

SAC Meeting Notes – 09/04/2018

Introduction – Beth Raulerson and Erin Navarro briefly introduce themselves and the purpose of SAC.

Principal Report-

- Dr. Fradley- Enrichment starts in a few weeks, we already discussed SANGAH and all other updates at RFA meeting.
- Mr. Clark – RMA added 200 new students to 6,7,8th grade. RMA currently has 42 staff members and 505 students. The middle school is tweaking processes and systems to adapt to larger head count and building on what was an awesome opening year. He loves participation and feedback from parents.

Questions -

- What's max student capacity at RMA?
 - Mr. Clark - 600 students as of now. We are writing to the district to see about expanding student count. We are asking to add 75 more kids to balance classes and bring in waiting list students.
- What percentage of entering 6th graders are from Rowlett elementary?
 - 50% are from Rowlett Academy. We have kids at RMA from 18 different elementary schools all over the district. If you go to Rowlett Elementary you automatically get in to RMA. Kids from other district elementary schools have more requirements to get in. For instance, if they are drawn from lottery they go to a summer leadership camp to get caught up on Rowlett's philosophy.

Security update – Dr. Fradley: We are currently sharing an off-duty SRO between our two schools. Negotiations with a security company that has trained guards is under way, but those guards need to go through guardian training in Sept. We want an SRO who becomes a part of Rowlett family (shared between both schools). This is our way of cautiously bringing in support without scaring kids. It's also a cost savings; \$35,000/year vs. \$72,000/year for current SRO.

Bus Update – Dr. Fradley: We currently share 8 buses between two schools. We are working through challenges, we know it's not perfect and will be revisiting it again in January.

Questions –

- Will our students be shown the scary "RUN!" video other districts are showing students.
 - Mrs. Choate – "Run Fight Hide" is video is something our teachers will watch but not our students. We are required to do two active shooter drills and we've already completed one this year.

Goals of SAC - Beth Raulerson, Elementary

- Continue to foster community and family atmosphere;
- Forming subcommittees:
 - Parent to Parent committee - Susan Raulerson will chair. The goal of this committee is to match new, incoming parents with experienced parents, so questions can easily be answered and they feel like they have a friend at the school to lean on. In addition, veteran parents can invite new parents to go with them to school events so there is an immediate connection. A second goal is to find Spanish speaking veteran families to help our Spanish speaking new families. We'd also like this committee to organize family picnics (maybe two a year) at different parks around town so families can come play, meet and foster connections.
- Expand Enrichments:
 - Offer different enrichment options, not more.
 - Looking into how we can bring in more options
- Create Communication portal for parental involvement/participation beyond fundraising so parents with busy schedules can help the school on their own time.
 - Beth's been meeting with Ms. Levy to figure out how to communicate other school volunteer opportunities. Already have a list of other opportunities (list was passed around).

Questions-

- Child's teacher doesn't like in classroom help, how else can you help at school?
 - Dr. Fradley and Beth - Volunteer training is online this year so new volunteers don't need to come to school for in person training.
 - Please see Beth if you'd like to help with "ways to get involved" items.

SAC Goals - Erin Navarro, RMA

- Improve parent/school communications - Facebook page is monitored by parents, not Rowlett. Questions asked there are many and varying. Admins monitor and delete answers to minimize confusion not because they want to censor anyone. Admins may tell you redirect your question to the school so questions are answered officially. The admins' goal is to eliminate unproductive conversations. Mr. Clark added – our goal is to drive parents to call the school, or our website where most information is found. RMA likes to get direct parent input.
- Fortunate with middle school that they want volunteers and parents on campus to help or have lunch with child. Mr. Clark – Wanted to emphasize we love having parent volunteers on campus and being involved. There is a small difference in volunteer training at RMA vs. RA; at RMA you don't have to do training unless you are working one on one with students.
- Increase business partners – Mr. Clark – we want to expose students to jobs they will see in 21st century as early as possible. We want our kids to be job creators, not just workers, so getting them exposure early to what's out there is advantageous. We want businesses on campus and community leaders to come to the school and meet with students. Anyone you know who can speak or interact with students please let RMA know.

- Strengthen K-8 feeling – Erin is passionate about K-8 program and wants parents to buy into 8 years of Rowlett. Keeping our kids’ values, morals and education congruent all the way up to high school is very important. She wants to create more of a bond between the two schools. We have a very strong middle school even in only year two and it deserves a lot of support.

Questions –

- Will parent to parent committee span K-8?
 - Beth: Hopefully and eventually. It’s new and we will do as much as we can with it.
- Can we set up RMA tours for elementary school parents so they have a feel for it early on?
 - Erin and Mr. Clark - Yes, we should look into that. Mr. Clark – and please come to our performances and events and join our website to stay involved in RMA.
- Parent suggestion: publish on SANGAH performances for both schools on same calendar so everyone on SANGAH can see them.

Closing:

- Dr. Fradley - The biggest job of the principal is to make sure the running of the school is not interfered with by other activities. Activities like Effort Honor Roll, Leader of the Month, etc., are awesome but there are other ways to recognize students and minimize disruption of the school day. Also, he believes that all students should see the kids getting honored. He will be looking into how we can recognize our students without adversely impacting our school schedule and how we can include all students, not just the students being honored. He would like to work with four or five parents to come up with different ways to do this.
- Beth – As important as committees and fundraising is, we want parents to understand what SAC does as far as influencing school policies and communicating amongst parents. Please bring a friend to the next RFA and SAC meeting.