



Board Meeting Minutes
September 11, 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 Board Members Absent Administration Present Keen

Gravely, Jean Kitchin, Charles Davis

Staff: Tiara Woods, Casey Moore, Kenya Grant, Tristan Hunter, Quadric Witherspoon,

Susan Sharpe, Lois Glass, Jeaninne Wallace, D'Andrea Heggs, Dr. Heather Collins

1. 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 Davis and Kitchen second

Collins wants to add 2 additional requests for campus updates for clubs

Rename public address to board discussion

- A. Consultant Update - Dr. Cooper - She introduced herself to us and talked about her visibility on campus on Wednesdays and Fridays for professional development. She will be meeting with the leadership team to discuss observations and to get insight. Students will be getting tiered services. SSE Framework will include Saturday Enrichment in order to help those that need the most help. Ms.White will be bridging the gap between leadership and teachers.

2. Information Items

- Financial Report - Dr. Collins presented the financial report to the Board. They discussed budget concerns and how to remedy the situation.
- Harrison introduced herself, she talked about being ready and the plans they have for RMPREP and being ready for Saturday.
- What time does Saturday school run?
 - a. 8:00am - 12:00pm
- No public address but Board of Discussion - Topics that are important to us.
 - a. Developing a 3,5,10 year plan for RMPREP that will develop skills that we do not have now. Shop is one. Physical base skills. It's time for some new thinking assuming that we are going to do well. Then we will be in a position to offer new things here that we don't offer right now.
 - b. Dress Code - Davis expressed that students told him that they think of teachers as role models. We have lost the respect of what we think of our teachers because of our dress. He feels that if you want to represent yourself, you don't shouldn't come in looking apparently dressed in pajamas. Set yourself apart and dress professionally and appropriately. On certain occasions, there are activities that you can dress accordingly. If you tell children they can not wear blue jeans, you can't come in wearing blue jeans. If they pay, then so should you. Make it fair. Dressing is an important part of a child's life. They should learn by watching you how to dress when you work.
 - i. Collins reiterated that the dress code was addressed with the staff before the school year started and we have made sure that what they wear is important. Dress down days are only allowed when it is approved and announced.
 - ii. Have you seen the difference in how you are treated when you are dressed differently? Like yoga pants, jeans etc.? - Jean Kitchen.
 - 1. Scholars realize that we are setting a new example. We are watching their uniform dress and making sure they show up 150% every day. It helps scholars show up everyday with expectations.
 - 2. Why can't they wear their shirt tail out? - Davis
 - a. Scholars can hide anything under their clothes, a gun or knife or anything. That would be a reason for parents.
- Parent Contact - Any reactions from parents on how that worked?
 - a. Collins received feedback on how parents appreciated the transparency. They appreciated that she informed them of everything they wanted and needed to know.
 - b. Mr. Davis stated that he would like to see principals get more involved in the process to nip it in the bud before it gets to upper leadership by interacting more with parents.
- Dr. Collins gave a detailed financial report to explain our surplus. 15k or more requires two signatures and Mr. Gravely is now getting the financial report weekly in order to keep the board afloat. Discussion into Dr. Heggs resignation and the surplus will happen in closed sessions.
- Dr. Collins included the Athletic Stipends in order to address board transparency. We spend \$48,500 for athletic coaching. Questions about defibrillators from Mr. Davis and we have one in every building.
- Avid Update was given by Dr. Wallace. Ms. Kitchen asked if we are taking full advantage of the program. Dr. Wallace talked about how we have posters in every class and incorporate the strategies in the lesson plans.
- Communications Update: Casey Moore - She discussed the enrollment numbers. Dr.

Collins discussed where she identified where we can open up slots with the principals. She stated that she has opened up 32 slots. She stated that we are combating ongoing enrollment issues and talking with parents to see what we can do to retain scholars. Mr. Davis asked if we can increase our awareness of the good things going on to see if that will help parents trust our school again. Dr. Collins is stating that she will be using some new marketing strategies soon to put a fresh face and fresh plan to the community. Ms. Moore is excellent at taking videos and photos and getting them to the local media to make sure that they know what is going on. Mr. Davis would like to see us spend more time talking about our many programs that are available. Mr. Gravely asked if there is an interview with Dr. Collins talking about the new programs. Ms. Moore stated that is in the works as well as scholar videos to talk about how much they love the school.

- 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. Mr. Davis asked about the turnover in K-2. Ms. Sharpe talked about what was happening and how we are resolving this issue. Ms. Glass talked about 3-5 and their updates and hiring issues. We have a new ELA curriculum called Wonders and we have coaches to support and coach our staff and scholars. Tutor will be starting on Monday. Ms. Grant talked about the middle school updates. They are still in search of a few teachers. Right now we are safe with the number of students that we have. Each grade level is a little below 80 students. There is a significant decrease in referrals and negative behavior. We see a lot of buy in from their adjustment to cultural change. There is a lot of structure in the classroom as far as instructional delivery in the classroom. We have created a solid intervention plan in terms of data, intervention is in the schedule daily. It allows us to track student achievement. A schedule will start Monday for push in and pull out. Teachers are using the veteran curriculum design. Lesson plans due a week in advance to be able to make changes when necessary. Based on data, those are the areas in which we are targeting in our PLCs. Instructional coaches are planning observation times and times to model. Middle school planned a data night to explain and teach parents how to read the data that will be sent home with scholars so they can understand. On data night, teachers will also provide resources and tools they can use at home. It is our goal to create a culture and climate in middle school, teachers have been instructed to reduce the amount of yelling. They have been told to reiterate the expectations in a calm manner. It has been seen and heard in the hallways and the scholars are responding well to it. Our goal is to reach 75% efficiency. Dr. Wallace - Math needs a lot more than the ELA as far as proficiency. In an effort to improve scores, new teachers are in place. Grade level team meetings are in place to go over the grade level expectations with scholars. She advised that we have adopted advisories to replace homerooms to foster relationships within the high school and give them a place to also engage in conversations.
- All other team members gave their updates.

3. Action Items

1. Policy approvals were brought to the board. All were approved and unanimously voted on for approval. This included the Joshua's Literacy program and the behavioral chart by Mr. Witherspoon.

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.