to teachers. K-2 students took iReady tests and they are analyzing the data. They are using their strategies with tutors and interventionists. Mr. Gravely asked if teachers are aware how to use the toolbox and Ms. Sharpe responded that they are trained on it during PLC. She ended by discussing some staffing items with the board.
 - b. Ms. Glass talked about things going well in 3-5. Wonders training went well and she is scheduling some additional trainings. She has added staff to her team as well. She talked about how Dr. Brown-Bright is assisting the teachers and students with strategies for success. They've planned events for teacher morale.
 - c. Ms. Grant talked about things being well in 6-8. Students are respecting the culture and are trying to work hard for the teachers. Everyone seems to be excited about what is going on. She discussed some curriculum updates and that she is filling some vacancies in her team. She talked about assessments and lesson plans to move the needle on the data. They had a data retreat to discuss data for each teacher and they are starting to see growth. They had student recognition for each grade level and the students are excited and want to be a part. Mr. Gravely wanted to ask questions about the rooms not being cleaned and she explained that they are not done by custodians. Dr. Collins discussed that the contractor is having issues with retention of the staff. They are working with the contractor to resolve this. We will be hiring our own staff during the day and the contractor will continue to provide help during the night. Mr. Davis expressed concerns about it not being fair to the day time custodians that the night staff is not doing their job. Mr. Davis asked about discipline and Ms. Grant advised that there is bullying but they're addressing them.
 - d. Dr. Wallace discussed they had 90% attendance for hs scholars. They've had some vaping issues and they've been suspended and now that has decreased. They had spirit week and it boosted the morale of the students and staff. Scholars are doing morning announcements. They have Chat GPT AI assistance for the scholars and they have an in-person math teacher for the scholars. Enrichment is going on and they have a scholar led conference coming up. They're using mastery connect in HS and they're assessing the data. Mr. Gravely asked about the conference.
 - e. AVID is going well on the campus and they are implementing the strategies.

They're still determining the data and emphasizing and seeing more note taking from the students.

- All other team members gave their updates. Mr. Davis shared concerns of making sure that they are receiving appropriate discipline for behaviors on the bus.
- Mr. Gravely went back and asked about the students being a grade behind. He discussed that K-2 is the time to correct learning before they get to testing areas. Ms. Sharpe stated that they are implementing small group instruction and other tactics to help with raising those numbers.
- Dr. Collins commended the Instructional coaches on the work that they're doing. Also she discussed the Writing Revolution and that it will be implemented in January to give time for the teachers to get acclimated to what they're already doing. They will have a professional development on January 4-5th when they come back from Christmas break.
- Ms. Farmer gave EC updates. They have 93 scholars with accommodations. We are 100% compliant with meetings. They went to a meeting for EC and talked about grants that will be available for our school. They have PD sessions for learning disabilities and more in compliance with NCDPI. They have a new EC teacher in the middle school and they're losing one in High School and will be filling it out soon. Mr. Davis asked about the students coming and going in classes and Ms. Farmer stated that they do based on the IEP and 504.
- Mr. Abrams talked about maintenance issues and updates and saving of about \$100,000 and the representative talked to the board about the specifics of the security system that they propose to put in the school to help remediate issues. He was Micheal from Verkada.
- Dr. Wright talked about the college and career academy and their successes. We have a college level class on campus and they are excelling. They are enrolling scholars with early college options and they are being registered for college. Dr. Collins discussed that Dr. Wright is putting together an AIG program with Mr. Hunter and Dr. Wallace. Mr. Davis asked about schools coming in and Dr. Wright established that we have colleges and armed forces on the campus
- Dr. Collins talked about revamping the athletic department. She is having a booster club for parents.

3. Action Items

1. Policy approvals were brought to the board. All were approved and unanimously voted on for approval. This included the adding the new colors to the uniforms, fiscal policy, gospel choir, drug policy, parental leave law, and Aramark

4. Adjournment

- a. The board went into closed session at 7:40 pm to discuss personnel matters, moved and properly seconded by board members.
- b. The meeting was adjourned at 8:00 pm.