

RHS IBPO Meeting Minutes

Nov 14, 2017

In Attendance: Mary Tucker, James Minor, Debra Hutchinson, Eva Kaganas Guralnik, Lynne Streitmatter, Steve Cantees, Joe Binswanger, Dr. Paul Burns, Keith Little. Lisa Russo, Jackie Henson-Dacey, Amy Earl, Renae Lasday, Maureen Bradley, Judy Croce, Cathlin Mauer, Sinan Turkower, Elizabeth Spingler

Dr. Minor

- The pinning ceremony was successful, thanks to the committee, Maureen and the whole team. Close to 600 people were there, and the courtyard was beautiful. There was a lot of positive feedback, and the guest speaker did great. In attendance were approximately 108 seniors and 145 juniors.
- There is a mandatory junior parent college night on December 19th. We plan to push for additional parents to join the IBPO that night. All juniors have started using Naviance, since pull outs in beginning of November. We will now be using it across the IB spectrum, starting with 11th grade. We plan to do small break out groups with the juniors in March.
- We sent an application in for the Equity and Excellence program, which enables schools to look at equity gaps across socio-economic and race differences, etc. We were accepted and they are looking at our data now. They look at how our kids are involved with IB versus standard education. If we are approved, we will have access to all Equity frame work across the entire school, enabling us to tap into all our kids, and learn additional strategies. There will be 100 schools chosen. One of our missions is to push IB at Riverview high school and have up to 70-75% of kids at our campus involved in the IB program. We will hear back in December if we are accepted to be part of this exciting project.

Also in attendance today:

Steve Cantees – Executive Director of High Schools

Joe Binswanger – *IT and Communications Director (not sure of title)*

Sonia Figaredo-Alberts – Executive Director of Pupil Support Services

Mary Tucker

- Asked that Steve, Joe and Sonia come in and speak to the IBPO board and also the IB parents, which will be on this Thursday, November 16th at 4:30 pm, to discuss security and any other issues on people's minds.

Steve Cantees

Introduction - Over the course of the last several weeks we have fielded phone calls, questions and concerns from parents. Happy to do that and we understand the concerns. When we have any situation or any communication piece, related to a crisis situation or not, it always comes from our communications office. The reason for this is so one consistent message goes out. Joe did a great job working with Dr. Burns recently. At the district level, many people are involved in conversations, and we try to have as many people collaborating together before making any decisions.

I asked Mary to ask any questions that they have at Riverview high school.

Some are obvious, and others not so much. Here they are the questions and answers per Steve:

1. Why the gap on the communication on the night of the alleged assault off campus at the football game?

Joe answered the question as follows: A quick background, I am a Riverview Alum. It's a special place for me, as a general rule of

conversation. The most pressing thing, a challenge with the recent series of events is the mis-information that has spread. We need to identify what is not true is on social media, and determine how do we combat it. We have begun to do that by commenting, adding the actual facts.

If we had all to do all over again, we would have communicated something on Saturday. We can't go back and change the past, however, we'll use it in our plans going forward.

We were in communication with the Sheriff's office, and my counterpart there, about the right message to send out. We don't want to do anything that may be detrimental to an active investigation. We sought the advice of the Sheriff's Department, and they asked us to hold tight. In retrospect, we would have done things differently, and we will.

Per Steve, You all can't imagine how many times we talk about doing a direct education. When we send a direct ed, it also triggers a response on social media, 99% of the time is causes a response on social media, and it's often inaccurate.

We feel like we get the communication out whenever there's something we want to comment on as quickly as possible.

Per Joe, in each of these instances, we try and learn and what will we do in retrospect.

Per Maureen, you had a prime opportunity to address it the next night at homecoming.

Per Joe, yes, we should have and we missed the mark, they should have addressed it. As parents, the safety and security of our kids was always on the forefront.

2. Convicted Felons at RHS?

We have students that come out of Department of Juvenile Justice (DJJ), all the time. I would make an argument that we have more in crisis situations than we've ever had before. We talk about mental health of students, in the school and the community. There is a lot of conversation back and forth and we are going to do our best. Decision wise, every time we have a one of these incidents happen, we review every file of every student that has come back to RHS.

What kind of support do these students get?

Once in DJJ they are out of our hands as far as support services.

Per Maureen, students have made mistakes, and yes, we want to give them a chance. What happens when Dr. Burns does not want one to return to our campus, and there is no support in the county?

Per Steve, I would argue that there is support when they come back into the school system. At RHS we have an additional social worker, an additional nurse, and additional security, this is more than other schools have.

3. Age discrepancy, we have 21 year olds here, and 14 and 15 year olds, how do we deal with that?

We have security monitors, SRO's and ESE (*not sure what that is*) On average, class size is 25-1, but can get up to 31-1. In many cases there would be an aid in the classroom also. As far as resources, with the help of several Foundations, we have mental health resources in this community. Where we've identified special needs we put special resources in place.

Per Sonia, when it comes to any child, general education or special education, we have very extensive support services, mental health services and therapeutic wrap around support

available, with parents' approval. Sometimes, parents don't approve the help. We provide and document it. We are educators, and we are here to teach. We have mental health therapists to come into the school. However, parents have to concur. Many times we make recommendations, monitor the students, and parents decline help.

Per Mary, RHS has a full time social worker, we have 2700 students, there is no they can handle all these students. They are always reactive, and can't be proactive.

Per Sonia, there is additional help assigned to the RHS, we have the support staff for the ESC students and administration. When we look at specific responsibilities, we have a wrap around group approach. Many times we have a team of 5 for a family.

Per Steve, we have 2700 students, financial climate is changing dramatically, kids are homeless and abuses have increased. I go to bed thinking about them. There's never enough. It's richer here at RHS, we have a guidance counselor that only services IB.

Sonia and Steve are liaisons to court system, and they sit in the courtroom when students are arrested. If they have a felony charge, they are released to the parents. The liaison can say whether the information regarding school is accurate, or inaccurate. As a committee looking at those students, we have a responsibility to provide them an education, but it may not mean they come back to school.

4. Discuss Violent, or non-violent felony.

Per Sonia, as a community, safety is number one. We have to look at whether a crime was admitted or not. Last weekend, a student was returned to a charter school, the student has no prior records, and the principal returned him to the school.

5. When there was a news article about a teacher that was threatened, per the rumor mill, he got a one-day detention, is that true?

Per Steve, the truth is that he has not actually been back on campus since. The bottom line is teachers can not be threatened, it's unacceptable.

Per Steve, we've been working really hard, we had our hands slapped three years ago because we were suspending students too much of the time. So we started working towards restorative strategies. The pendulum swings in both directions, and at the end of the day, we reevaluated how we are using our resources. Five years ago, when a student may have received an expulsion or 10 day detention, today it may not be the case.

6. Park near the tennis courts, students are sometimes walking off campus without any one questioning them. Why?

Per Dr. Burns, we are looking at this situation, our SRO and assistant principal are looking out front. We put staff in front of the school and put a safety/security person at the cross walk to see if and why they are exiting campus.

7. What do we do with our students that are here after school before sports and clubs start, etc.?

Per Steve, and Dr. Burns, we are ramping up our security after school for kids here for sports etc. Last year I hired two teachers for safety and security after school. This year it was less expensive for a security monitor here from 9:30 – 5:30. We had a conversation last week, and were asked if the library can stay open after school until sports start. We are exploring that option. Also, exploring whether the parent organization, or parent can volunteer and assist a staff member in this.

8. Does the school have sporadic police dogs on campus?

Per Dr. Burns, yes we do, they come on a monthly basis and we keep the date private.

9. Is there an anonymous tip line for students and faculty?

Per Steve, there is a tip line in the district, and also in the Sheriff's office. Our tip line phone number is **941.927.4057**, which rings directly into the security office, a voicemail will answer and it will be handled.

10. Social Media Discussion

Per Steve, social media has made our job very difficult and damaging to the kids. Recently, a kid posted a picture on line of a gun at 10:15pm.

Per Mary, we know this happens at every high school. Kids see things online, and they don't have the ability to determine what's a good idea and what's not a good idea.

Per Steve, this happens 10 or 15 times a year. We had a handle on it and sent out a Connect Ed at 6 am.

Per Joe, we are beginning to put out a series of high school service announcements describing what happens when you make a bad decision. We are creating a message through instagram and/or snapchat that's hip, so kids may watch it.

Per Dr. Burns, until the hip young message is done, we are doing the traditional message.

Per Steve, our community is looking at foundations to bring in a speaker on social media. We are working with the Gulf Coast community Foundation on how to get this message out in social media. I have a strong feeling on social media and the damage it's

doing on our kids.

Per Sonia, we have to model them and guide and coach them, and many times, students have come from trauma, and they get into social media situations when the social media is negative.

Per Steve, the email address for our community is:

schoolsafetyideas@Sarasotasafety.net

The phone number is:

1.877.BE.BRAVE

1877.723.2728

11. Is there parking on campus for sporting events?

Per Steve, yes.

12. What are the positives for the kids on the bus?

Per Steve, the message that these kids need to take away is that they are doing the right thing.

General conversation, how are we peer modeling? Should we do rewards for kids? They don't want to be named. How do we continue to help our kids to be brave?

Per Dr. Burns, we need to share those positives. We can do this with pullouts. There is inequity with pullouts, currently only IB students get pull outs. We are starting to do pull outs with other students, the new structure will mirror IB pullouts.

Per Steve, advisory has been a topic, it's a communication platform where we can push out information. It can be partially student driven, and/or staff driven.

Gulf Coast has a new organization, Civility Squad, which promotes

respect, value, praise etc., by integrating positive behavior into all our schools. What is it and how do we guide, coach and monitor the at risk kid? The idea behind it is prevention rather than intervention.

Dr. Minor, advisory, it's about building the infrastructure to have it when you need it. Venice high has a form of advisory called VHS connect, and in it the discussion can be anything from a philosophy lesson to talk about fishing, basketball, the idea is that it can be de-stressing.

Per Sonia, when I worked in Seattle, kids had a different approach to the program, it began with the teacher, and the kids had the same teacher for all four years, so they built a strong relationship. There are many diff ways of looking at advisory.

13. Should we have metal detectors in the schools?

Per Steve, nothing is 100% guaranteed, what's the norm? We have to rely on our SRO's. Kids always go to SRO's and their teachers. This is incredibly important, every student needs an adult at school to go to. The district is not saying we are going to get metal detectors. They think it might send the wrong message to kids in Sarasota.

Per Joe, Steve and Sonia and I were there b/c parents in the IB program spoke to Dr. Burns and wanted to hear from us. I was hoping the IBPO would share what we spoke about today with the IB parent community. I am going to go on a limb and feel that everyone is going to feel more comfortable after this meeting.

Per Joe, we need to focus on positive news outlets.

Per Steve, we need to support the Sarasota referendum.

Per Steve, I was at the lockdown, and the response was amazing and done in timely manner.

Per Joe, let's use positive media, share positives.

Per Dr. Minor, do we do any positive advertising, on Facebook?

Lisa Russo

- SAC Meeting, we want to make sure the parents know the 60 for 60 is still open for donations. A big push for the 60 hours, it came and went, and you can still donate for this program.
- In terms of the last SAC meeting, we talked about the school improvement plan. It goes for initial submission, and Dr. Cantees will look over it, then it will go back to Dr. Burns, who wants to use this tool to improve the school, and it's implementation will result in positive change.
- Freshman t-shirts should be available to all kids, some kids are not involved in sports or clubs, and do not have access to a RHS tee-shirt. We are looking for sponsors.
- Professional development program, with John Haddy. His programming and thought process has shown that success happens when we begin with the end in mind. This is a big focus on campus. Students start the period knowing what they will have mastered by the end of the period, or the beginning and end of the week.
- Teacher's Appreciation luncheon went well, thank you to the great volunteers.
- We need to do something in December, tbd.
- We are almost covered for all the pies we need. If you have volunteered to bring some in, you can drop them off at front desk. New sign up genius going out this week to get the rest of the pies donated.
- Extended essay gift, duffel bags have arrived.
- Already had feedback on pinning ceremony

Per Dr. Burns, Teacher of the year, Ms. Sweihardt, was surprised with jam squad play. About 500 IB kids, surprised her!

