

James S. Rickards Middle School

Welcome

Call to Order

- A meeting of the Rickards Middle School Advisory Council was held in the Media Center on March 13, 2019. Co-chair, Ms. Wright called the meeting to order at 6:10pm. The call to order was seconded by Mr. Donnelly.

Approval of Minutes

- February Minutes required no corrections and were approved by Dr. Collado and Mrs. Carter (parent).

AdvanceED eProve Survey

- Best practices when developing SIP is for department chairs to contribute by including goals for each department.
- The survey is to get the opinions of stakeholders (staff, students, and parents).
- The survey window will be open from March 4th – April 4th.
- The survey process is posted on the school's website.
- Faculty and staff will complete the survey during next staff meeting. Students will complete the survey in their Social Studies classes. Parent participation continues to be difficult.
- Ms. Balog suggested that the survey be printed and sent home. Dr. Collado concluded that the survey is too long to print and distribute. Dr. Collado will include the information for the survey in the weekly callout.

City of Oakland Park

- Mr. Donnelly provided updates on behalf of the city.
 - The local library will also be offering free tax preparation services for residents February 2 – April 16.
 - Spring Camp Registration opened March 4th for Spring Break. Camps will be from March 22 – 29 for children grades K-8.
 - Youth Day was held on March 9th. The RMS Band, led by Ms. McClendon, participated and was a hit.
 - The Citywide Yard sale will be held March 16th at Jaco Pastorius
 - Dancing in the Street will be held on 12th street on April 26th.

SIP: Curriculum Updates

- Math
 - Ms. Folkes: Students in Math Club attended BCCTM at Sawgrass Springs Middle School. The department is preparing for FSA review for the testing season. Afterschool camps have begun, and the student turnout has been great. Pie Day is 3/14 and sixth grade students will be participating in field day activities.
- Science

- Balog: 8th grade is completing the grade level curriculum. In April, students will begin reviewing 6th and 7th grade standards based in BSA data. Students will complete the FCAT Science assessment May 8th. Science camps are being held on Thursdays for additional review. Tomorrow the Science department is hosting Rocket Launcher Night. This event is to encourage parents to assist students in preparing Science assessment.
- Ms. Wright suggested parents take the survey while in attendance. Ms. Horowitz (parent) suggested that the school host a breakfast, like the elementary schools to encourage parents to come in and take the survey. Mrs. Beckford suggests parents complete form during pickups while waiting for the student. Mr. Sohn suggests that we have a computer at the front desk for parents to complete the survey.
- Literacy
 - Mr. Sohn for Ms. Tierney: Teachers are concluding grading for Mock Writing Assessments. The writing assessment will be April 2nd for 6th grade and April 3rd for 7th and 8th grades. Writing Camp will be held on March 16th and students will address the writing process in the form of stations. In preparation for the camp, students are reading the same text across grade level. Buses are being provided for afterschool camps Tuesday – Thursday.
- Social Studies
 - Mr. Sohn: Across grade levels, student will complete surveys for school improvement. Sixth grade is currently completing work on Ancient Greece. 6th and 8th grade classes are supporting Literacy in preparation for the writing test. 7th grade is completing their final unit and will begin review. The test will be May 21st. Pullouts will begin for students that are approaching proficiency from their elective courses. Civics camps will begin two weeks prior to testing.
- Diversified Arts
 - Mrs. Beckford: The yearbook is almost complete. Art students are working on clay structures. Band is preparing for their Spring performance. PE is working on track and field. They will also be supporting the Pie Day festivities. Robotics participated in a competition held at RMS. The students placed 14th and Mrs. Horowitz (parent) was a judge. In athletics, track season is beginning. The cheerleaders, band, and peer counseling students will be attending and Above the Influence rally. Players from the Florida Panthers visited the school and gave all students souvenir caps. The Athletic Banquet will be in May. Mr. Donnelly asked if the PTSA could purchase a page in the Yearbook.
- Additional Academic Update
 - Ms. Wright: Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) evaluates schools based on services provided and student achievement. In comparison to other schools, RMS only had one subgroup that was underserved as opposed to 3 or 4. The subgroup that is underserved are SWD. We have 2-3 years to improve in this area, which is being tracked by FLDOE. This has already been addressed in SIP. Mr. Nicholas (parent), the ESE Rep stated that he would like feedback from teachers to know what he can assist with and support the ESE Department.

Principal's Report

- We are in the process of rebranding the school to a renewable energy and Cambridge school. We will be known as Rickards Middle School: Cambridge and Renewable Energy Academy.
- There will be academic tracks in technology, culinary arts, and language, adding French to the curriculum.
- Students from feeder elementary schools will be scheduled on academic tracks.
- Robotics will be improving, and we are currently looking for community sponsorships to enhance the program.
- LBC is improving and students will be required to complete modules based on behavioral infractions.
- On March 16, we will be hosting the World Languages Competition for the county.
- There will also be a District Chess Competition.
- We will be offering Chess next year as an elective.
- We will be hosting a Summer Camp for incoming 6th graders to allow students to get their feet wet with middle school.

Next Meeting

- The next meeting will be held April 10, 2019 at 6:00pm

Motion Adjournment

- Motion to adjourn by Ms. Wright, seconded by Mr. Nicholas (parent) at 6:52 pm. Motion carried unanimously.