

2021-22 INTER-SCHOOL ADVISORY COUNCIL

Meeting Minutes

Date | time 10/27/21 9:00 a.m.

In Attendance

Heather Berkenpas, Brandi Berta, Julie Childress, Teya Cotter, Mike Cuneo, Jeff Downs, Alison Gervat, Jeremy Karel, Kerrie LeBlanc, Many Mynhier-Lake, Lindesy O'Rourke, Mike Ramm, Christie Ramsey, Renee Russo, Jessica Steele, Korie Wilson-Crawford

Advisory Committee

The purpose of the Inter-School Advisory Council is to act as an advisory group to the school superintendent and other administrative personnel, to serve as a sounding board for pertinent issues, and to facilitate communication to the community.

Superintendent/Central Office Reports

Korie Wilson-Crawford (for Dr. Shibler)

- Ram Statue at Carlson-Munger Stadium
 - Sculpted by J. Brett Grill, a former RHS graduate. The Ram statue is his first animal sculpture and is made of bronze and iron. As of the ISAC meeting date, the brick fundraiser for the Rockford Education Foundation (REF) has raised \$80,000 (\$70,000 of which had been raised before the statue had been installed).
- RAMS XI
 - Rockford Action Model for Success (RAMS), currently in its 11th iteration, is a 3 year plan that relies on focus groups and surveys to chart a course for the next 3 years for RPS. The first reading on RAMS XI meeting was held the first week of November and will cover the time period of January 1st, 2022 and go through 2025. RAMS XI will be the guiding principles for things such as curriculum, finance, community, bond planning, innovation for students, etc. These plans will be finalized in December for the January implementation.
- COVID-19 Update
 - Actively managing COVID, from the response, personnel, helping families, contact tracing, etc., has been a very difficult job. RPS has done a great job trying to navigate these rocky waters. At the time of this ISAC meeting, an approval for a COVID vaccine for children aged 5-11 is imminent. Approximately 60 days after the introduction of the vaccine to this age group, mask orders will expire, per the health department. RPS is hoping that the management of COVID will not be so burdensome after Christmas. At this time, there is a possibility that cohorting will stick around after the holidays.
 - Whether or not families can switch their children to virtual after masking expires is TBD.
 - We are “looking forward to moving forward.”

- Michigan Association of Secondary School Principals (MASSP) has awarded North Rockford Middle School principal Al Reickard as MASSP 2022 Assistant Principal of the year! He was nominated by his peers and his students. Mr. Reickard is now in the running for a national title, which will be awarded in July. He is a 1998 graduate of RHS! You can read more about Al Reickard and his award [by clicking this link.](#)

Instruction (Mike Ramm, Assistant Superintendent)

- Professional Learning Communities (PLCs)
 - Rockford Public Schools and “The Power of Us” – This is the belief that the answers and expertise lie within our people. People are placed in specific roles to achieve student outcomes. There are 8,000 students spread across 13 schools at RPS. RPS strives to teach the whole child so that they can experience belonging and connection while receiving an education.
 - PLCs are building based and led by the principal to empower the certified staff to work in collaborative teams that will ensure that priority standards are met. Priority standards are key essentials that students must know to move on at each grade level.
 - One important aspect of PLCs is Flex Time. Multiple adults (grouped by grade level at the elementary level, and by courses at the secondary level) work together to capture and help kids that may be struggling (and even those that are not struggling). Teachers will work together to influence each other, working smarter to help kids. The goal is that these children will meet for 30 min., twice a week to help raise them to where they need to be.
 - An important part of PLCs are Common Formative Assessments. These assessments occur every month on early release days. On Nov. 3rd teachers will discuss what is being taught for the next 2 weeks, then check to see how the students are capturing that information and on Nov 17th they will group students so that they can respond and help appropriately.
 - PLCs are still a work in progress, so there will be tweaks along the way to best accomplish our goals.
- Diversity, Equity, and Inclusions
 - RPS has a collective responsibility for the success of all students and wants to cultivate a culture of belonging – making students feel safe, valued, and known. This is a strategic approach that teaches kids academically but also treats them as people. We can’t always address the academics if the understanding of the kids is not there.
 - The way to achieve this is to train staff in cultural awareness, to understand the nuances that build a person’s individual identity. This builds a level of cultural competence and creates a psychologically safe environment for kids, for adults to respond in a culturally appropriate way.
 - RPS will be locally trained by Dr. Sandra Upton and her associates at the [Cultural Intelligence Center](#). This training will be specific to our community to better understand our kids. The hope is that this staff training will begin by spring and completed within the next 15 months.

Finance (Mike Cuneo, Assistant Superintendent)

- RPS does not anticipate a financial shortfall this year. All budgets have already been passed.
- Bond Update
 - 10/27/2021 – Bidding opens to break ground on the new elementary school
 - Transportation building will have a complete tear down and rebuild in the spring.

- New parking lot on Brewer – parallel to the softball and baseball fields. Provides extra parking for all events at the high school, and because of its proximity, extra parking for Roguewood!
- Crestwood renovations – additional classes added to the south end of the building, adding a gym, expansions to the playground and school entrance
- Roguewood – addition of a new cafeteria/gym

ISAC Member Issues/Miscellaneous

- Transportation shortfalls – RPS still needs bus drivers! \$17/hr plus paid training (160 hrs) – requirements include a CDL plus bus endorsement, DOT physical for bus drivers.
- Our district needs substitute teachers! RPS currently has an 80% fill rate for substitutes. While this is much higher than many school districts, this still leaves RPS in need of subs daily. If you know anyone who might be interested in being a sub, please have them get in touch with RPS! Must be 21 years or older and have a minimum of 60 college credits. Even if they have limited availability, RPS will work with that!
- Book Bus – Canonsburg is collecting notes of thanks, photos, etc. for Rachel Dekuiper and Stacey VanDenHout, for the work on the Book Bus all summer long. If Roguewood would like to participate, Alison Gervat (Cannonsburg ISAC Rep) is collecting and assembling a thank you book.
 - If any kiddos still have books from the Book Bus, have your kids give them to Mrs. Halliday and she will see that they get to the proper place. There is also a drop box available at the admin building downtown.
- Valley View recently held their Walk-A-Thon and to celebrate its success, principal Jeremy Karel camped out overnight on the roof. He went live on YouTube to read a bedtime story, when his Jimmy John's dinner was delivered, etc.

Next Meeting

January 26, 2022, Administration Office Team Room (350 N. Main Street)