

# James S. Rickards Middle School

## School SAC Meeting Minutes – September 12, 2018

### Welcome.

### Call to Order

- A meeting of Rickards Middle School Advisory Council was held in the media center on September 12, 2018. Chair Mr. Sohn called the meeting to order at 5:54 pm. Mrs. Torres will record the minutes for this meeting.

### SAC Positions and Nominations 2018-19

- The nominations for the 2018-2019 SAC composition are:

### Approval of 2018-19 SAC dates

- The following dates are proposed to hold SAC meetings: September 12, October 10, November 14 and December 12 at 6:00 pm.
- Motion to approve dates by Ms. Carter and Mr. Donnely.

### Approval of By Laws

- The By Laws is a document that describes the rules, regulations and expectations of Rickards Middle School community. It is made available at the school's website (<https://www.browardschools.com/rickards>). Approval of By Laws by Ms. Folkes and Ms. Carter.

### Approval of Minutes

- Mrs. Carter motions to approve the minutes of May 8, 2018, with no corrections necessary.

### Treasurer Report

- Ms. Sheffield reported a total of \$5339.00. The approval of fund use will depend on the voting process.

### SIP: Curriculum Updates

- Ms. Balog is introducing a new science pathway of "Innovative Energy Program". Mr. Esquiagola is implementing the "Accelerated Science Academy" track that will initiate with students in 6<sup>th</sup> grade and continue to 7 and 8<sup>th</sup> grade. Both programs will utilize Project Based Learning and it will become a school-wide initiative. Ms. Balog is requesting a letter of recommendation from SAC representative for the year 2019-20.
- Mr. Sohn and Ms. Sheffield agreed to write a letter of recommendation.

### City of Oakland Park

- Mr. Donnely informs that the Board has yet to approve his position with Rickards Middle School.

- An invitation to “Summer Nights” is being made every Friday at Jaco Pastorious Park. Saturday September 15 will be held a “Yard Sale”. Latin Fest will be on September 21 from 6-10 pm. October Fest will be from October 5-7, \$10 per person. Halloween Bach will be on October 26 from 6-10 pm.

### **SAC Report**

- Jack Donnelly invites to the opening of Oakland Park pool for Community Center. Summer breakfast will be available in Oakland Park with City Commissioner on May 16, 2018.

### **SIP: Curriculum Updates**

- Math: Ms. Folkes congratulated all the staff, parents and students for the great achievement demonstrated with the results of the FSA. Rickards Middle School was in first place with improvements of scores 3 and above in Math proficiency. The lowest 25 percentile group was second in the district. Two new math teachers were hired, all teachers are using IReady, the data is used to plan lessons and Project Based Learning.
- Science – Ms. Balog: The Science department welcomes three new teachers to our school, they are also receiving mentoring to facilitate the transition to the school. The focus for the year is to increase student achievement for the FSA. Much focus on the lowest 25 percentile of student achievement to improve outcome. Parents are invited to the November showcase. Science Fair Projects showcase will be in January. The Health and Wellness Fair will be on October 6 at Rickards Middle School.
- Literacy – Mrs. Tierney: Data from the FSA show that scores went from 36% to 46%, the lowest 25 percentile improved from 31% to 45%. The first FAIR test is taking place. Achieve 3000 has been purchased for the reading department. Reading teachers will receive a pilot training in Development in CANVAS. Language Arts teachers will receive training next Thursday. Collaboration with the Social Studies department continues. The Language Arts department will start a pilot project on how texts are used in class using text-based evidence.
- Social Studies -Mr. Wongsam: The EOC exam from May showed a growth from 57% to 63%. Constitution Day will be held on Monday September 17. The Fort Lauderdale Mayor will be the invited speaker. 8<sup>th</sup> grade students are going to go to JA Biztown where they will learn about budgeting and finances. Students are being prepared in class. Data from common assessments is used to target the weakest areas. The first Unit test will be held soon.
- Diversified Arts-Mrs. Beckford: Band has started a fundraiser for a field trip to Disney. Band is practicing the National Anthem. Art classes are working on projects to help decorate the Hispanic Heritage Night held on October 25. Peer Counseling is preparing peer counselors to help. Yearbook is also being prepared. PE is teaching how to measure heart rate. In Robotics students are using Scratch and will start practicing engineering skills with Project Based Learning. First Golf game will be on September 24. Basketball and volleyball tryouts have started. All students must have a physical exam to tryout for any sport as mandated by the school board.
- Guidance – Mrs. Sheffield: September 14 will start the rollout of the SOAR program to mentor students. On September 21, there will be grade level assemblies for all students. On September 24, representatives from Sandy Hook Promise will have a presentation of “Start with a Hello”.

Discipline is being addressed based on the discipline matrix and the student code of conduct. Depending of the severity of the infraction, most students are started with internal suspension in LBC and SEL lessons imbedded in the internal suspension.

### **Title 1**

- Mr. Sohn spoke on behalf of Ms. Brown. A copy with website links was provided to review information about Rickards Middle School. Ms. Brown requests feedback regarding the best practices for SIP. See attachment for links.

### **Principal's Report**

- Mrs. Sheffield spoke on behalf of Dr. Collado that is at a conference in Argentina.
- For safety and security, adjustments were made at the car-loop to drop off and pick up students. Teachers' parking was also changed. All gates are locked during all times and there is a security check for all people that want to enter during school hours.
- Fire drills will be held twice per month; tornado drills will be held two per school year; and code red drills will be once a month. Parents are notified via all-call and emails to keep them informed.
- On Thursday September 13, school board member Heather Brinkworth will have an open forum with Rickards Middle School.
- Funds from SAC will be used to pay for teachers that serve the Homework Help that will run from 3:50 to 4:45
- Thanks to Ms. Balog and Ms. Folkes that wrote a grant to start the "Innovative Renewable Energy Program". Rickards is also starting the Cambridge Program that is a magnet program.
- All the hard efforts from Rickards Middle paid off as demonstrated by the FSA. Our school was the highest achievement middle school of the district with 77 points.

### **Translation**

- A summary in Spanish was provided by Mrs. Torres for Spanish speaking parents present at the meeting.

### **Next meeting**

- Next meeting will be held on October 10 at 6 pm in the media center.

### **Motion Adjournment:**

- Motion to adjourn by Mr. Sohn, seconded by Mrs. Carter at 7:14 p.m. Motion carried unanimously.

Submitted by,

Name of Recorder: Maria Torres

Name of Position on Board: SAC Secretary

Approval date: