



James S. Rickards High School
School Advisory Council
Meeting Minutes
November 16, 2021
6:00 PM – ZOOM

Welcome

- Mr. Doug Cook welcomed all parents and informed the members that Ms. Wells would not be able to attend the November meeting.

Minutes

- Motioned for approval of minutes for September and October -- motion seconded. Motion passed.

Student Government Association Report

- Mr. Amaya Wayman provided an update on SGA activities, including: school-wide awareness day; successful Veterans Day luncheon; and first Inter-Curricular Club (ICC) meeting. She mentioned that, with the help of The Girls Flow Project, there are feminine hygiene dispensers in every women's restroom in the school. Ms. Wayman was also featured in the Tallahassee Democrat.

Principal's Report

Curriculum

- Nursing- Dr. West provided an update on the nursing and CNA programs. Current passage rates are between 85%-95% with both programs. Ms. Holly explained that hospitals are requiring students to be vaccinated in order to enter their facilities. Senior students need 20 hours for clinicals. Hopeful that the students will receive the necessary hours. This year, the program has 19 seniors and looking to expand to create more opportunities for students.
- Social Studies- Ms. Johnson explained the successes and challenges of the department since the start of the pandemic. Teachers are working hard to get students acclimated to working in the classroom with direct instruction daily. Currently preparing students for end of course exams.
- Honor Roll- Mr. Cook reported that 597 students made the honor roll for the first quarter. 144 students made straight As. Very please with grades, but attendance needs to be improved.
- Testing- Mr. Cook explained that for the last few years the Governor waived test scores for seniors; however, this year, the seniors, who were most effected by the pandemic and unable to take 10th grade tests, are not being asked to pass tests with higher passage rates. He discussed that he has notified the District of his concerns. The Florida Department of Education should mover scores back to pre-pandemic scores so that students are able to be successful.
- Exam Schedule- Mr. Cook mentioned that the schedule will be published via Listserv the following week.
- COVID Update and Construction- Mr. Cowart provided a COVID update. He mentioned that there were far less cases last month than we had at the

beginning of the school year. Construction is almost complete. Hope to open courtyard in the new year.

Advisory Council Reports

District Advisory Council (DAC) Report

- Mr. Andrew Thomas provided an updated from the November DAC meeting. He discussed the Superintendent's comments regarding the Family Empowerment Scholarship and how the relaxed requirements are allowing students to transfer from public schools to private schools, which takes money away from the District. DAC received an update from the transportation department and provided information on the Hear Comes the Bus App, which provides parents with real time information on the location of school buses. Academic Services discussed the upcoming change from the Sunshine State Standards to the BEST standards, which will be rolled out in Fall 2022. He explained that the Governor's plan is to get rid of the FSA and go to progress monitoring three times per year.

Title I Advisory Council (TAC) Report

- Ms. Marie Claire Leman shared that the legislation proposed by the Governor moves yearly testing to a progress monitoring system; however, the Governor has explained that there will be no change to the accountability, which means that school grades, teacher evaluations and promotion/retention, etc., will all be tied to progress monitoring. Currently waiting to see how the Legislature will tie in the high stakes to progress monitoring.

New Business/Announcements

- Mr. Cook mentioned that he has spoken to the Superintendent about the size of the restrooms.
- Ms. Richardson reminded everyone that she does Rickards resolutions. Additionally, she asked that she is notified of events around campus so that the alumni association can help with any needs.
- Mr. Cook shared that the Rickards JROTC and marching band participated in the Veterans Day parade and both did an excellent job.

Next Meeting

The next meeting has been tentatively set for December 15, 2021.

Adjourn

Motioned for adjournment of the meeting -- motion seconded.